Week Ending Friday, January 26, 2001

Inaugural Address

January 20, 2001

Thank you, all. Chief Justice Rehnquist, President Carter, President Bush, President Clinton, distinguished guests, and my fellow citizens. The peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history, yet common in our country. With a simple oath, we affirm old traditions and make new beginnings.

As I begin, I thank President Clinton for his service to our Nation, and I thank Vice President Gore for a contest conducted with spirit and ended with grace.

I am honored and humbled to stand here where so many of America's leaders have come before me, and so many will follow. We have a place, all of us, in a long story, a story we continue but whose end we will not see. It is a story of a new world that became a friend and liberator of the old, the story of a slave-holding society that became a servant of freedom, the story of a power that went into the world to protect but not possess, to defend but not to conquer.

It is the American story, a story of flawed and fallible people united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals. The grandest of these ideals is an unfolding American promise that everyone belongs, that everyone deserves a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born.

Americans are called to enact this promise in our lives and in our laws. And though our Nation has sometimes halted and sometimes delayed, we must follow no other course.

Through much of the last century, America's faith in freedom and democracy was a rock in a raging sea. Now it is a seed upon the wind, taking root in many nations. Our democratic faith is more than the creed of our country. It is the inborn hope of our humanity, an ideal we carry but do not own, a trust we bear and pass along. Even after nearly 225 years, we have a long way yet to travel.

While many of our citizens prosper, others doubt the promise, even the justice of our own country. The ambitions of some Americans are limited by failing schools and hidden prejudice and the circumstances of their birth. And sometimes our differences run so deep, it seems we share a continent but not a country. We do not accept this, and we will not allow it.

Our unity, our Union, is a serious work of leaders and citizens and every generation. And this is my solemn pledge: I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity. I know this is in our reach because we are guided by a power larger than ourselves, who creates us equal, in His image, and we are confident in principles that unite and lead us onward.

America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests, and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our country more, not less, American.

Today we affirm a new commitment to live out our Nation's promise through civility, courage, compassion, and character. America at its best matches a commitment to principle with a concern for civility. A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness.

Some seem to believe that our politics can afford to be petty because in a time of peace the stakes of our debates appear small. But the stakes for America are never small. If our country does not lead the cause of freedom, it will not be led. If we do not turn the hearts of children toward knowledge and character, we will lose their gifts and undermine their idealism. If we permit our economy to drift and decline, the vulnerable will suffer most.

We must live up to the calling we share. Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment; it is the determined choice of trust over cynicism, of community over chaos. And this commitment, if we keep it, is a way to shared accomplishment.

America at its best is also courageous. Our national courage has been clear in times of depression and war, when defeating common dangers defined our common good. Now we must choose if the example of our fathers and mothers will inspire us or condemn us. We must show courage in a time of blessing by confronting problems instead of passing them on to future generations.

Together we will reclaim America's schools before ignorance and apathy claim more young lives. We will reform Social Security and Medicare, sparing our children from struggles we have the power to prevent. And we will reduce taxes to recover the momentum of our economy and reward the effort and enterprise of working Americans.

We will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge. We will confront weapons of mass destruction, so that a new century is spared new horrors. The enemies of liberty and our country should make no mistake: America remains engaged in the world, by history and by choice, shaping a balance of power that favors freedom.

We will defend our allies and our interests. We will show purpose without arrogance. We will meet aggression and bad faith with resolve and strength. And to all nations, we will speak for the values that gave our Nation birth.

America at its best is compassionate. In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our Nation's promise. And whatever our views of its cause, we can agree that children at risk are not at fault.

Abandonment and abuse are not acts of God; they are failures of love. And the proliferation of prisons, however necessary, is no substitute for hope and order in our souls. Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans in need are not strangers; they are citizens—not problems but priorities. And all of us are diminished when any are hopeless.

Government has great responsibilities for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools. Yet, compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. And some needs and hurts are so deep they will only respond to a mentor's touch or a pastor's prayer. Church and charity, synagogue and mosque lend our communities their humanity, and they will have an honored place in our plans and in our laws.

Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty. But we can listen to those who do. And I can pledge our Nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side.

America at its best is a place where personal responsibility is valued and expected. Encouraging responsibility is not a search for scapegoats; it is a call to conscience. And though it requires sacrifice, it brings a deeper fulfillment. We find the fullness of life not only in options but in commitments. And we find that children and community are the commitments that set us free.

Our public interest depends on private character, on civic duty and family bonds and basic fairness, on uncounted, unhonored acts of decency, which give direction to our freedom.

Sometimes in life we're called to do great things. But as a saint of our times has said, "Every day we are called to do small things with great love." The most important tasks of a democracy are done by everyone.

I will live and lead by these principles: to advance my convictions with civility, to serve the public interest with courage, to speak for greater justice and compassion, to call for responsibility and try to live it, as well. In all these ways, I will bring the values of our history to the care of our times.

What you do is as important as anything Government does. I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort, to defend needed reforms against easy attacks, to serve your Nation, beginning with your neighbor. I ask you to be citizens: Citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects; responsible citizens building communities of service and a nation of character.

Americans are generous and strong and decent, not because we believe in ourselves

but because we hold beliefs beyond ourselves. When this spirit of citizenship is missing, no Government program can replace it. When this spirit is present, no wrong can stand against it.

After the Declaration of Independence was signed, Virginia statesman John Page wrote to Thomas Jefferson, "We know the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Do you not think an angel rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm?"

Much time has passed since Jefferson arrived for his inauguration. The years and changes accumulate, but the themes of this day, he would know: our Nation's grand story of courage and its simple dream of dignity.

We are not this story's author, who fills time and eternity with his purpose. Yet, his purpose is achieved in our duty. And our duty is fulfilled in service to one another. Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing, we renew that purpose today, to make our country more just and generous, to affirm the dignity of our lives and every life. This work continues, the story goes on, and an angel still rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. at the West Front of the Capitol. Prior to the address, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist administered the oath of office.

Memorandum on Standards of Official Conduct

January 20, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Standards of Official Conduct

Everyone who enters into public service for the United States has a duty to the American people to maintain the highest standards of integrity in Government. I ask you to ensure that all personnel within your departments and agencies are familiar with, and faithfully observe, applicable ethics laws and regulations, including the following general principles from the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch:

(1) Public service is a public trust, requiring employees to place loyalty to the Constitution, the laws, and ethical principles above private gain.

(2) Employees shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of duty.

(3) Employees shall not engage in financial transactions using nonpublic Government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest.

(4) An employee shall not, except as permitted by applicable law or regulation, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the employee's agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties.

(5) Employees shall put forth honest effort in the performance of their duties.

(6) Employees shall not knowingly make unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the Government.

(7) Employees shall not use public office for private gain.

(8) Employees shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual.

(9) Employees shall protect and conserve Federal property and shall not use it for other than authorized activities.

(10) Employees shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official Government duties and responsibilities.

(11) Employees shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption to appropriate authorities.

(12) Employees shall satisfy in good faith their obligations as citizens, including all just financial obligations, especially those—such as Federal, State, or local taxes—that are imposed by law.

(13) Employees shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.

(14) Employees shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they

are violating applicable law or the ethical standards in applicable regulations.

Executive branch employees should also be fully aware that their post-employment activities with respect to lobbying and other forms of representation will be bound by the restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 207.

Please thank the personnel of your departments and agencies for their commitment to maintain the highest standards of integrity in Government as we serve the American people.

George W. Bush

Proclamation 7403—National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, 2001

January 20, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly 200 years ago, on March 4, 1801, our young Nation celebrated an important milestone in its history, the first transfer of power between political parties, as Thomas Jefferson took the oath of office as President. On this bicentennial of that event, we pause to remember and give thanks to Almighty God for our unbroken heritage of democracy, the peaceful transition of power, and the perseverance of our Government through the challenges of war and peace, want and prosperity, discord and harmony.

President Jefferson also wrote, "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time" and asked, "Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are of God?" Indeed, it is appropriate to mark this occasion by remembering the words of President Jefferson and the examples of Americans of the past and today who in times of both joy and need turn to Almighty God in prayer. Times of plenty, like times of crisis, are tests of American character. Today, I seek God's guidance and His blessings on our land and all our people. Knowing that I cannot succeed in this task without the favor of God and the prayers of the people, I ask all Americans to join with me in prayer and thanksgiving.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 21, 2001, a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving and call upon the citizens of our Nation to gather together in homes and places of worship to pray alone and together and offer thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of this great and good land. On this day, I call upon Americans to recall all that unites us. Let us become a nation rich not only in material wealth but in ideals—rich in justice and compassion and family love and moral courage. I ask Americans to bow our heads in humility before our Heavenly Father, a God who calls us not to judge our neighbors, but to love them, to ask His guidance upon our Nation and its leaders in every level of government.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 24, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 22, and it was published in *Federal Register* on January 25.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for New White House Staff

January 22, 2001

Thank you very much. Thank you. Don't go overboard. [*Laughter*] Sit down, please—no place to sit. [*Laughter*] Okay, don't sit down.

Thank you all for coming. Mr. Vice President, thank you very much. Chief of Staff Card, I'm honored to have you by my side. I started work this morning, and there he was, smiling and ready to go on behalf of the American people.

The First Lady and I are honored to be living here, and we're honored to be hosting this event, the first we've done in this glorious room since the Inauguration.

I want to thank the family members who are here. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for the long hours, accepting the long hours that your loved one is about to put in on behalf of the American people. Some of the folks that are here have worked in past administrations. Some of us, this is a new experience. But for all of us, it is an honor of a lifetime, and it is our privilege to share this together.

I am here to lead the executive branch of Government. You all are here because you have my full confidence. And we are here with the same basic purpose, to serve the American people. We have all taken an oath, and from this moment on it is our jobs to honor it.

Today everything is so promising and new. My hope is that the day will never come when any of us take this place for granted and this honor for granted. As we serve, we must always remember three things.

First, we must remember the high standards that come with high office. This begins with careful adherence to the rules. I expect every member of this administration to stay well within the boundaries that define legal and ethical conduct. This means avoiding even the appearance of problems. This means checking and, if need be, doublechecking that the rules have been obeyed. This means never compromising those rules. No one in the White House should be afraid to confront the people they work for, for ethical concerns. And no one should hesitate to confront me, as well. We're all accountable to one another. And above all, we're all accountable to the law and to the American people. My White House Counsel, Al Gonzalez, is my point man on these issues. If you have even a hint of ethical doubt, I urge you to talk to Al.

Second, we must remember that high standards of conduct involve not only obeying the law but showing civility. As we go about our work, there is no excuse for arrogance and never a reason for disrespect toward others. People who work here are highly visible throughout the Government. In many ways, in many of your dealings, you'll be the face and voice of the White House staff. You will be my representative. I expect each of you, as an official of this administration, to be an example of humility and decency and fairness.

And finally, we must all remember that we are here for a reason. You and I and the Vice President share the same goals for our country and the same commitment to achieving them. We are here to make progress. We are not here just to mark time. The next few weeks, we'll affirm the central policy goals of this administration, beginning this week with education reform.

Everyone will know where we stand. Everyone will know where we're headed. Every morning I want you to remember these goals. Every evening I want you to review the progress we have made. I want it said of us, at the end of our service, that promises made were promises kept.

On a mantlepiece in this great house is inscribed the prayer of John Adams, that only the wise and honest may rule under this roof. He was speaking of those who live here. But wisdom and honesty are also required of those who work here. I know each of you is capable of meeting that charge. This is only our second day, but time moves fast around here. So let us begin the work we were hired to do and leave this a better place than we found it.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 22, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's been my honor to host a working lunch with the Speaker and Members from the House and even Members from the United States Senate. This is the beginning of a series of luncheons and dinners that I will have and the Vice President will have with Members of the Congress. If we're to get an agenda through the Congress, it's best that I be able to personally explain the issues and what I'm attempting to do.

I've told the leadership that they should be expecting a strong education reform package, a tax relief package, and a Medicare and Social Security reform package and a package to help pay the folks in the military more money. And I can't wait to work with them to get the people's business done.

This is not the last time I'm going to see you all over here, nor will the meetings be only Republican; we'll have Democrats come here quite a few times, as well, to get some things done.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here. It's my first lunch in this part of the White House complex, and it's fitting that it be with Members of the legislative branch. Thanks for coming.

Abortion Funding

Q. Mr. President, are you going to reverse the Executive order allowing abortion funding and counseling—Federal funds for abortion counseling and funding overseas?

The President. Yes, I am.

Q. When will you do that, sir?

The President. Soon.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—Executive orders reversing President Clinton's?

The President. Yes.

Fetal Tissue Research

Q. What about fetal tissue research? What about fetal tissue research?

The President. I'll deal with that issue later.

Resolution of President Clinton's Legal Issues

Q. Mr. President, how do you react to the deal that President Clinton entered into with the Independent Counsel, Robert Ray? What's your interpretation of that agreement, and were you considering a pardon should it have come to that?

The President. I hadn't considered a pardon because the man hadn't been indicted. And my feeling about the actions of last Friday was, it's finally over with; it's now time to move on. And I think the country is pleased that it's time to move on, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Q. Was it appropriate, sir?

The President. Thank you all. The pleasure is mine, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. [*Laughter*]

Q. Welcome to the White House.

The President. It's an honor to be here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reading Roundtable

January 22, 2001

Laura and I have been honored to host a discussion on an incredibly important subject, and that's education and reading. I really appreciate the Secretary of Education for coming, Dr. Rod Paige; and for educators, leaders, from all around the country who've come here to the Roosevelt Room.

Phyllis Hunter coined a phrase that I quote a lot, and that is, "Reading is the new civil right." It's the cornerstone of hope and opportunity in America, and we're going to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn to read. That means we're going to have scientific-based knowledge be the cornerstone of our curriculum. And that's why I appreciate Reid Lyon and others, experts in the field of reading, for being here to help make sure our curriculum reflect that which works.

We're going to diagnose children early and correct problems when we find them. As importantly, I'm going to ask Congress to spend money on teacher training, to make sure that our teachers, the heart and soul of the education system, have got the tools necessary to teach children to read.

I'm excited about working with the pros in the field of education. This is not a Republican issue; it's not a Democrat issue; it's not an independent issue; this is an American issue, and the most fundamental of all American issues. If the mission is to make sure the American experience touches every willing heart, every person in the country, it starts with making sure our children learn to read, and it starts with making sure children learn to read early. And one of the key initiatives that we have been discussing is, how do we make sure that we get science-

based reading instruction to the youngest of the young? One way is to make sure that Head Start has a reading component as a part of its overall mission.

So I want to thank you all for coming. This is a week where I'm going to, hopefully, focus the Nation's attention on public schools and how the Congress and the executive branch can work together to pass law and appropriate money that will enable Dr. Paige and myself to work on the noblest of all missions, that every single child be educated in America, and not one—I mean not one—be left behind.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Education Roderick R. Paige; G. Reid Lyon, chief, Child Development Branch, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Democratic Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 22, 2001

Legislative Agenda on Education

The President. Thank you all for coming this afternoon. I've had the honor of hosting a group of distinguished folks who have had experience with Government here, that happen to be of the Democrat persuasion. We had a discussion about—an advisory session about what to think about in Washington, about how to move issues such as education. We've spent a lot of time talking about education and how to get an education agenda moving forward in this important town.

I can't thank the former Senators and a man who has seen enough klieg lights in his day to know what they're all about, and of course, the Ambassador and Bill Gray, the distinguished chairman of the United Negro College Fund for being here. For me, it's been a very helpful discussion.

Ambassador Strauss said something that's really important and is so true. He reminded me that Democrats are just as patriotic about their country as Republicans, that there is good in everybody. And that's what I'm going to look for. This administration is going to seek the good in everybody and find that ability to come together for the good of the country, as well.

So I want to thank these distinguished citizens of the country for being here, people who brought class and distinction when they held power and set a good legacy for those of us who follow.

Thank you.

Mr. Ambassador, do you want to say something?

Former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Robert Strauss. I want to say, all of us are delighted to be here, and all of us are pleased that the President extended this invitation. I think that the group not only is appreciative, but they've tried to be responsible to the discussion.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, how do you square your decision—how do you square your decision, Mr. President to——

The President. I'm not sure. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to William Gray III, president, United Negro College Fund. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement to Participants in the March for Life

January 22, 2001

Good afternoon, friends and fellow citizens. Two days ago, Americans gathered on the Washington Mall to celebrate our Nation's ideals. Today, you are gathered to remind our country that one of those ideals is the infinite value of every life.

I deeply appreciate your message and your work. You see the weak and defenseless, and you try to help them. You see the hardship of many young mothers and their unborn children, and you care for them both. In so many ways, you make our society more compassionate and welcoming.

We share a great goal: to work toward a day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law. We know this will not come easily, or all at once. But the goal leads us onward: to build a culture of life, affirming

that every person, at every stage and season of life, is created equal in God's image.

The promises of our Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone—including unborn children. We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children, to seek the promise and potential in every human life.

I believe that we are making progress toward that goal. I trust in the good hearts of Americans. I trust in the unfolding promise of our country—an expanding circle of inclusion and protection. And I trust in the civility and good sense of our citizens—a willingness to engage our differences in a spirit of tolerance and good will.

All of you marching today have never tired in a good cause. Thank you for your conviction, your idealism, and your courage. May God bless you all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Memorandum on Restoration of the Mexico City Policy

January 22, 2001

Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

Subject: Restoration of the Mexico City Policy

The Mexico City Policy announced by President Reagan in 1984 required nongovernmental organizations to agree as a condition of their receipt of Federal funds that such organizations would neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations. This policy was in effect until it was rescinded on January 22, 1993.

It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad. It is therefore my belief that the Mexico City Policy should be restored. Accordingly, I hereby rescind the "Memorandum for the Acting Administrator of the Agency for International Development, Subject: AID Family Planning Grants/Mexico City Policy," dated January 22, 1993, and I direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to reinstate in full all of the requirements of the Mexico City Policy in effect on January 19, 1993.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Education Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 23, 2001

Legislative Agenda on Education

The President. Good morning. I want to welcome you all. I particularly want to welcome senior Members of the Senate and the House. We're here today to discuss a domestic policy issue of high importance, and that's public education, how to make sure every child in America gets educated.

I've always said that public schools, the common schools, issues related to public schools are not a Republican issue or Democrat issue; it's an American issue. And we'll agree on things. We won't agree on things. But we'll always agree that making sure every child is educated is of national importance. It is a major priority.

There's a role for the Federal Government. There's a role for the State government. There's a role for local governments. And part of our discussions and eventual legislation will recognize those roles. And I'm so honored that the Senators came over and Members of the House, the leadership, that's going to help carry legislation.

I believe the best way for the Vice President and I to help the legislative process is to discuss issues in a frank and open way, and that's the beginning of a process here.

So thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Mr. President, Senator McCain yesterday said that he has a mandate. Do you agree

with him, that he has a mandate? And if so, what——

The President. I'm going to meet with the Senator tomorrow night to discuss issues of concern for him. I suspect one of them might be campaign funding reform. But I'll let you know how the conversation goes. I'm confident it's going to be friendly and productive. John and I are friends. I remember we debated this issue several times. I think you might have been there.

Q. Do you think he has a mandate?

The President. And I think there's a need to discuss good campaign funding reform, and we will.

Education Agenda

Q. How much of a sticking point for Democrats do you think your school choice or voucher program is? And are you willing to give ground in order to get a broader deal?

The President. I think that there is consensus on a couple of things: One, accountability is the cornerstone for reform; and secondly, in order for there to be an accountability system that's got merit, there has to be a consequence. And that's what we're going to discuss. Representative Miller from the State of California understands that accountability is crucial for success. And so does Boehner, and I hope the Senators do. I haven't had a chance to speak specifically with Senator Kennedy yet. I'm about to.

But we've got a measure, and there needs to be flexibility at the local level to make sure that local folks can chart the path of excellence. But in order for an accountability system to work, there has to be consequences. And I believe one of the most important consequences will be, after a period of time, giving schools the time to adjust and districts time to try different things if they're failing, that parents ought to be given different options.

If children are trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, there has to be a different consequence. None of us at the Federal Government should try to impose a school voucher plan on States and local jurisdictions. That's not the prerogative of the Federal Government, as far as I'm concerned. But to the extent that the Federal Government spends money, we ought to expect good results and good consequences.

Q. Thank you.

The President. I can't tell you what a pleasure it is.

California Electricity Shortages

Q. [*Inaudible*]—to do about the California crisis?

The President. You'll hear something today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative George Miller. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Submitting the Education Plan to Congress

January 23, 2001

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I appreciate you being here, and it's good to see a former Secretary of Education here. Lamar, thank you very much for coming; surrounded by two fine Texans, I might add. [*Laughter*] You are in good position. I was going to say a rose between two thorns, but—[*laughter*]—Diana Natalicio is not a thorn. She's a fabulous educator in the great State of Texas. Miller, on the other hand—[*laughter*]. At any rate, I'm glad you all are here. It's good to see so many faces of friends. Welcome you to our new temporary abode.

This is an important moment for my administration because I spent such a long amount of time campaigning on education reform. It's been the hallmark of my time as Governor of Texas. My focus will be on making sure every child is educated, as the President of the United States, as well.

Both parties have been talking about education reform for quite a while. It's time to come together to get it done so that we can truthfully say, "In America, no child will be left behind, not one single child."

We share a moment of exceptional promise, a new administration, a newly sworn-in Congress. And we have a chance to think anew and act anew. All of us are impatient with the old lines of division. All of us want

a different attitude here in the Nation's Capital. All in this room, as well as across the country, know things must change.

We must confront the scandal of illiteracy in America, seen most clearly in high-poverty schools where nearly 70 percent of fourth graders are unable to read at a basic level. We must address the low standing of America test scores amongst industrialized nations in math and science, the very subjects most likely to affect our future competitiveness. We must focus the spending of Federal tax dollars on things that work. Too often, we have spent without regard for results, without judging success or failure from year to year. We must face up to the plague of school violence. With an average of 3 million crimes committed against students and teachers inside public schools every year, that's unacceptable in our country.

Change will not come by adding a few new Federal programs to the old. If we work only at the edges, our influence will be confined to the margins. We need real reform. Change will not come by disdaining or dismantling the Federal role of education. I believe strongly in local control of schools. I trust local folks to chart the path to excellence.

But educational excellence for all is a national issue and, at this moment, is a Presidential priority. I have seen how real education reform can lift up scores and schools and effectively change lives. And real education reform reflects four basic commitments.

First, children must be tested every year in reading and math—every single year. Not just in the third grade or the eighth grade, but in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh and eighth grade.

I oppose a national test, one designed here in Washington, DC, because I know it would undermine local control of schools and undermine State curricula. But States should test each student each year. Without yearly testing, we don't know who is falling behind and who needs help. Without yearly testing, too often we don't find failure until it is too late to fix.

Consider what some parents face under the current system in some States. A child may pass the third grade reading test; he or she gets in the eighth grade and, lo and behold, fails the eighth grade test. And the parent says, "Who do I hold accountable? What happened? My child was successful in the third, and here, he or she is in the eighth. What went wrong? How come? Where did the system let me down?"

Too much precious time has elapsed in this case for us to achieve what we want: every child being able to learn. Testing every child every year is the way to stop the cycle. We must care enough to ask how our children are doing. We must have the data to know how poor and minority children are doing, to see if we're closing the achievement gap in America.

Annual measurement is a special concern of mine. I understand it's crucial—it's a crucial part of a solid reform package. But the good news is, I'm not alone. Take, for example, Congressman George Miller from California. Some might think it odd that the President—a Republican President be mentioning a Democrat, a Member of the House. But he and I have had discussions already. He understands the importance of strong accountability. And we're going to work together to make sure this is an integral part of a reform package coming through the House and Senate.

Secondly, the agents of reform must be schools and school districts, not bureaucracies. Teachers and principals, local and State leaders must have the responsibility to succeed and the flexibility to innovate. One size does not fit all when it comes to educating the children in America. School districts, school officials, educational entrepreneurs should not be hindered by excessive rules and redtape and regulation.

The principle here is a basic one. If local schools do not have the freedom to change, they cannot be held accountable for failing to change. Authority and accountability must be aligned at the local level, or schools will have a convenient excuse for failure: "I would have done it this way but some central office or Washington, DC, caused me to it another way."

Flexibility in education spending is a special concern of Members of both parties with whom I've discussed. Today I had a good meeting with the chairman of the Education Committee in the House, John Boehner. I

know he shares my passion for flexibility at the local level, as do people like Senator Judd Gregg or Tim Hutchinson.

Third, many of our schools, particularly low income schools, will need help in the transition to higher standards. When a State sets standards, we must help schools achieve those standards. We must measure. We must know. And if a school or school district falls short, we must understand that help should be applied. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico brought this up to our attention, about the need to make sure there is a transition period between the moment of consequence and the first indication of failure.

Once failing schools are identified, we will help them improve. We will help them help themselves. Our goal is to improve public education. We want success. And when schools are willing to accept the reality that the accountability system points out and are willing to change, we will help them.

Fourth, American children must not be left in persistently dangerous or failing schools. When schools do not teach and will not change, parents and students must have other meaningful options. And when children and teenagers go to school afraid of being threatened or attacked or worse, our society must make it clear, it's the ultimate betrayal of adult responsibility.

Parents and children who have only bad options must eventually get good options if we're to succeed all across the country. There are differences of opinions about what those options should be. I made my opinion very clear in the course of the campaign and will take my opinion to the Hill and let folks debate it.

Today I was pleased to see that Senator Joe Lieberman brought up his plan that includes different options for parents. It's a great place to begin. He and I understand that an accountability system must have a consequence. Otherwise, it's not much of an accountability system.

These four principles are the guides to our education reform package. Yet today I'm offering more than principles; I'm sending a series of specific proposals to the United States Congress, my own blueprint for reform. I want to begin our discussion in detail with the Members of the House and the Senate because I know we need to act by this summer so that the people at the local level can take our initiatives and plan for the school year beginning next fall.

I'm going to listen to suggestions from folks. If somebody has got a better idea, I hope they bring it forward because the Secretary and I will listen. We've got one thing in mind: an education system that's responsive to the children; an education system that educates every child; an education system that I'm confident can exist; one that's based upon sound, fundamental curriculum; one that starts teaching children to read early in life; one that focuses on systems that do work; one that heralds our teachers and makes sure they've got the necessary tools to teach; but one that says every child can learn. In this great land called America, no child will be left behind.

It's an honor to be here. I'm so thrilled you all came. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Education Roderick R. Paige, who introduced the President; former Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander; Diana Natalicio, president, University of Texas at El Paso; and Charles Miller, chairman, Meridian Advisors, Ltd.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Bipartisan Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 24, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. I'm honored to host the leaders of the Senate and the House. I want to thank you all for coming. I really, really appreciate it. This is the sixth meeting I've had with legislators since I've been sworn in. It is a habit I intend to keep, because I understand the best way to advance an agenda for the country is to work together.

I hope people are now beginning to realize that when I said the executive branch is willing to work with the legislative branch and do what's right for the country, it's not hollow words; it's what I believe we need to do.

Expectations are that we can't come together to get things done. Our mission is to

exceed the expectations. So I want to thank you all so much for coming. We're going to have a frank dialog about a lot of issues, and I'm going to start by reminding that we know the difference between the executive branch and the legislative branch, but I do believe the President and the Vice President can play a part, a strong part, in helping advance an American agenda.

So thanks for coming. I'd be glad to answer a few questions.

Attorney-General-Designate John Ashcroft

Q. Sir, I'm wondering about the Ashcroft confirmations. There seems to be little question that he's going to be confirmed, and yet there's this one week delay. I'm wondering, what do you think Democrats are doing?

The President. I think they're making sure that when they confirm him all questions have been answered.

Efforts at Bipartisanship

Q. Sir, where is the common ground on the issues that really divide the two sides, specifically the size of your tax cut and on school vouchers? How can you possibly reach agreement on those two issues?

The President. We'll just have to see. That's part of what a dialog is all about. I think that it's important for me to explain my position. It's important for me to hear other's positions. It's important for me to understand where there's resistance and why. But it all happens with good, honest discussion, a frank discussion about positions.

I look forward to explain to any Member that's concerned about tax relief and why, why I proposed it. And I think the evidence is going to become more and more clear that the economy is—it's not as hopeful as we'd like, which I hope will strengthen my case.

Q. Mr. President, you talked about frank and honest discussions. Are you willing to give on either one of those issues, or is there a——

The President. Well I'm certainly not willing to negotiate with myself. [*Laughter*] Particularly in your column. [*Laughter*]

Legislative Agenda on Education

Q. You talked about bipartisanship, sir, but you've also issued legislation or legislative proposals prior to meeting with the Democrats to work on negotiations. Does that imply that you want them to just take your positions and pass them?

The President. It is in recognition of what a Presidential campaign is all about. I don't believe Dick and I would be sitting here had we not taken strong positions on key issues. And I told the American people if I had the honor of being the President, I would submit those positions I was campaigning on to the legislative branch, and that's exactly what I've done.

So if you look at the education proposals we submitted to the Congress, those are based on what I campaigned on. That's exactly what I told the people I would do, and that's what I'm here to remind the Members of the Congress. That's what I am going to do. And I can't wait to have an honest discussion about education, for example, the cornerstone of which is strong accountability.

And I'm going to make the case here, and I'll continue to make the case to anybody who will listen that in order to make sure every child is educated—I mean every child—we must measure—we must understand whether or not children are learning, because the likelihood of poor children being shuffled through the system is increased if we don't measure.

And I hope we can find people—I hope people will listen, because I feel passionately on the subject.

Q. Sir, would you be—a proposal that didn't include——

The President. John [John Roberts, CBS News], it's a pleasure. One question per session.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Roderick R. Paige as Secretary of Education

January 24, 2001

Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, thank you very much; Dr. Paige, family members. I look out and see so many Members from the United States Senate. Mr. Chairman, thank you for coming. Senator Kennedy, I appreciate you being here, as well. I don't want to skip anybody, but the reason I mention those two, they happen to be the chairman and ranking minority of the Education Committee. I see Members from the House who are here. Thank you all for coming, as well, of course, Senator Hutchison, from the home State of Dr. Paige and the President—[*laughter*]—John Culberson from the district which represents Houston. So, thank you for coming. I am honored you are here.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to witness the swearing-in of a man who will help us see important reforms for education become reality.

The Vice President and I were so pleased to be invited and are pleased to be here in this important building. It is an important moment, and we certainly were not going to miss it. I wanted to see the beginning of a new era in public education.

Dr. Paige and I share a basic commitment: We will work to bring excellence to all public schools all across America. I picked a really good man to run this Department, a man of integrity, a man of common sense, a down-to-earth man who knows how to get the job done.

My administration has no greater priority than education, and Dr. Paige and I share that urgency. And there's no greater champion of reform than the man I am about to witness be sworn in as the Secretary of Education.

Every problem now facing our Nation's public schools Dr. Paige faced as superintendent of the Houston Independent School District: children unable to read at basic levels; falling scores in science and math; problems with discipline and order. Dr. Paige answered those challenges with the spirit we must now bring to all our schools and all our districts in every State.

He did not tolerate indifference or mediocrity. He demanded the highest standards of students in schools, and people rose to the challenge. He proved that poverty does not need to be a barrier to achievement. He stressed reading as the key to all learning, and he measured progress, holding schools accountable for results. As Dr. Paige takes his new assignment, Houston is now a city proud of its schools and a city more hopeful for its children.

Rod Paige gained his passion for education from his own background. His mother was a librarian, and his dad was a school principal. His three sisters have dedicated their careers to teaching and education. And we welcome them to this ceremony today.

In his distinguished career, Rod Paige has seen firsthand what works. He has not just talked about education reform; he's practiced it. And that's why I picked him. He has shown an ability to reach across party lines, to cross old divisions for the sake of our children. I value all these qualities, and our country needs them.

We have great and urgent work to do. I'm honored to have this good man to be our partner in reform.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:24 p.m. in the Barnard Auditorium at the Department of Education. In his remarks, he referred to Senator James M. Jeffords, chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension; and Representative John Culberson, newly elected to Texas' Seventh Congressional District. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Paige.

Remarks at Merritt Extended Elementary School

January 25, 2001

It's always a good sign when the principal gets a standing ovation—[*laughter*]—from teachers and parents. Having spent some quality time with you, I now understand why.

First, Mr. Superintendent, thank you very much. Your reputation is a strong one because you believe every child can learn and are willing to work hard and make the tough

decisions to make sure every child does learn in the District. Mr. Superintendent, thanks for coming.

I am so pleased and honored that the chairman of the Senate Education Committee and the ranking minority leader, Senator Jeffords and Senator Kennedy are here; Chairman Boehner, Representative Miller came as well. You all did not have to come. And for you to come is not only a great honor for this school, but Laura and I really appreciate it.

I'm also pleased the First Lady is here. I always used to say, you can always judge the nature of a man by the company he keeps. [*Laughter*] And I keep pretty darn good company—[*laughter*]—particularly when it comes to children and reading and education. She is a former public school librarian who loves children, who loves books, and has got the ability to combine the two. And I love her.

Dr. Shannon, thanks for coming. Those of us who have been involved with public education know this irrefutable fact, that the quality of a school depends on the quality of a principal. That when you find a good principal, the CEO of a school, you'll find a school that achieves what we all want: every child learning.

And there are some basic principles involved. One is to have leadership, not only at the district level but at the school level, set the highest of high standards. Leaders that understand that every child can learn and refuse to accept excuses when they don't. Dr. Shannon believes that way. She asked a question, "Why aren't our children achieving?" And when they begin to achieve, she raises the bar. That's what a leader does.

Secondly, and the reason we've come to Merritt, besides getting out of the White House—[*laughter*]—is to herald what happens inside the walls here. And what happens here is there is a strong sense of accountability, which means there is a strong sense of the possible. Accountability is so important. And by accountability I mean testing children to determine whether or not children are learning. I believe it's the cornerstone of reform. I believe it's the essence of excellence in education, and I believe it's important to do so, to test every year, to make sure children are not left behind.

I worry about a system that doesn't test, because I ask the question, like Dr. Shannon ask the question, "How do you know if you don't?" I worry about a system that periodically tests, because one year you may test, and everything is fine. In 4 years, you measure again, and all of a sudden something isn't fine, and you've missed 4 years of opportunity to make sure a child doesn't slip behind.

Accountability is important for students. It's important for—and I know students don't like to take tests, and I'm confident the parents here heard the same thing Laura and I heard when our daughters went to Austin High School, "We're sick of tests." And my answer was, "Well, I'm sorry you're sick of it, but we want to know." We, the adults, want to know whether or not you're learning, because if you're not, we expect something else to happen. So it's important for children to take tests so they can tell how they stand.

It's important for parents. There's a lot of discussion about parental involvement. Senator Kennedy asked a very good question—how is parental involvement? I thought the principal gave a very good answer. But there's no better way to encourage parental involvement than to diagnose, on a child-by-child basis, where a child stands. There's no better way to get a parent's attention than for a principal to send the word, "Well, we're having a little trouble with your child. We want your child to succeed."

The worst thing that can happen from a parent's perspective is there be no information. The worst thing that can happen is that the parent think everything is fine: "Well, my child may have passed a test in the third grade, but there's been no measurement in the fourth, fifth, or sixth, so I will just assume as a parent that everything is fine, and then wake up and realize things aren't fine." To me, that's a shame when and if our systems do that to parents.

And finally, measurement is important for management and teachers. First, I want to thank the teachers. Teaching is a noble profession. We need more teachers. And one of the jobs that Laura is going to take on—and to a certain extent, I hope I can, too—

is to encourage youngsters to become teachers. That means, of course, safe classrooms. It means making sure teachers can teach a curriculum that works.

There's nothing better than combining the love of a teacher with the talent and tools necessary to be able to make sure children learn. But it also means convincing teachers of the importance and power of accountability. A good teacher welcomes accountability, because a good teacher understands that measurement is the kernel for success. A good teacher will be able to see in real stark terms the fruits of his or her labor. A good teacher is somebody who says, "Give me a chance to succeed, and I can prove I can succeed."

There's a lot of people in our society who fear accountability. Dr. Shannon, when asked by one of the Members of the congressional delegation about accountability, she said, "At first people were afraid of accountability." And I can understand that. If you haven't been held accountable, and all of a sudden somebody starts holding you accountable, it's going to create a certain sense of anxiety. But I suspect she'll testify to this fact, that once the accountability measures came in place, once people got used to what it meant to be accountable—that accountability is not a tool to punish but a tool to reward and a tool necessary to correct deficiencies; it's a positive tool; it's a positive application—then people begin to accept the importance of a strong measurement system.

So we're here to applaud leadership and teachers, and we're here to applaud a school and a district that has got a vision, a vision of high standards and strong measurement systems; a school that not only measures, but when it finds deficiency, corrects; a school that recognizes an accountability will work when you view each child as a child, not as some group—part of a group. Accountability system says every child matters, and when we find a child deficient, we're going to correct.

Some say, "The accountability systems tend to restrict curriculum, that, oh, all the school will do is teach the test." This school proves that's not the case. This school focuses on basic education in reading and math. And by the way, they've got a fabulous curriculum for reading, one that works.

But this school also is a school that enriches beyond the basics of reading and math. It's a school that's got a curriculum that is focused on basic education, but it's a school also that understands the importance of the arts. It's a school that broadens the horizons of the students.

We're here to tout excellence and to thank—to thank the good folks in this institution, inside this building, who love our children and are willing to put their love into practice in a system that works.

So, Dr. Shannon, thank you very much for having us. We're so honored to be here. Again, I want to thank the Members of the congressional delegation that came up, as well. It's a real treat to be able to walk around the halls of a successful school and, most importantly, be able to look children in the eye and wish them all the best, encourage them to go to college. But thanks for having us. It's our honor to be here.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy R. Shannon, principal, Merritt Extended Elementary School; and Paul L. Vance, superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Education Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 25, 2001

Legislative Agenda on Education

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's an honor to be here with the chairman and ranking member of the committee, members of the Education Committee in the House of Representatives.

We're going to spend a lot of time talking about education until a bill works its way through the House and the Senate. It's a priority of mine, but the good news is, it's also a priority of the Members here around the table. And I am actually confident that we can forge an education bill that will achieve a lot of objectives: high standards, local control of schools, but the most important objective of all is that every child in America gets

educated. It is a national priority, and it's a goal that I'm actually confident that this great Nation can achieve.

So it's an honor to welcome Members of the Congress here to have a frank discussion. I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Federal Reserve Chairman's Congressional Testimony

Q. Is there a comment at all on Mr. Greenspan's comment this morning on the need for tax cuts and the effect it might have on the economy?

The President. I was pleased to hear Mr. Greenspan's words. I felt they were measured and just right. He recognizes that we need good monetary policy and sound fiscal policy to make sure that the economy grows. So I was pleased.

Q. He also seemed to indicate that having the tax cut in place was one of the issues—or one of the main criteria in having a tax cut that would benefit the economy. Do you read that as support for a retroactive tax cut or an accelerated measure?

The President. I don't think Alan Greenspan was supporting any particular plan. I know he wasn't going to the Hill to say, "Well, President Bush has got the right plan." I felt like he was speaking about policy in general. His job is to report to the Congress in an objective way, and that's exactly how I read it.

I've got my view of how to enact tax relief. I suspect others in the Congress will have their view. But what Alan Greenspan was saying to the Nation is that in order to make sure our economy grows, we've got to have good monetary policy and sound fiscal policy, a component of which is wise spending, as well as tax relief.

Bipartisanship

Representative John A. Boehner. Mr. President, on behalf of my colleagues—if I could just say something.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want to thank you for inviting us here. All week you've spent a great deal of time talking about your proposal but, more importantly, meeting with Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, trying to build consensus for this very serious proposal.

And on behalf of all of us, I just want to say, thank you.

The President. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Dinner With Catholic Leaders

Q. Mr. President, you're meeting tonight with the Archbishop; what do you hope to accomplish?

The President. I hope to have a good meal. [*Laughter*] I will tell you something about the Cardinal-to-be and the other leaders I'll be meeting with. These are men of great faith, huge compassion for the poor and the oppressed. I can't wait to talk to them about education reform, because education to the Cardinal-to-be is a paramount concern. He knows what we know: An educated child is one much more likely to realize the greatness of America. And I'm going to discuss that, and I'm there to listen, as well. It's a huge honor to go there, and I'm looking forward to it.

Faith-Based Initiatives

Q. Mr. President, how do you expect to address concerns about separation of church and state in dealing with faith-based initiatives, both for education and other services?

The President. I'll have a lot to say about that next week. But I will just tell you this, that a compassionate society is one which recognizes the great power of faith, not a particular religion, for the great power faith can play in the lives of everyday citizens and that we in Government must not fear faith-based programs. We must welcome faith-based programs.

This issue was debated, hotly debated in the Congress in previous sessions, all based upon what's called charitable choice, which is a constitutional provision which recognizes Government will never fund religion. But Government should not fear funding programs that can change people's lives, nor should Government fear funding—providing funding for an individual and allow that individual to choose a faith-based program, so long as there is a secular alternative available.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:07 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Theodore E.

McCarrick of the Archdiocese of Washington, who will be elevated to cardinal on February 21 at a ceremony at the Vatican. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Colin L. Powell as Secretary of State

January 26, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. It is a great privilege for all of us to be here for the swearing in of our new Secretary of State. It's also a great privilege to be here with Alma, the true strength of the Powell family.

As I said in my Inaugural Address, America remains involved in the world, by history and by choice, shaping a balance of power that favors freedom. To achieve this goal, we need a foreign policy that serves America's vital interests and speaks for our highest ideals, a foreign policy that is clear and consistent and confident, true to our values and true to our friends.

To lead this effort at this unique moment in history, I picked a unique leader. Many times over the past four decades, America has called on Colin Powell, and each time he has answered the call. When his country called him to serve as a foot soldier, Colin Powell answered the call. When his country needed him to help defeat a tyrant brutalizing his neighbors and destabilizing a vital region of the world, he answered the call. When America needed him to serve the high purpose of building the character of our young and to promote volunteerism, he answered the call.

Today America calls on Colin Powell again. He is a leader who understands that America must work closely with our friends in times of calm if we want to be able to call upon them in times of crisis. He understands that our Nation is at its best when we project our strength and purpose with humility. He understands that if we do not set our own agenda, it will be set by others, by adversaries abroad or by the crisis of the day.

I know of no better person to be the face and voice of America diplomacy than Colin Powell. His dignity and integrity will add to the strength and authority of America around the world.

Congratulations, Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, Secretary Powell made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Alma Powell, wife of Secretary Powell. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Powell.

Remarks at a Luncheon With Freshman Members of the House of Representatives

January 26, 2001

Welcome to the people's house. Here we are in week one. I hope you're as enthused about your job as I am about mine. I, first, look forward to saying hello to each of you, and I know the Vice President does, as well.

We've begun a series of policy initiatives. First is education. I've been meeting with mostly the senior Members of the House and Senate—although, a few freshmen have shown up in the meetings—to hear about a vision that I think is so important for America, and that is, every child get educated and a way to do so.

There will be other issues that we'll be talking about: military preparedness, Medicare and health care, Social Security reform, tax relief. And I look forward to working with you all. I come to Washington with a positive spirit of the possible, that I refuse to let any bitterness that may be lingering around inhibit us from rising above the expectations of the American people.

The people—some people—take a look at the election and say, "Well, gosh, the country is too divided. Nothing will happen." Our mission is to prove them wrong. It's to not only restore faith in Government by results, positive results for the people, but also to restore faith in Government by how we behave, by how we conduct the people's business. I know we can do it.

I'm honored you all are here. Congratulations on your elections. We look forward to working with you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:09 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Donald H. Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense

January 26, 2001

It's a great honor to welcome Secretary Rumsfeld and his wife and family here to the Oval Office. Thank you all for coming.

In swearing in Don Rumsfeld, we have just sworn in a leader of exceptional strength and ability and vision. And I'm grateful that he has returned to service to our country.

Don and I have set three clear goals to guide American defense policy. First, we will strengthen the bond of trust between the American people and those who wear our Nation's uniform. We'll give them the tools they need and the respect they deserve.

Second, we will work to defend our people and our allies against growing threats: the threats of missiles; information warfare; the threats of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. We will confront the new threats of a new century.

Third, we will begin creating the military of the future, one that takes full advantage of revolutionary new technologies. We will promote the peace by redefining the way wars will be fought. These are great and exciting objectives, and our new Secretary of Defense is uniquely qualified to accomplish them.

As a former Navy pilot, Don Rumsfeld understands that if we ever send our forces into harm's way, we must send them fully prepared and equipped for the dangers they face. As a highly successful businessman, he understands that we must modernize and transform the business of defense, getting the value for our taxpayers' money. He is willing to challenge the status quo inside the Pentagon.

As the head of the National Commission on Ballistic Missile Threats, he is the among the country's most informed experts on this vital issue. As a former Congressman, he understands the need to work closely with the Congress. As a former White House Chief of Staff, as a former Secretary of Defense, he understands what it takes to be a leader.

This is an exceptional history of service, and Don Rumsfeld is an exceptional man with integrity and honesty as a cornerstone of his foundation.

Mr. Secretary, congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:23 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary Rumsfeld. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Rumsfeld.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Governors and an Exchange With Reporters

January 26, 2001

Legislative Agenda on Education

The President. Let me—first of all, I want to thank my Governor friends for coming. From all around the country, people came—from Idaho, from the South. The head of the National Governors is here, and of course, the soon-to-be-head of the National Governors. I'm honored you all came. It's good to see you in a new setting—for me, at least. And we had a long discussion about education.

These Governors made education their number one priority in their State, and obviously they're keenly aware of the role of Federal Government. And we've had a really good discussion about how to make their jobs easier. And their job is to make sure every child gets educated, which is the noblest of all calling in America.

So I appreciate your coming. It's always good to be talking to people who know what they're talking about. And when it comes to public education, Governors really understand the subject. So I'm grateful you're here.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Vandalism

Q. Mr. President, are you offended, sir, by the reports of vandal—acts of vandalism

by outgoing members of the Clinton administration?

The President. I'm so happy to be here—[*laughter*]—that I'm looking forward. There might have been a prank or two; maybe somebody put a cartoon on the wall—that's okay. It's time now to move forward. It's time to focus our attention on what's possible and how to get children educated. I'm excited about what this week has brought. I'm excited about my job.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that Federal money should be used or spent on fetal tissue or stem cell research derived from induced abortions?

The President. No, I don't.

Q. Will you have an Executive order to that effect?

The President. I believe there's some exciting—I believe there's some wonderful opportunities for adult stem cell research. I believe we can find stem cells from fetuses that died a natural death. But I do not support research from aborted fetuses.

Q. I assume that you'll sign an Executive order to that or make that the law of the land?

The President. I'll let you know when I decide all policy decisions. But I do not—to answer your question, the answer is no.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, have you responded to President Putin's letter? And do you plan to review Russian relations with the United States before you go forward in any arms control talks?

The President. I have not responded to the letter yet. I will, of course. I read about it—I might have even read about it before it hit Washington. [*Laughter*]

What was the second half of your question?

Arms Control Talks

Q. Do you plan to review the U.S. relations with the Russians before you start up on arms control talks?

The President. Well, you may remember in the campaign I talked about two aspects about arms. One was that I am going to go forward with, along with Secretary Rumsfeld, about plans for a missile defense system. But I also said that I think it's important for us, commensurate with our ability to keep the peace, to reduce our nuclear arsenal on our own. And I'm going to fulfill that campaign promise.

That may—we'll see how that affects possible arms talks. My point is, is that I want America to lead the nation—lead the world toward a more safe world when it comes to nuclear weaponry. On the offensive side, we can do so. And we can do so on the defensive side, as well.

First Week in Office

Q. Mr. President, it's the end of your first week.

Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe. Thank you. Lights.

The President. Wait a minute, this may be this—[*laughter*]—end of my first week? Yes.

Q. It's the end of your first week. How do you think it's going? How are you settling in? And were there any surprises?

The President. Oh, let's see. Well, first of all, it's been a great week. I'm excited about my job. I really appreciate—I guess the biggest, most pleasant surprise, if you'd call it that, was how receptive Members of Congress are to come here to the White House to talk about how we can work together. I really appreciate both Republicans and Democrats coming. I think we've met with 90 Members of Congress here in the first week. And I think, to a person, that they're interested in figuring out if we can't exceed the expectations that now exist around the country that nothing is going to get done.

I'm honored to be here, and I'm looking forward to welcoming former President Bush back to his old residence. He's just not going to be sleeping in the master suite this time around. [*Laughter*]

Q. When's he coming? When's he coming?

The President. He's coming today.

Q. How about settling in on a personal basis, on your personal life? Are you settling in——

The President. My personal life, we're great. The dogs—the best news is, the dogs

seem to have adjusted. The cat that was howling on the first night is now more comfortable with her territory, and so she's sleeping through the night.

My wife is going to make a great First Lady. She is just as comfortable as she can be with people, no matter if they're with a fancy title, or not.

And the White House staff is just remarkably generous people. And we're settling in. And it's a huge honor to live in the people's house. And I understand the honor. And I'm going to uphold the honor.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Parris N. Glendening of Maryland, outgoing chair, and Gov. John Engler of Michigan, incoming chair, National Governors' Association. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Earthquake in India

January 26, 2001

I am saddened by the news of the tragic earthquake centered in India's Gujarat state this morning. I extend my condolences and those of the American people to the families of the many victims in the cities and villages of Gujarat and elsewhere. Earthquakes know no political boundaries: I send condolences to the people affected in neighboring Pakistan as well. We stand ready to assist as needed and as desired by the Governments.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 20

In the evening, the President and Laura Bush attended several Inaugural balls.

January 22

In the evening, the President met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert.

The White House announced that the President will travel to San Cristobal, Mexico, on February 16.

January 23

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vicente Fox of Mexico and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

In the afternoon, the President met with Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

January 24

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudia Arabia, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

In the evening, the President met with Senator John McCain.

Later, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland.

January 25

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany.

Later, the President and Laura Bush traveled to Hyattsville, MD, where they met with Catholic leaders at the residence of Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, after which they returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President invited Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to the White House on February 5.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 20

Colin Luther Powell,
of Virginia, to be Secretary of State.

Paul Henry O'Neill,
of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

Donald Henry Rumsfeld,
of Illinois, to be Secretary of Defense.

Gale Ann Norton,
of Colorado, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Ann Margaret Veneman,
of California, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Donald Louis Evans,
of Texas, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Tommy G. Thompson,
of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Melquiades Rafael Martinez,
of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Spencer Abraham,
of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

Roderick R. Paige,
of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

Anthony Joseph Principi,
of California, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.,
of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Christine Todd Whitman,
of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Submitted January 24

Norman Y. Mineta,
of California, to be Secretary of Transportation.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: First Presidential Meeting With Foreign Leaders

Statement by the Press Secretary: Restoration of the Mexico City Policy

Announcement: Attendees at the Reading Roundtable

Released January 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released January 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer on the President's meeting with Senator John McCain

Released January 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

Released January 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, February 2, 2001

The President's Radio Address

January 27, 2001

A week ago today I received a great honor and all the great responsibilities that come with it. The first order of business is education reform, and we have started strong.

On Tuesday I sent to Congress a package of reforms to turn last year's pledges into this year's laws. I want to make all of our public schools places of learning and high standards and achievement. Our country must offer every child, no matter what his or her background or accent, a fair start in life with a quality education.

I also met this week with congressional leaders in both parties, and we found a lot of agreement on the basic goals of reform. No one is content with the status quo. Most are open to new ideas. Everyone agrees at least that the problems are serious and action is urgently needed.

This city has heard so much talk over the years about education reform. So many different approaches have been tried. So many new programs have been created. But we need more than a few new programs; we need a new way of thinking. We must go back to the fundamentals of early reading and regular testing, local control, and accountability for results, clear incentives for excellence and clear consequences for failure. These are the elements of the plan I am proposing.

Real reform starts by giving schools and school districts more authority and flexibility. We cannot expect schools to change unless they have the freedom to change. My plan respects the principle of local control. It does not try to run the schools from a central office in Washington. I view principals, teachers, and parents as allies in reform. They are ready to raise the standards, ready to take responsibility, and answer for results.

Those results must be measured by testing every child every year, in tests developed and administered by States and local districts, not the Federal Government. Without yearly testing, we do not know who is falling behind and who needs our help. Without yearly testing, too often we don't find failure until it is too late. Testing allows us to help children early, before frustration turns into apathy.

We need to aim high, but we also need to be realistic. Many schools, particularly those in poor neighborhoods, will need help to meet high standards. And they will have it, including a new $5 billion initiative over 5 years for reading instruction. The goal is to improve our public schools. We want them to succeed, and when they're willing to change, we'll give them the tools to do so.

At the same time, we will not continue to pour taxpayers' money into schools that do not teach and will not change. My plan will give every failing school a fair chance to improve, but there will be a deadline, a moment of truth when parents are given better options and their children are given a way out.

There are some honest differences of opinion in Congress about what form these options should take. I have my own plan which would help children in persistently failing schools to go to another public, private, or charter school. Others suggest different approaches, and I am willing to listen. But all reform must be based on a principle: Children and parents who have had only bad choices need better choices. And it is my duty as President to help them.

In sending my plan to Congress, I ask that we act before this summer, when schools begin planning for the next school year. I hope to have the support of Republicans and Democrats alike, and I hope to have your support, as well.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Announcing the Faith-Based Initiative

January 29, 2001

Good morning. Thank you all for coming. I take great joy in making this announcement. It's going to be one of the most important initiatives that my administration not only discusses but implements.

First, it's good to have so many groups represented here: religious and nonreligious; Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and Muslim; foundations and other nonprofits. I want to thank you all for coming.

This is a collection of some of the finest America has got to offer, people who lead with their hearts and, in turn, have changed the communities in which they live for the better. This meeting is a picture of the strength and diversity and compassion of our country.

This is a diverse group, but we share things in common. They provide more than practical help to people in need. They touch and change hearts. And for this, America is deeply appreciative.

Everyone in this room knows firsthand that there are still deep needs and real suffering in the shadow of America's affluence. Problems like addiction and abandonment and gang violence, domestic violence, mental illness, and homelessness. We are called by conscience to respond.

As I said in my Inaugural Address, compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. It is more than the calling of politicians; it is the calling of citizens. It is citizens who turn mean streets into good neighborhoods. It is citizens who turn cold cities into real communities.

It is one of the great goals of my administration to invigorate the spirit of involvement and citizenship. We will encourage faith-based and community programs without changing their mission. We will help all in their work to change hearts while keeping a commitment to pluralism.

I approach this goal with some basic principles. Government has important responsibilities for public health or public order and civil rights, and Government will never be replaced by charities and community groups. Yet when we see social needs in America, my administration will look first to faith-based programs and community groups, which have proven their power to save and change lives. We will not fund the religious activities of any group, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them.

As long as there are secular alternatives, faith-based charities should be able to compete for funding on an equal basis and in a manner that does not cause them to sacrifice their mission. And we will make sure that help goes to large organizations and to small ones, as well. We value large organizations with generations of experience. We also value neighborhood healers, who have only the scars and testimony of their own experience.

Tomorrow I will begin turning these principles into a legislative agenda. I will send to Congress a series of ideas and proposals. Today I want to raise the priority and profile of these issues within my own administration. I want to ensure that faith-based and community groups will always have a place at the table in our deliberations.

In a few moments, I will sign two Executive orders. The first Executive order will create a new office, called the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The head of this office will report directly to me and be charged with important responsibilities. He will oversee our initiatives on this issue. He will make sure our Government, where it works with private groups, is fair and supportive. And he will highlight groups as national models so others can learn from them.

The second Executive order will clear away the bureaucratic barriers in several important agencies that make private groups hesitate to work with Government. It will establish centers in five agencies—Justice, HUD, HHS, Labor, and Education—to ensure greater cooperation between the Government and the independent sector. These centers will report back on regulatory barriers to working with nonprofit groups, and make recommendations on how those barriers can be removed.

I have put this broad effort into the hands of two exceptional people—first, Steve

Goldsmith, known as one of the most innovative mayors in America, who pioneered ways to promote community efforts. He will continue to advise me on these issues.

And I have asked Steve to serve on the board of the Corporation for National Service. This organization has done some good work in mobilizing volunteers of all ages. I've asked Steve to report to me on how we can make the Corporation do better and to get help where it's most needed.

And secondly, Professor John DiIulio will head the new office I am announcing today. He is one of the most influential social entrepreneurs in America. I can't tell you how honored I am for him to leave his post in academia to join us. He is the author of a respected textbook on American Government. He has a servant's heart on the issues that we will confront. He's worked with disadvantaged children. He has been a major force in mobilizing the city of Philadelphia to support faith-based and community groups.

It's a fantastic team. I'm honored to have them on my team. I look forward to hearing from them, as well as I look forward to working with the people in this room and the social entrepreneurs all across America who've heard the universal call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, to exist and work hard, not out of the love of money but out of the love of their fellow human beings. I'm absolutely convinced the great fabric of the Nation exists in neighborhoods, amongst unsung heroes who do heroic acts on a daily and hourly basis. It's the fabric of the country that makes America unique. It is the power of promise that makes the future so promising—is the power of the missions that stand behind me.

This is an effort that will be an effort from now, the second week of my administration, to the last week of my administration, because I am confident that this initiative when fully implemented will help us realize the dream that America—its hopes, its promise, its greatness—will extend its reach throughout every single neighborhood all across the land.

And now it is my honor to sign the two Executive orders.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Indian Treaty Room at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Executive Order 13198—Agency Responsibilities With Respect to Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

January 29, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to help the Federal Government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet social needs in America's communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of Executive Department Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* (a) The Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall each establish within their respective departments a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (Center).

(b) Each executive department Center shall be supervised by a Director, appointed by the department head in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI).

(c) Each department shall provide its Center with appropriate staff, administrative support, and other resources to meet its responsibilities under this order.

(d) Each department's Center shall begin operations no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 2. *Purpose of Executive Department Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* The purpose of the executive department Centers will be to coordinate department efforts to eliminate regulatory, contracting, and other programmatic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the provision of social services.

Sec. 3. *Responsibilities of Executive Department Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* Each Center shall, to the extent permitted by law: (a) conduct, in coordination with the White House OFBCI, a department-wide audit to identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social services by the department, including but not limited to regulations, rules, orders, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities that either facially discriminate against or otherwise discourage or disadvantage the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal programs;

(b) coordinate a comprehensive departmental effort to incorporate faith-based and other community organizations in department programs and initiatives to the greatest extent possible;

(c) propose initiatives to remove barriers identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order, including but not limited to reform of regulations, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities;

(d) propose the development of innovative pilot and demonstration programs to increase the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal as well as State and local initiatives; and

(e) develop and coordinate department outreach efforts to disseminate information more effectively to faith-based and other community organizations with respect to programming changes, contracting opportunities, and other department initiatives, including but not limited to Web and Internet resources.

Sec. 4. *Additional Responsibilities of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor Centers.* In addition to those responsibilities described in section 3 of this order, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor Centers shall, to the extent permitted by law: (a) conduct a comprehensive review of policies and practices affecting existing funding streams governed by so-called "Charitable Choice" legislation to assess the department's compliance with the requirements of Charitable Choice; and (b) promote and ensure compliance with existing Charitable Choice legislation by the department, as well as its partners in State and local government, and their contractors.

Sec. 5. *Reporting Requirements.* (a) Report. Not later than 180 days after the date of this order and annually thereafter, each of the five executive department Centers described in section 1 of this order shall prepare and submit a report to the White House OFBCI.

(b) Contents. The report shall include a description of the department's efforts in carrying out its responsibilities under this order, including but not limited to:

(1) a comprehensive analysis of the barriers to the full participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social services identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order and the proposed strategies to eliminate those barriers; and

(2) a summary of the technical assistance and other information that will be available to faith-based and other community organizations regarding the program activities of the department and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and procurement.

(c) Performance Indicators. The first report, filed 180 days after the date of this order, shall include annual performance indicators and measurable objectives for department action. Each report filed thereafter shall measure the department's performance against the objectives set forth in the initial report.

Sec. 6. *Responsibilities of All Executive Departments and Agencies.* All executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall: (a) designate an agency employee to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 7. *Administration and Judicial Review.* (a) The agencies' actions directed by this Executive Order shall be carried out subject to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

(b) This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:45 a.m., January 30, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 31.

Executive Order 13199—Establishment of White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

January 29, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to help the Federal Government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet social needs in America's communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.* Faith-based and other community organizations are indispensable in meeting the needs of poor Americans and distressed neighborhoods. Government cannot be replaced by such organizations, but it can and should welcome them as partners. The paramount goal is compassionate results, and private and charitable community groups, including religious ones, should have the fullest opportunity permitted by law to compete on a level playing field, so long as they achieve valid public purposes, such as curbing crime, conquering addiction, strengthening families and neighborhoods, and overcoming poverty. This delivery of social services must be results oriented and should value the bedrock principles of pluralism, nondiscrimination, evenhandedness, and neutrality.

Sec. 2. *Establishment.* There is established a White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI) within the Executive Office of the President that will have lead responsibility in the executive branch to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the Federal Government's comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based and other community organizations to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 3. *Functions.* The principal functions of the White House OFBCI are, to the extent permitted by law: (a) to develop, lead, and coordinate the Administration's policy agenda affecting faith-based and other community programs and initiatives, expand the role of such efforts in communities, and increase their capacity through executive action, legislation, Federal and private funding, and regulatory relief;

(b) to ensure that Administration and Federal Government policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals with respect to faith-based and other community initiatives;

(c) to help integrate the President's policy agenda affecting faith-based and other community organizations across the Federal Government;

(d) to coordinate public education activities designed to mobilize public support for faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives through volunteerism, special projects, demonstration pilots, and public-private partnerships;

(e) to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community initiatives;

(f) to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the President for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community programs;

(g) to provide policy and legal education to State, local, and community policymakers and public officials seeking ways to empower faith-based and other community organizations and to improve the opportunities, capacity, and expertise of such groups;

(h) to develop and implement strategic initiatives under the President's agenda to strengthen the institutions of civil society and America's families and communities;

(i) to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives;

(j) to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community efforts to solve social problems;

(k) to monitor implementation of the President's agenda affecting faith-based and other community organizations; and

(l) to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community organizations meet high standards of excellence and accountability.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* (a) The White House OFBCI may function through established or ad hoc committees, task forces, or interagency groups.

(b) The White House OFBCI shall have a staff to be headed by the Assistant to the President for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The White House OFBCI shall have such staff and other assistance, to the extent permitted by law, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this order. The White House OFBCI operations shall begin no later than 30 days from the date of this order.

(c) The White House OFBCI shall coordinate with the liaison and point of contact designated by each executive department and agency with respect to this initiative.

(d) All executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

(e) The agencies' actions directed by this Executive Order shall be carried out subject to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 5. *Judicial Review.* This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:45 a.m., January 30, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 31.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Energy Policy Development Group and an Exchange With Reporters

January 29, 2001

Energy Policy

The President. This is the first in a series of meetings which will be chaired by Vice President Cheney on discussing our Nation's energy situation—can't think of a better man to run it than the Vice President.

I've also asked, and he has asked, that senior members of the Cabinet participate. This is a matter of high concern for this administration, because it's a matter of high concern for our Nation. It's becoming very clear to the country that demand is outstripping supply, that there are more users of electricity and natural gas than there is new units being found, and we've got to do something about that in the country.

This administration is concerned about the people who work for a living, concerned about people who struggle every day to get ahead. And we understand—fully understand—what high energy costs can mean to people in America, and we're going to formulate a strategy to deal with it. And the Vice President's going to head the task force to report back to me, and to the Nation, how best to cope with high energy prices and how best to cope with reliance upon foreign oil, how best to encourage the development of pipelines and power-generating capacity in the country so that we can help our fellow citizens.

We have been dealing with this issue, obviously, because of the State of California's woes. And I appreciate very much the way you handled it, Mr. Secretary. The Governor of California asked for a 2 week extension of mandatory sales of power and natural gas. We've granted that extension for 2 weeks. It looks like they're making progress in California, and we're pleased, because the situation is going to be best remedied in California by Californians.

We're very aware in this administration that the situation in California is beginning

to affect neighboring States. Western Governors came to see the Vice President, and they came to see me, as well. And they're deeply concerned about the situation spreading beyond the California borders, and so are we. And so the task force that's being assembled will not only deal with the very short-run issues dealing with the West but, obviously, the longer-term issues that will be confronting our country for a while, unless we're willing to act boldly and swiftly, which we will do.

Thank you for coming.

Super Bowl XXXV

Q. ——questions?

The President. Next time. Give you a chance to really think of some good ones. [*Laughter*] I've got some suggestions—I've got some suggestions. First answer—you can think of the question—first answer is, Ravens. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Gov. Gray Davis of California. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 29, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. Mr. Secretary, you better move over before you get trampled by the hungry caterpillar. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the two chairmen from the Senate and the House for coming to visit us. I appreciate you being here, Mr. Secretary; of course, the Vice President. We've had a very—we've had a discussion—a couple of key issues. One, I was informing the chairmen that today we're sending up to the Hill our Immediate Helping Hand proposal, which is help for prescription drugs for seniors. I appreciate them hearing me out as to the rationale to send it up.

I was pleased to hear there is some sentiment on the Hill for quick action for Medicare reform, a reform package which would include prescription drugs. And secondly, of course, we talked about tax relief, tax simplification, and tax fairness. They brought a favorable report that members from both parties are beginning to talk positively about tax relief and the positive effects it will have on our economy, on the lives of our average citizens. So I want to thank them for coming.

I'd be glad to answer a few questions.

Yes, John.

Energy Policy Development Group

Q. Sir, on your energy task force, is this seeking political cover, sir, to promote your campaign to open up the wildlife refuge? And also, given the Vice President's past ties to oil, what can you say to consumers that would allay any fears they might have that any deal that you come up with on energy, any national energy policy, may be more geared toward oil companies than to consumers?

The President. Well, Dick Cheney is a person who loves America and cares about the future of the country, just like I do. And he understands what I understand, that if we don't find more energy supplies to meet growing demand in places like California, the consumer is going to pay a dear price.

During the course of the campaign, we spent a lot of time talking about the need to develop a national energy policy. And that's exactly what we're going to do. There is a short-term issue of California, and we responded quickly to the Governor's request for a 2 week extension on some mandatory allocations of energy and gas. It's now up to the people of California, the elected officials of California, to correct a flawed law, and we're encouraged that they're doing so.

But there's a long-term issue as well, and that is, how do we find more energy supplies? How do we encourage conservation on the one hand and bring more energy into the marketplace? And a good place to look is going to be ANWR. And I campaigned hard on the notion of having an environmentally sensitive exploration to ANWR, and I think we can do so.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. On your faith-based initiative, could you address the concern that some people

have that this is an erosion of church and state, and that this will somehow be an office of evangelicals in the White House?

The President. Right. I appreciate that question, because I, in the State of Texas, had heard a lot of discussion about a faith-based initiative eroding the important bridge between church and state. And I am convinced that our plan is constitutional, because we intend—we will not fund a church or a synagogue or a mosque or any religion but, instead, will be funding programs that affect people in a positive way.

The charitable choice provision that had been debated in the welfare reform package fully explored the constitutional questions involved with funding people and/or faith-based programs. And I am confident that our program not only is constitutional but, more importantly, our program is going to change America for the better, that we're going to help people, and we're going to help people help themselves, and we're going to rally the great compassion of America.

And I look forward to implementing this program. I look forward to working with Members of Congress to put the required package together.

Prescription Drugs Legislation

Q. How do you respond to the Members of Congress who say they would rather see a universal, broad-based approach to Medicare reform rather than your drug plan first and a broader approach later?

The President. Well, if, in fact, what they're saying is that they plan on expediting a Medicare reform that will include prescription drugs for all seniors, then all of a sudden, I begin to say, "Well, gosh, that may make sense that you look at our proposal the way you do." If they're going to drag their feet, if the Members of the Congress on both sides of the aisle don't feel the same urgency that I feel and these two chairmen feel on Medicare reform, then I feel it's very important for us to have An Immediate Helping Hand. There are a lot of seniors who need help when it comes to prescription drugs.

Marc Rich Pardon

Q. Why did you decide not to challenge the Clinton pardon, sir?

The President. Oh, on Marc Rich? First of all, I didn't agree with the decision. I would not have made that decision myself. But the ability for a President to make decisions is—a decision on pardons is inviolate, as far as I'm concerned. It's an important part of the office. I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself but for predecessors as well. And that's why I made the decision.

Q. Are you troubled by the appearance, sir? Are you troubled by the appearance of that pardon, sir?

The President. I was troubled by the decision the President made. I would not have made the decision. I would not have made that decision. But nevertheless, he was the President. He had the right to do so, to make that decision, and he did. And I'm going to protect that privilege, not only for me but for future Presidents as well.

Q. Is it a quid pro quo——

The President. I don't know about that. It's going to be up for a good journalist to figure that out—like you, Roberts [John Roberts, CBS News].

Q. I'm just wondering, sir, if you're taking a look at the path that's been laid and said, it walks like a duck.

The President. It what—it walks like what? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; Senator Charles Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Treasury Secretary-designate Paul H. O'Neill; and Gov. Gray Davis of California. The President also referred to ANWR, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Bipartisan Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 29, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. I'm continuing a series of meetings I'm going to have with Members

of the Congress. I'm very serious about sitting down as often as possible with people from both parties to have frank discussions about issues that concern the country. I believe there is a very good opportunity for us to exceed expectations.

Expectations are that nothing will get done. I'm confident that the people here in Washington and Members of the Senate don't agree with that. We're going to talk about education, and we're going to talk about taxes. We'll talk about the patients' bill of rights—a variety of issues that are of concern, and what we call front burner issues, issues that should be making it through the Congress soon.

I want to thank the Members for coming. I'm honored that they would come down from the Hill to visit the Vice President and me. Thanks for coming.

Q. I have one question about——

The President. I'll catch you tomorrow. You missed your chance at the third press availability. [*Laughter*]

Q. When are you going to do your first news conference, Mr. President?

The President. These mini-news conferences count. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:32 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Blueprint for Assistance To Help Medicare Beneficiaries Buy Prescription Drugs

January 29, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Enclosed please find the blueprint for my program to provide immediate assistance to help certain Medicare beneficiaries buy prescription drugs. I look forward to working with the Congress to enact these principles into law and to working together on comprehensive Medicare reform.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 30, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. It's an honor for the Vice President and the Secretary of Treasury and myself, and OMB Director, to welcome the leadership in the House and the Senate on the Republican side. We've had a wide-ranging discussion; discussed tax relief and how we can pay down national debt and have tax relief, which all of us around this table firmly believe we can do.

We also discussed the fact that there's a lot of Americans who have got a lot of consumer debt, and we must be mindful of those hard-working Americans. And part of the tax relief package is to allow people to better manage their own finances with their own money. We had a discussion about education.

We discussed, particularly the leader and I and Members of the Senate, discussed the need to get our nominees through the Senate. And I hope, in the spirit of bipartisanship, there will be no further delays on the confirmation process for John Ashcroft and other nominees of ours. I certainly appreciate how fast the Senate worked, initially, but it's time for the delays to end. It's time for a vote on all our Cabinet officials.

This is—will be a series of conversations we'll have throughout my tenure, and I really enjoy this. It's been a good, frank discussion.

Interest Rates/Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Do you think the Fed should cut rates now, sort of stimulate the economy? And in the discussion of tax policy, there has been some disagreement between the White House and the Speaker and others over whether you should have one big package of tax cuts or to do it in pieces.

The President. First, Mr. Greenspan needs to make his decisions, independent of what I think. I learned a pretty good lesson

during the transition, and that was I had commented out loud about one of the actions he took. That's the last time I'm going to comment about the actions that Mr. Greenspan takes. He's an independent voice and needs to be an independent voice.

Secondly, we did discuss the timing of the tax relief package and how best to move it through the House, where to originate. And as I told the Speaker and the chairman and the leadership, that we are interested in success, that the most important—most important—criterion for how the tax package is handled is whether or not it will succeed. And these are the Members who are going to have to work to get it out of the House. So we're listening to their strategy.

Q. What is the best timing for presenting the tax proposal, sir?

The President. Again, that's going to be up to the leadership. Obviously, it depends upon—it's the middle of our budget. As you noticed, the head of the budget committees are here; we're talking budget. Taxes must fit into a budget, which they will.

The answer to any of our initiatives, of course, is, as soon as possible. [*Laughter*]

Earthquake Assistance to India

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes sir?

Q. Good morning, sir.

The President. How are you doing?

Q. Good. Thank you.

The President. I thought you had abandoned us for a while. [*Laughter*]

Q. Are you happy with the progress you're making in reaching out to world leaders, or do you plan to change the pace of that at all?

The President. I've got a steady pace. I'm calling as I can. I talked to the Prime Minister of India today. It was a phone call that I was going to make, regardless of the natural disaster that took place there. Obviously, a lot of the conversation today was about the aid that our country is sending: A 747 from AID has landed this morning; another one is on its way; we're sending some military planes over, as well. I assured him that our Nation was deeply concerned for the citizenry that had lost their lives. It was not the appropriate time to discuss policy beyond that.

And I will be making other calls, touching base with world leaders. I'll do a lot of that, of course. Good diplomacy really depends upon good personal relations, whether or not we agree with each other on a lot of issues or not. And I'm going to continue the diplomacy that reaches out to people on a regular basis.

Attorney-General-Designate John Ashcroft

Q. On Senator Ashcroft, are you worried that there are going to be more—do you feel he's going to be confirmed, still?

The President. I do believe he's going to be confirmed. But one of my charges is to run the executive branch of Government. And it's important for our Cabinet officers to be confirmed so they can start doing their job of organizing their departments. Once we get our Cabinet officials through, I'm sure I'll be speaking to the Senate about moving the number twos and threes through, as well, so that we can take hold of this Government.

And one of the things I'll be doing when our Cabinet meets is talking about the need for each Cabinet member to be fiscally sound with the taxpayers' money. It's hard to deliver that message when somebody hasn't been confirmed. So I would just hope there are no further delays. There's been a lot of discussion, a lot of debate; there's been a lot of questionnaires presented and answers filled out; and it's now time for the vote, it seems like to me.

Q. Did you get the Vice President a birthday present?

The Vice President. Not yet. [*Laughter*]

The President. As a matter of fact—[*laughter*]—some used coffee cake, perhaps, Mr. Vice President? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Treasury Secretary-designate Paul H. O'Neill; Office of Management and Budget Director Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.; and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Paul H. O'Neill as Secretary of the Treasury

January 30, 2001

The President. Well, I'm pleased to welcome Nancy O'Neill and the O'Neill family here. Thank you all for coming. It's an honor for both the Vice President and I to say some words about the Secretary of Treasury. With Paul over at the Treasury, he is literally a next door neighbor. And I'm going to see a lot of him right here in this office. He'll be a valued adviser and a steady hand.

Secretary O'Neill has served in this office before, at the Office of Management and Budget. He understands the workings and responsibilities of the executive branch. More than that, he understands the private sector, where he and others like him have been driving our country's economic boom.

In a distinguished career, Paul has earned a reputation as a straight shooter and an innovator. And I'm proud to welcome him as the chief financial officer of this Nation. Paul and I share a great goal: to make sure that all Americans can find high paying, high quality jobs. And we share a vision of how to get there. Our prosperity depends on free trade, less regulation, and America's strong place in our global economy. More than ever, American jobs depend on America's standing in the world.

I value Paul's vast experience in the world economy. I value his background in employing American workers, and I value his steadiness, his conviction, and his authority. We also share a belief that broad, responsible tax cuts are an important step we can take to regain the momentum of our economy. When we reduce the income tax burden, we must do so for everybody who pays taxes.

When we have a Government surplus, we must prioritize and spend responsibly and return some of that surplus to the people who worked for it. Because our Government has a surplus does not mean that every American family has a surplus. In fact, many families are feeling squeezed by high energy prices and credit card debt. We need to give them their own money back, to help families manage their own account, to pay down their own personal debts.

Our tax cut will give the biggest percentage reductions to people who struggle to get into the middle class and American families who struggle to stay there.

I believe in leaving more dollars with the people who earned them, and so does Secretary O'Neill. And I'm proud that those dollars will soon bear the signature of Secretary Paul O'Neill.

Congratulations, Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, Treasury Secretary O'Neill made brief remarks.*]

The President. Mr. Secretary, thank you.

Why don't we have a family picture, too, if you'd like one. Come on up.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy O'Neill, wife of Secretary O'Neill. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary O'Neill.

Remarks at the Fishing School

January 30, 2001

Thank you, Tom, very much for having us. And it's such an honor to have John DiIulio on my staff. For those of you who don't know John, he's a pioneer in working with Republicans and Democrats and people who really care about political parties to revitalize neighborhoods and places where hope may have been lost, by rallying faith-based organizations. And so, John, I'm so honored that you've sacrificed for the country.

It's good to see Steve Goldsmith here, who is a partner as well.

A little over a week ago, a few miles from here, I was honored to be inaugurated your President. I'm here today to repeat the promise I made on the steps of the Capitol: I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity. I'm going to need some help to do that. And so I'm so honored four Members of the United States Congress are here: Senator Joe Lieberman from the great State of Connecticut; Senator Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania; Congressman Mark Souder of Indiana; Congressman Tony Hall of Ohio.

I'm also pleased that two members of my Cabinet came: one, Mel Martinez, my Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and finally, Rod Paige, a fellow Texan who is now the Secretary of Education.

The Fishing School obviously attracts people who seek excellence, and all of us up here, regardless of our political party, love to herald excellence. And we love to stand next to people who have got vision and good intentions and a good heart. And that's Tom Lewis.

This little haven is a refuge from violence and addiction and abuse. Children find learning and care, but most important, they find something that we can never pass legislation to achieve, and that's love. They find love. They find an adult saying: Somebody cares about you; somebody loves you; somebody wants to help you. Tom knows what we all know, that through loving children, you find deep fulfillment in your own heart. You can just see it on his face, and you can hear it in his voice.

As a candidate for President, I had the privilege of visiting a lot of churches and synagogues and charitable groups all across the country, groups that offer food and shelter, hope and dignity. I've seen how effective and committed these groups are at saving and changing lives. As President, I am resolved to put Government on your side, Tom, on the side of the committed and the caring and the compassionate.

There are so many people in need. The good news about America is, there are so many willing to serve. It's the great strength of our Nation. There's no limit to the talent and energy and compassion of this great land. But sometimes the need is too great, and the resources are too limited, and all of us, as private citizens and public officials, should help where we can.

Today I'm sending to Congress a set of ideas and proposals that mark a hopeful new direction for our Government. We will encourage community and faith-based programs without changing their mission. We will eliminate barriers to charitable works wherever they exist, and we will encourage charitable giving wherever we can.

I'm open to any good ideas that will come from the Congress. And I can assure you, these four good Members of Congress will have some good ideas. [*Laughter*] And they're probably not going to be afraid to tell me either. [*Laughter*] But here are some of my proposals.

I want to fully open up the Federal after-school program, called 21st century learning centers, to all after-school programs, including faith-based groups. I propose to create a compassionate capital fund which will provide start-up funds for promising new programs serving people in need. We'll make sure that funding is available to faith-based programs on an equal basis, with nonreligious alternatives.

Government, of course, cannot fund and will not fund religious activities, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them. I propose to encourage mentoring programs for children of prisoners, as well as programs that, when possible, help to mend broken families.

The change we seek won't come all at once by any act of Congress or any Executive order signed by the President. Real change happens street by street, heart by heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. It happens in places like this one, the Fishing School. Yet, I hope that good policies can expand and multiply these efforts, uplifting lives all across America.

You know, those of us in public life oftentimes are honored to be able to see the best of America, to be able to find true strength, the true heart of the country. I believe the true heart of the country can be defined here at the Fishing School, a place, an idea started because somebody said, "What can I do? How can I hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like I'd like to be loved myself?" In this case, a person I call a social entrepreneur, and this is a country of social entrepreneurs.

And our job, regardless of our political party, is to recognize the strength of the country, to nourish it and feed it within the Constitution, within the bounds of the Constitution, and to herald success when we find it. And today all of us are honored to be here to herald success because we have found it right here.

God bless Tom. God bless your program.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Lewis, founder, the Fishing School; John J. DiIulio, Jr., who will head the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; and Stephen Goldsmith, who will serve on the board of the Corporation for National Service.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Bipartisan Congressional Leaders

January 31, 2001

Legislative Agenda/Pan Am 103 Trial Verdict

Thank you all for coming. This is part of our effort to get to know each other. And if Thomas and Grassley keep coming up here, we're going to get to know them too good, aren't we? [*Laughter*]

I appreciate the Members of the Congress for being here this morning. Thank you all for coming. We're going to have a good, wide-ranging discussion, hopefully focused on tax relief. I'm pleased to see the CBO members. I think it helps further the case that there is enough money to pay down debt, to meet priorities, and to give some of the money back to the people who pay the bills. That's the taxpayers.

I also appreciate so very much the Scottish court has made a decision and convicted a member of the Libyan intelligence service for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103. I appreciate the work of the United States Government team which contributed to this guilty verdict.

Nothing can change the suffering and loss of this terrible act, but I hope the families do find some solace that a guilty verdict was rendered. I want to assure the families and victims the United States Government will continue to pressure Libya to accept responsibility for this act and to compensate the families.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; and Senator Charles Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Meeting With Catholic Charities

January 31, 2001

Listen, thank you all for coming. It has been my honor and that of members of my staff and of my Cabinet to have received leaders from the Catholic Church. During my travels around the country, I have been most impressed by not only the quality of leadership of the men and women who make up the great strength of the Catholic hierarchy but also the unwavering commitment to the poor and to the disadvantaged and to those who are unable to defend themselves.

America is a loving and compassionate country, and the leaders here reflect that compassion and that love. Here are folks that have heard the call from the Lord to love their neighbor and have fostered and nourished and led programs all intended to help people, to help people help themselves.

There is no way that Government can create love. Love comes from a higher calling. Love is inspirational. But what Government can do is fund and welcome programs whose sole intent is to change lives in a positive way.

For the last couple of days I've talked about my office's commitment to faith-based programs; I've talked about initiatives, particularly mentoring initiatives and after-school programs that will welcome faith-based programs. Today I do want to talk about one other component of making sure the initiative is full, and that is that we must reform the tax code, not in the way that I'm going to be talking to a lot of Members of Congress about but in an additional way. And that is to allow non-itemizers to deduct charitable giving off their income.

This is a reform of the tax code that will encourage giving from people who have received no incentive to do so. There is an independent study out today that will show that giving in America will increase significantly when Congress passes this reform and I have the opportunity to sign it.

Our mission in the White House is to say, we welcome you; we welcome your love; we welcome your finances; we welcome your compassion. And to those heroes who live in the neighborhoods all around America who are literally transforming our country in

a positive way, we say, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I'm so honored the leadership came, many of whom I have seen before. I've now met new friends, and we welcome you here to Washington, DC.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Indian Treaty Room at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

January 31, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. In my first Cabinet meeting we're going to discuss a variety of topics today. I'm going to remind all of us, it's an honor to serve the country. I expect only one standard, and that's the highest of ethical standards. We're putting together a great team to serve America. That's what we're here for.

I am going to talk a little bit about reminding people that a dollar spent is a tax—is somebody's money and that we expect there to be lean budgets, good stewards of the people's money. We'll hear from some of the Cabinet officers about what may be going on. I suspect the Energy Secretary may want to brief us. I think the Secretary of Treasury will give us an update on what's going on, the economy and tax relief.

I want to assure Americans that they're going to be as proud of this Cabinet as I am. This is a wonderful group of men and women who have agreed to serve their country, for which I'm grateful.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, are you beginning to think that Congress might act more quickly on your tax cuts if you break it up into pieces and seek across-the-board tax cut first?

The President. I told the Speaker and anybody else who will listen on the House side, where the legislation must begin, that we're interested in the results. If that's what it takes to get the bill through, we'll be willing to listen. This is an administration that's mindful of the difference between the legislative branch and the executive branch. We will make suggestions if asked. If the Speaker and Chairman Thomas and others believe that the best way to get our plan in place that will help bolster the economy that we believe needs bolstering, we'll listen and work with them.

Pan Am 103 Verdict

Q. Mr. President, does the verdict in the Pan Am bombing case—should it leave any doubt that Libya was behind the bombing of Pan Am 103 as an act of state?

The President. This was a high official. We've made it very clear that this administration is going to hold the Libyans accountable. We expect them to pay reparations. The Secretary of State is in complete agreement.

Q. If they pay reparations——

The President. Let's see if they do.

Q. The Government of Tripoli just announced as we were coming in here that they will accept no responsibility for what happened. What happens now from the U.S. side?

The President. We'll develop a plan.

Q. Welcome back, Mr. Powell.

The President. He looks pretty good here, doesn't he? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham; Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill; Representative William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Black Caucus

January 31, 2001

The President. I want to thank Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson from Dallas, Texas, and you all for coming. I appreciate—Madam Chairman. I look forward to a good dialog on subjects that are on the Members' minds and on my mind, as well. I think we'll have a good discussion about public education. While there may be some discussion about details, all of us, surely, believe the

great hope for this country is to make sure every child—I mean every child—is educated.

I look forward to sharing with the Members who don't know me well some of my experiences as the Governor of the State of Texas and what I've tried to do to fulfill that promise and fulfill that pledge.

This will be the beginning of, hopefully, a lot of meetings. I hope you come back, and I'll certainly be inviting. But thanks for coming. It's an important part of my job—is to talk to everybody who is in the legislative body. I will remind you all, I understand the difference between the executive branch and the legislative branch. I only get to suggest. You all pass the laws. And that's what we're here to work——

Representative Cynthia A. McKinney. That's right. [*Laughter*]

The President. I understand that well. But thank you all for coming. It's an honor for you to be here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:32 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the United States Air Force Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada

January 31, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the "Act"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 19, 2000, President Clinton issued Presidential Determination 2000–30 (copy attached) and thereby exercised his authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination 2000–30 exempted the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that would require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified and its disclosure would be harmful to national security. Continued protection of this information is, therefore, in the paramount interest of the United States.

The determination was not intended to imply that, in the absence of a Presidential exemption, RCRA or any other provision of law permits or requires the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. The determination also was not intended to limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake except those provisions, if any, that would require the disclosure of classified information.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 1.

Remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast

February 1, 2001

Well, thank you all very much for that warm welcome. Laura and I are honored to be here this morning. I did a pretty good job when it came to picking my wife, by the way. She's going to be a fabulous First Lady.

Mr. Vice President, it's good to see you; of course, your wife, Lynne. And I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I appreciate you, Senator Frist, for your commitment and strong comments. And Zach, thanks for your introduction. And thank you both for organizing this important event.

I want to thank the Members of the House and the Senate who are here. I appreciate the number of foreign dignitaries who are here. It just goes to show that faith crosses every border and touches every heart in every nation.

Every President since the first one I can remember, Dwight Eisenhower, has taken part in this great tradition. It's a privilege for

me to speak where they have spoken and to pray where they have prayed. All Presidents of the United States have come to the National Prayer Breakfast, regardless of their religious views. No matter what our background, in prayer we share something universal, a desire to speak and listen to our Maker, and to know His plan for our lives.

America's Constitution forbids a religious test for office, and that's the way it should be. An American President serves people of every faith and serves some of no faith at all. Yet, I have found my faith helps me in the service to people. Faith teaches humility—as Laura would say, I could use a dose occasionally—[*laughter*]—a recognition that we are small in God's universe, yet precious in His sight. It has sustained me in moments of success and in moments of disappointment. Without it I would be a different person, and without it I doubt I'd be here today.

There are many experiences of faith in this room. But most of us share a belief that we are loved and called to love, that our choices matter, now and forever, that there are purposes deeper than ambition and hopes greater than success. These beliefs shape our lives and help sustain the life of our Nation. Men and women can be good without faith, but faith is a force of goodness. Men and women can be compassionate without faith, but faith often inspires compassion. Human beings can love without faith, but faith is a great teacher of love.

Our country, from its beginnings has recognized the contribution of faith. We do not impose any religion; we welcome all religions. We do not prescribe any prayer; we welcome all prayers. This is the tradition of our Nation, and it will be the standard of my administration. We will respect every creed. We will honor the diversity of our country and the deep convictions of our people.

There's a good reason why many in our Nation embrace the faith tradition. Throughout our history, people of faith have often been our Nation's voice of conscience. The foes of slavery could appeal to the standard that all are created equal in the sight of our Lord. The civil rights movement had the same conviction on its side, that men and women bearing God's image should not be exploited and set aside and treated as insignificant. The same impulse over the years has reformed prisons and mental institutions, hospitals, hospices, and homeless shelters.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said this: "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state but rather the conscience of the state." As in his case, that sometimes means defying the times, challenging old ways and old assumptions. This influence has made our Nation more just and generous and decent. And our Nation has need of that today.

Faith remains important to the compassion of our Nation. Millions of Americans serve their neighbor because they love their God. Their lives are characterized by kindness and patience and service to others. They do for others what no government really can ever do—no government program can really ever do: They provide love for another human being; they provide hope even when hope comes hard.

In my second week in office we have set out to promote the work of community and faith-based charities. We want to encourage the inspired, to help the helper. Government cannot be replaced by charities, but it can welcome them as partners instead of resenting them as rivals.

My administration will put the Federal Government squarely on the side of America's armies of compassion. Our plan will not favor religious institutions over nonreligious institutions. As President, I'm interested in what is constitutional, and I'm interested in what works. The days of discriminating against religious institutions, simply because they are religious, must come to an end.

Faith is also important to the civility of our country. It teaches us not merely to tolerate one another but to respect one another, to show a regard for different views, and the courtesy to listen. This is essential to democracy. It is also the proper way to treat human beings created in the divine image.

We will have our disagreements. Civility does not require us to abandon deeply held beliefs. Civility does not demand casual creeds and colorless convictions. Americans have always believed that civility and firm resolve could live easily with one another. But civility does mean that our public debate

ought to be free from bitterness and anger and rancor and ill will. We have an obligation to make our case, not to demonize our opponents. As the Book of James reminds us, fresh water and salt water cannot flow from the same spring.

I am under no illusion that civility will triumph in this city all at once. [*Laughter*] Old habits die hard, and sometimes they never die at all. I can only pledge to you this, that I will do my very best to promote civility and ask for the same in return.

These are some of the crucial contributions of faith to our Nation: justice and compassion and a civil and generous society. I thank you all here for displaying these values and defending them here in America and across the world. You strengthen the ties of friendship and the ties of nations. And I deeply appreciate your work.

I believe in the power of prayer. It's been said, "I would rather stand against the cannons of the wicked than against the prayers of the righteous." The prayers of a friend are one of life's most gracious gifts. My family and I are blessed by the prayers of countless Americans. Over the last several months, Laura and I have been touched by the number of people who come up and say, "We pray for you"—such comforting words. I hope Americans will continue to pray that everyone in my administration finds wisdom and always remembers the common good.

When President Harry Truman took office in 1945, he said this: "At this moment, I have in my heart a prayer. I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people." This has been the prayer of many Presidents, and it is mine today.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Zach Wamp.

Remarks Announcing the New Freedom Initiative

February 1, 2001

Steven, you were brilliant in your introduction. Little did we know—we kind of thought we'd be sitting here during the California race, didn't we? But here we are, and thank you so much for being here.

I'm so honored that you all are here. I appreciate the folks who served on my coalition for people with disabilities. There's one hero here that I got to know during the campaign. His name is Jim Mullen. Jim is from Chicago. He's a police officer, wounded in the course of duty, who is a courageous, fine American. And Jim, thank you so very much for coming today.

I'm glad the First Lady is here. It's an unusual job where all you've got to do is walk down from your living room to come to work. [*Laughter*] I'm really proud of Laura.

It's good to see Members of the Congress who are here. Thank you all for coming as well. I'm especially pleased that people from all around the country have taken time to help kick off this important initiative.

One of the things I enjoy most about my new job is the walk I get to take every single morning, up the Colonnade from the Residence to the Oval Office. I say "up," because the path rises just slightly. It's been that way since they took out the steps so that Franklin Roosevelt could make it to his place of work.

This house is among the first places in America to accommodate people with disabilities. And we have come a long way since the days when only a President could hope for that consideration. We are more mindful now of the hardships that come with disability, more generous in responding to the needs of our citizens, more grateful for the contributions you make to our society.

Old misconceptions about physical and mental disability are being discredited. Old barriers are falling away. Our task is now clear: We must speed up the day when the last barrier has been removed to full and independent lives for every American with or without disability.

I am proud that the last great reform in this cause, the Americans with Disability Act, bears the signature of my dad. I see many in this audience who helped him get this important legislation through Congress, and I want to thank you for coming. Because of that law, millions of Americans can now compete for jobs once denied them, enter buildings once closed to them, travel in buses and trains once unequipped for them.

For those who have hearing or visual impairments, for those who use walkers and wheelchairs or have mental retardation and mental illnesses, your own country now seems a more welcoming place as a result of that law. Eleven years after the ADA we are a better country for it.

But there is more to do, and today I propose we move forward. This morning I sent to Congress a set of proposals called the New Freedom Initiative. It is an important step in ensuring that all Americans with disabilities, whether young or old, can participate more fully in the life of their communities and of our country.

Wherever a door is closed to anyone because of a disability, we must work to open it. Wherever any job or home or means of transportation is unfairly denied because of a disability, we must work to change it. Wherever any barrier stands between you and the full rights and dignity of citizenship, we must work to remove it—in the name of simple decency and simple justice.

Often, as you know, such barriers are unintentional. One is the high cost of assistive technologies. For many people with disabilities, new technologies are helping to defeat dependence and frustration and isolation: text telephones for those with hearing impairments; computer monitors with Braille displays for those with visual impairments; infrared pointers for people who cannot use their hands, allowing them to operate computers by pointing at functions on the monitor or the keyboard; lighter wheelchairs; lighter artificial limbs.

These modern wonders make the world more accessible; yet, they are often inaccessible to people who need but cannot afford them. These technologies were once beyond the dreams of Americans with disabilities. Today, they're only beyond their means, and we can help.

In our New Freedom Initiative, we're asking Congress to significantly increase Federal funding for low-interest loans so that more Americans with disabilities can purchase assistive technology. And to ensure that even better technologies are available in the future, we're asking Congress to increase Federal investment in assistive technology research and development.

My administration will also work with businesses to bring more assistive technologies to the marketplace. Once available, these technologies will allow Americans with disabilities to use more of their own gifts, make more of their own choices, and lead lives of greater independence.

Many Americans with disabilities work or would like to have more freedom to do so. And you know that the greatest challenges are often not in the job itself but in the distance between your job and your home. For some people with disabilities, this challenge means no job at all, no opportunity to work and to contribute and to use their talents.

This is changing as more Americans work at home. Yet here, too, the cost of computers and telecommuting are sometimes beyond the means of those with disabilities. And we can help. In our New Freedom Initiative, we are asking Congress to create a fund to help people with disabilities to buy the equipment they need to telecommute. We will provide tax incentives to encourage employers to provide such equipment. And we will protect home offices from needless OSHA regulations.

Some 40 million Americans today work out of their homes. For most, it is a convenience. For workers with disabilities, it is a revolution. And we want as many Americans as possible to share in this revolution of independence.

Our plans also include transportation solutions for people with disabilities. Specifically, we're asking Congress to fund pilot programs for innovative transportation plans that serve people with disabilities. And we'll provide Federal matching grants to community groups to provide alternative methods of transportation.

There are several additional proposals in this package, but let me just mention one more. We will provide additional funding each year to help churches, synagogues, mosques, and other civic groups become more fully accessible to all Americans. In many houses of worship and civic centers, intentions are good, but resources are scarce. We can help make these community places open to all.

I've often talked about the goal of a welcoming society, a nation where no one is dismissed or forgotten. Our progress toward that goal is really the great American story. It is a story of inclusion and protection extending across our history to more and more Americans.

And that story's not over. There is still work to do. We must all do our duty and play our part. And I hope today we have made a good beginning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Steven J. Tingus, director, Resource Development for the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, who introduced the President.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Blueprint for the "New Freedom Initiative"

February 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Enclosed please find the blueprint for my "New Freedom Initiative" to increase investment in and access to assistive technologies and a quality education, and help integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce and into community life. I look forward to working with the Congress to ensure that these proposals are enacted into law and to working together to ensure that every American with a disability has access to the American dream.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Proclamation 7404—National African American History Month

February 1, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 1915, Carter Godwin Woodson, the father of Black history, founded the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Each February, the Association proposes a theme to guide the celebration of National African American History Month. For this year, the Association has chosen "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics, and Culture."

This month in particular, we remember the stories of those who have helped to build our Nation and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights. We remember the bravery of the soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and the sailors of the USS MASON in service to our country. We remember those who marched on Washington, sat at whites-only lunch counters, and walked rather than use segregated buses. And we remember those, known only to each of us, who helped to build our families, places of worship, and communities.

When we examine our Nation's history, we discover these and countless other stories that inspire us. They are stories of the triumph of the human spirit, tragic stories of cruelty rooted in ignorance and bigotry, yet stories of everyday people rising above their circumstances and the prejudice of others to build lives of dignity.

This month, and throughout the year, let us celebrate and remember these stories, which reflect the history of African Americans and all Americans. We can all enjoy the works of writers like Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, and Langston Hughes. In our Nation's schools, our children can learn to admire Booker T. Washington, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and others. And Americans from all backgrounds can be ennobled by the examples of Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, Mary Church Terrell, and other civil rights leaders.

As we celebrate African American History Month, let us commit ourselves to raising awareness and appreciation of African American history. Let us teach our children, and all Americans, to rise above brutality and bigotry and to be champions of liberty, human dignity, and equality. And let us rededicate ourselves to affirming the promise of our Constitution.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2001 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all of the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:16 p.m., February 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Final Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

February 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith the final report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks at the Republican Congressional Retreat in Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2, 2001

Thank you all very much. I like to give short speeches, and I'm always on time. [*Laughter*] But evidently, I didn't get the dress code. [*Laughter*]

I really appreciate you, Speaker, thanks for your friendship, thanks for your leadership. These are two really good men. And I want to thank you, J.C. and Rick, as well, for your—pretty darn eloquent guy for being from Oklahoma. [*Laughter*] He can tell it. I appreciate you. Thank you very much. I'm looking forward to welcoming the University of Oklahoma football team to the White House.

I appreciate the chairman of the Republican Party being here. I chose a fellow Governor—or I asked a fellow Governor to serve, and he's a good one. He's a strong leader. He's done a fabulous job for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I appreciate you being here, Jim, thank you very much.

I'm glad you get to see the Secretary of the Treasury, who's smart and capable. He's surrounded by Senator Grassley and Congressman Thomas, good work. [*Laughter*] It didn't take you long to transition from the private sector. And Condi is here, Condi Rice; a capable Chief of Staff, Andy Card; Nick Calio, who's going to really head up our congressional affairs.

The reason I bring these people up is that they're here to serve America. They're here to work with you to make our jobs easier. And I've assembled one of the finest staffs any President has ever done in the White House.

I'm making my rounds to the various caucuses. Senator Daschle invited me over this morning to the Library of Congress, and I was so honored he would, and it gave me a chance to come. Many Members of the Senate there had never seen me in person and had never had a chance to visit. And we had a very good discussion, and I was grateful for his introduction. I'm going on to Pennsylvania Sunday afternoon, as well, thanks to the kind invitation of Congressman Gephardt.

And I want to go around and say a couple of things as clearly as I can. First, here, I want to thank all the Members who are here who I got to campaign with. We had a lot of fun. It was tiring at times, but I really, really appreciated the Senators and House Members for joining me and Laura on the campaign trail. It really made it a lot easier to understand your districts, as well as to put up with all the long hours on the campaign trail. So thanks from the bottom of my heart for your sacrifices.

It also gives me a chance to say how deadly earnest I am about using my position as your President to change the tone in the Nation's Capital; to say to America that we'll have our disagreements, we'll fight over principle, and we'll argue over detail, but we'll do so in a way that respects one another. I think it's so important for us as leaders, as people who have been given positions of responsibility, to understand that the way the process is conducted can set a good or bad tone for America. I'm committed to setting a positive tone for the country, and I know you'll join me.

You're not going to agree with everything I say. I probably won't agree with everything you say. But I'll listen. And I'll respect your opinion. I'll try to understand why the position you've taken. I'll try and understand why you don't do everything I tell you to do. [*Laughter*] But I'll do so in a way that tries to figure out where the other person comes from. I think that's an important part of the Washington experience.

I'm absolutely convinced that we can change Washington for the better. I believe we can have the dialog so necessary that will inspire some youngster who's looking at Washington to say, "I think I want to serve my country. I think I want to maybe go to the United States Senate or the United States House."

We have that responsibility to our citizens. And I pledge to you that these first 14 days in office, or near 14 days in office—the tone set in the first 14 days will be a consistent tone for however long I happen to be fortunate enough to be your President. This is a message I want to say to all elected officials. I love meeting with the Members. For those of you who have been to our office, thanks for coming. For those of you that have not been to our office yet, you're coming. Just don't take any silverware. [*Laughter*]

When you come, I look forward to hearing from you. I look forward to having a frank discussion. I look forward to hearing what's on your mind. I don't want you to—I'm sure you won't be, but don't be looking around at the furnishings and say, "Gosh, oh, the meeting ended, and I didn't say anything." We expect to hear from you, and that's the best way to get things done, is to have a good, honest discussion.

I also want to remind members of both parties that I am able to stand before you as the President because of an agenda that I ran on. I believe the fact that I took specific stands on important issues is the reason I was able to win. The fact that I took on the Social Security issue in as clear language as I could be, with innovative thinking, I believe, was part of the reasons why people came our way.

I'm going to take that same positions I took on Social Security and other issues, and try to get them on the floor of the House and the Senate and get something done. It's a positive agenda. It's one that I believe, when we apply our principles to it, will make a huge difference for America. The agenda is going to require a lot of patience and a lot of time and a lot of work. But I want you to know, this is not a lot of items. I believe I've got a limited amount of capital, and I'm going to spend it wisely and spend it in a focused way.

One item is Social Security; another is Medicare reform. We have a fantastic opportunity to seize the initiatives to make sure that working with people like Chairman Thomas, to make sure that the Medicare system works. Prescription drugs need to be an integral part of Medicare delivery system. It

will be a proud moment for all of us, Republicans and Democrats, to say we came together to modernize Medicare so that the seniors can retire in dignity.

I see the respective chairmen of the committees dealing with our military. I commit to you that our mission is going to be to make sure our military is strong and capable. But it first requires the administration to act. One, is to clarify the mission, to make it clear to those who wear our uniform that the mission is to be prepared and ready to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

But we have an obligation to the Members of Congress to present a strategic vision about what the military ought to look like. We've got an unbelievable opportunity as we go into the 21st century to refashion how war is fought and won and, therefore, how the peace is kept. It's a remarkable moment. But it's incumbent upon those of us in the executive branch, Secretary Rumsfeld and our policy team, to present to you a blueprint about what the military ought to look like and where the priorities ought to be.

You may like it; you may not like it. But before we—good appropriations will really only occur if there is a strategic vision. And we're the appropriate people to present the strategic vision. So Secretary Rumsfeld is working on that.

We've had a lot of talk—early talk about education. I want to thank you all for your respective chairmen coming over and talking about education. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. This is of national concern, to make sure our public schools function. And we can apply some principles that I think we all agree with, which is high standards, expecting the best for every child, local control of schools, trusting local people to run the schools, and strong accountability systems but, as well, insist that there be results.

Guess what happens in systems when you don't measure? Inner-city schools just get shuffled through the school systems. Or in my case, in my State, sometimes children whose parents didn't speak English as a first language just got moved through. Because you know why? We didn't know. And they come out at the end, and somebody says, "Oh, you can't read like you're supposed to." That's because we didn't have the courage to insist upon measurement. We didn't have the courage to insist upon results. In order to make sure every child is educated—I mean every child—and no child is left behind, we've got to adopt a system that has high standards, local control of schools, and the willingness to hold people accountable for results, and an accountability system for which there is a consequence if there is success, and there is a consequence if there is failure.

Many Members, Republican and Democrat alike, have said, "Are you going to give us a budget?" I said, "Of course—just hope you don't kill it the minute it arrives." It is our responsibility to do so and, working with the Speaker and the leader, to make sure it's there on a timely basis. But we'll have a budget. It's a budget that will set aside Social Security for one thing—payroll taxes for Social Security and only Social Security. It's a budget that pays down national debt. It's a budget that sets spending priorities.

But it's also a budget that recognizes we must provide tax relief to the people who pay the bills. I feel strongly about this issue. And of course I hope you join me. It is so important for us to understand some facts. One, the economy is slowing down. And it's important for us to combine good monetary policy with good fiscal policy. And good fiscal policy is a sound budget, coupled with giving people some of their own money back, to serve as a second wind to an economy. I come from the school of thought that by cutting marginal rates for everybody who pays taxes is a good way to help ease the pain of what may be an economic slowdown. I'm going to make that case over and over and over again until we get a bill through.

It's important for us not to let the tax relief debate fall into a class warfare debate. It seems like, to me, the fair way to do things is if people pay taxes, they ought to get tax relief.

But I want to assure you that inherent in our plan is an understanding of how unfair the tax system is. It's unfair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're a single—one of these radio addresses for tomorrow—and I talked about the single mom

who is working hard to get ahead. She's making $22,000 a year. Many of you heard—you probably heard me use this example in the campaign. I want to share it with you again, because it's an inherent part of our plan.

For every dollar she earns, because of the earned-income tax phase-out and because she gets into the 15 percent bracket and because she pays payroll taxes, she pays a higher rate on the extra dollar earned than someone who is making $200,000 a year. That's today's tax code. And so part of our plan is not only to serve as an insurance policy against a severe economic downturn or a second wind for economic recovery, however you want to put it, but part of our vision addresses unfairness in the code by recognizing there are people struggling to get in the middle class.

This country must understand that by making the code more simple, by dropping the bottom rate from 15 to 10 percent, increasing the child credit, we make that middle class, that dream of ownership so much more accessible, and that's what we ought to be representing in the great land called America.

There is a lot of talk about debt, and we need to retire debt at the Federal level. Just remember—lockboxing Social Security, a payroll tax is a pretty darn good step to relieving debt. But there will be a glide path for debt repayment in our budget. But during this debate, I want you all to remember that there is a huge consumer debt burdening many people working for a living in America, that there are 61 million Americans, I've been told, that have $10,000 or more of consumer debt.

Now think about that. These are people working hard to get ahead. They've got a pretty high debt load. And all of a sudden, energy prices start moving up on them. And the combination of the two worries me, and I hope it worries Members of Congress, regardless of their party.

So tax relief is important to help working people manage their own accounts, manage their own personal business. And they say, "Well, that's not much money." Well, if you're a family of four making $50,000 a year, under my plan, your taxes go from $4,000 to $2,000. That's $2,000 extra dollars. That's a lot for somebody struggling. That's a lot for somebody who is on the margin, and we must hear those voices on the margin. So tax relief is not only good economic policy; it's good people policy.

We can talk about marginal rates. We also need to talk about the death tax and the marriage penalty, two important ingredients about making sure the code is more fair and more responsive to the needs of working Americans. And that's my agenda.

I'm going to be asked to comment on a lot of issues. I'm confident about that. And I'm sure I'll have an opinion. But when it comes to spending capital and staying focused, that's where this administration is going to be. And I look forward to working with you. I look forward to working with you to get things done for the people. I can't think of a better cause then the people of America. J.C. hit it right, this is a fabulous land, because the people are so great.

I think one of the most important initiatives that thus far we've discussed in the short time I've been here is the faith-based initiative. I want to make it clear to you, we understand the Constitution. But I also want to make it clear that faith-based programs in many neighborhoods are really the solution to making sure we have a welcoming society.

My hope of hopes is that when it's all done, somebody will say, "Well, you know, President George W. Bush came"—number 43, by the way, as opposed to number 41—[*laughter*]—but "he came, along with his dad, and understood the office, helped change the tone, helped effect a cultural change that was a welcoming change, and welcomed people into America that didn't pit one group of people against another but that helped people understand the greatness of America should apply to everybody, that the public policies that we passed together enforced that dream and vision, that this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth because of its people, because of our great people."

We have an obligation to the people of America to set a good tone, a good example, an example of the spirit of what's possible. I'm confident it can happen. And it's such a huge honor—huge honor—to play an important part.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in the James River Grand Ballroom at the Kingsmill Resort. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives J.C. Watts; Governor James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, chairman, Republican Party; Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill; Representative William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; and Senator Charles Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 27

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an Alfalfa Club dinner at the Capital Hilton.

January 29

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Brian Billick, head coach of the Super Bowl XXXV champion Baltimore Ravens.

January 30

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India concerning assistance for victims of the earthquake.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack Howard as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, David W. Hobbs as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs for the House of Representatives, and Ziad S. Ojakli as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs for the Senate.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as Special Assistants to the President for Legislative Affairs for the House of Representatives: Brian C. Conklin, Kirsten Ardleigh Chadwick, R. Nelson Litterest, and Daniel J. Keniry.

The President announced his intention to appoint Christine M. Ciccone, Townsend Lange McNitt, and Dirksen Lehman as Special Assistants to the President for Legislative Affairs for the Senate.

February 1

In the evening, the President hosted a private screening of the film "Thirteen Days" in the Family Theater at the White House, for guests including Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, and Carolyn Kennedy Schlossberg and her husband, Edwin.

February 2

In the morning, the President attended a Senate Democratic retreat at the Library of Congress, and later, he traveled to Williamsburg, VA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada on February 5 for a working lunch.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 29

John Ashcroft,
of Missouri, to be Attorney General.

Elaine Lan Chao,
of Kentucky, to be Secretary of Labor.

Robert B. Zoellick,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Submitted February 1

Paul Henry O'Neill,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Asian Development Bank; U.S. Governor of the African Development Fund; U.S. Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released January 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by former Mayor Steve Goldsmith of Indianapolis, IN, Rev. Mark Scott, and a White House official on the faith-based initiative

Released January 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the verdict in the Pan Am 103 trial

Released February 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, February 9, 2001

The President's Radio Address

February 3, 2001

Good morning. This coming week I will send to Congress my tax relief plan. It is broad and responsible. It will help our economy, and it is the right thing to do.

Today, many Americans are feeling squeezed. They work 40, 50, 60 hours a week and still have trouble paying the electric bill and the grocery bill at the same time. At the end of a long week, they collect their paycheck, and what the Federal Government takes is often unfair.

Picture a diner in one of our cities. At the table is a lawyer with two children. She earns $250,000 a year. Carrying her coffee and toast is a waitress who has two children of her own. She earns $25,000 a year. If both the lawyer and the waitress get a raise, it is the waitress who winds up paying a higher marginal tax rate. She will give back almost half of every extra dollar she earns to the Government.

Both of these women, the lawyer and the waitress, deserve a tax cut. Under my plan, both of these women and all Americans who pay taxes will get one. For the waitress, our plan will wipe out her income tax bill entirely.

My plan does some important things for America. It reduces taxes for everyone who pays taxes. It lowers the lowest income tax rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. It cuts the highest rate to 33 percent, because I believe no one should pay more than a third of their income to the Federal Government. The average family of four will get about $1,600 of their own money returned back to them.

There's a lot of talk in Washington about paying down the national debt, and that's good, and that's important. And my budget will do that. But American families have debts to pay, as well. A tax cut now will stimulate our economy and create jobs.

The economic news these days is troubling—rising energy prices, layoffs, falling consumer confidence. This is not a time for Government to be taking more money than it needs away from the people who buy goods and create jobs.

My plan will keep all Social Security money in the Social Security System, where it belongs. We will eliminate the death tax, saving family farms and family-owned businesses. We'll reduce the maximum rate on small business income to 33 percent, so they can help create the jobs we need. Above all, my plan unlocks the door to the middle class for millions of hard-working Americans.

The country has prospered mightily over the past 20 years. But a lot of people feel as if they have been looking through the window at somebody else's party. It is time to fling those doors and windows open and invite everybody in. It is time to reward the work of people trying to enter the middle class and put some more money in their pockets at a time when they need it.

My tax reduction plan does all these things, and I hope you'll support it.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:30 a.m. on February 2 in the Oval Office at the White House, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Announcing the Tax Cut Plan and an Exchange With Reporters

February 5, 2001

The President. Good morning. I want to thank the families for being my guests here at the White House. I'm honored to host the Peterson family, the Claytor family, and the Gordon family, to talk about the economic challenges they face. Their circumstances are

different, but I strongly believe they deserve to keep more of their own money, and so does every family in America, deserve to keep their own money.

And we're talking to these families here—I think they like the idea. Despite the prosperity of the past two decades, many American families feel squeezed. They sometimes carry a lot of consumer debt. In 1998 the average family credit card debt was more than $4,000. At the same time, every American family is facing higher energy costs.

Under the plan I'll be sending to Congress later this week, every American who pays income taxes will get tax relief. And the average relief for a family of four with two children will be $1,600. This is real and practical help, when at this time many Americans need it. Sixteen hundred dollars will pay the average mortgage for a month. Sixteen hundred dollars will pay for a year's tuition at a community college. Sixteen hundred dollars will pay the average gasoline costs for two cars for a year. And $1,600 will buy the average California family 24 months' worth of electric power.

My plan addresses the struggles of American families and respects their judgment. It doesn't tell families how to spend their money. It doesn't single out some Americans for relief, while leaving others out. It's tax relief for everybody who pays taxes. That's what the times and basic fairness demand.

Here's how it will work. Under the existing law, Americans are grouped in five income tax brackets: 15 percent, 28 percent, 31 percent, 36 percent, and nearly 40 percent. My plan would reduce that to four lower brackets: 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent, and 33 percent. In other words, we'd begin the simplification of the code.

Each of the families with me today would benefit from these lower taxes. Most families will get a $1,000-per-child tax credit. Everybody who pays income taxes will get some relief, but the biggest percentage cuts will go to the families who need it most.

The Peterson family, for example, will get a 100 percent cut in their income taxes, saving almost $1,100 a year. Paul and Debbie and their two beautiful girls would appreciate that. All of the income tax rates should be cut. Most families over a lifetime will move through a couple of different tax brackets. Many families will move through all four as they move up the ladder of economic success and then back down as they retire and leave the work force.

Our tax code should not punish success at any stage of life. The top Federal income tax rate at almost 40 percent, and the State income taxes on top of that, people can sometimes feel like the junior partner in their own lives. That's why we set the top rate at 33 percent. I believe it's an important principle that no American should pay more than a third of his or her income to the Federal Government in Federal taxes.

And Government shouldn't block the way into the middle class for hard-working people who are trying to get there. The single mother earning $25,000 a year manages to earn $1,000 by getting a promotion; the Federal Government takes about half of it away from her. That's a higher marginal tax rate than a lawyer earning $250,000. That's not right, and that's wrong. And my plan addresses this inequity.

This is my approach: tax relief for everybody, in every bracket, averaging $1,600 per family, while still reducing our national debt and funding important priorities.

I'm asking all Americans to examine this plan, and I'm asking for your support. The Constitution charges the Congress with the responsibility to write our tax laws. And I respect that responsibility. But it is my obligation to lead, and that's what I'm going to do. My plan is good for the long-term health of our economy. It is good for the businesses that create jobs. It is good for America and for the American families that make our country so unique and strong.

Thank you for coming.

Retroactive Tax Cut

Q. Mr. President, do you think the tax cut should be retroactive to the first of the year?

The President. A lot of Members of Congress have talked to me about that. And I do. And we look forward to working with Congress to expedite money into the pockets of the American people. I strongly believe that a tax relief plan is an important part of helping our country's economy recover. And

I think expediting money into peoples' pockets is going to be a key ingredient. I look forward to working with Congress, Members of both parties, to accommodate the budgetary needs and, at the same time, help get money into peoples' pockets quicker.

Tax Plan Structure

Q. Mr. President, Democrats in Congress think that this plan, as it's structured now, is weighted too heavily to the higher income brackets. Are you willing to work with them to perhaps change the ratios a little bit, if that's what it takes to get their support?

The President. I believe the plan, strongly believe the plan that I have submitted is structured the right way. I've heard all the talk about class warfare and this only benefiting the rich. I think when people take a good, hard look at the rate reduction and who benefits and the fact that our plan erases inequities in the tax code or eases inequities in the tax code and that the biggest—the bottom end of the economic ladder receives the biggest percentage cuts, people will come to realize it. I think it's important to cut all tax rates. Yes.

Enhancing Taxpayers' Cash Flow

Q. Mr. President, in addition to making the tax cut retroactive, your economic adviser said yesterday you would also support bringing more of the benefits forward to the first year of the plan. Is that correct?

The President. What I'm referring to is enhancing the cash flow of the taxpayer as quickly as possible, and that's what we're going to work on. I also saw some comments which I thought made a lot of sense, that some in Congress view this as an opportunity to load up the tax relief plan with their own vision of tax relief. I want the Members of Congress and the American people to hear loud and clear: This is the right size plan; it is the right approach; and I'm going to defend it mightily.

Top Tax Bracket

Q. There is no family, sir, representing the last tax bracket, the bracket that would get the highest dollar return. Why is that?

The President. Well, I beg your pardon, I'm representing—[*laughter*]—I got a little pay raise coming to Washington from Austin. I'll be in the top bracket. [*Laughter*]

Former President Clinton

Q. Mr. President, on another note, sir? It appears the Clintons may have taken some gifts that were actually given to the White House. Do you feel that they should return any of these gifts?

The President. It's important for all the facts to be laid out on the table, and I'm confident that the President—the former President and First Lady will make the right decision.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:18 a.m. in the Diplomatic Room at the White House.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Donald Louis Evans as Secretary of Commerce

February 5, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Vice President. It's great to be here with Members of the Congress. Thank you all for coming. Senator, thank you, sir. Two members of the Texas delegation are here, and we appreciate it very much for coming.

I want to thank you all for giving the Vice President and me a chance to come and see the swearing in of a really good man, who married, by the way, a person with whom I went to first through seventh grade—[*laughter*]—with at Sam Houston Elementary School in Midland, Texas, and San Jacinto Junior High. And when we were on safety patrol—[*laughter*]—little did she ever imagine I'd be President. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank all the good folks who work in this Department. You don't know Don yet, but you're going to love him like I do. I also want to thank you for your service to the country. I appreciate your hard work on behalf of America and the American citizens.

Don has taken an oath to serve this country, and I know he'll be true to that oath in every way, because in 25 years, I have never known him to break his word or forget a promise. Don's the kind of man you can trust without reservation and turn to without

hesitation. He's a good man. I trust and admire him a great deal.

Since we first met in west Texas, I have turned to Don many times for help and advice. I've never been disappointed. We were together in Midland, Texas, when we set out in the oil business with big dreams for ourselves and our families. We were together in Austin, Texas, 7 years ago, when I began serving the people of Texas. He was there on our journey that led to the Presidency.

At every turn, Don has always been a wise and strong and steady influence. I thank him for taking this assignment. I am proud to call him my Secretary of Commerce. I'm honored to call him my friend. He has his work cut out for him. We came to Washington with a bold agenda. And we don't intend to waste any time.

Don shares with me a conviction that open trade is a powerful force for good in the world. In all our dealings abroad, we must stand for free markets and for the principles of democracy. We must stand for free and open trade, without favoritism and without barriers. We have set a great goal, a world that trades in freedom, and that goal will take all of our commitment.

Secretary Evans has a mission to represent to America's interests in the world. Many American industries and our farmers have met with unfair practices as they try to export their goods to foreign markets. In Don, they'll have an advocate who carries with him knowledge of trade, proven skill as a negotiator, and the full support of the President.

It helps, too, that the new Secretary of Commerce has a background in energy. Our Nation's economy depends on the fossil fuels that keep our engines running. And we must be less dependent on foreign suppliers. Along with my Secretary of Energy, Spence Abraham, Don will help me in pursuing a strategy of increased domestic production and energy independence. Don is a key part of my economic team. We're going to make the case for broad, fair, and responsible tax reductions. We're going to respect and reward the spirit of entrepreneurship in our country, helping small businesses as they expand and provide employment. We are going to make sure that American workers can find quality jobs in our American landscape.

I can't think of a better background for Commerce Secretary than a west Texan with a creed of hard work and independence and enterprise. Don has always represented those qualities for me; now he will represent those qualities for America.

Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Evans.

Proclamation 7405—National Consumer Protection Week

February 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More Americans than ever are realizing the American dream of homeownership. At the same time, an increasing number of homeowners are living the nightmare of overwhelming debt and home foreclosure resulting from fraudulent lending practices. Subprime lending—the extension of high-rate, high-fee loans to people considered to be high-risk borrowers—has grown substantially in recent years. Unfortunately, fraudulent and abusive lending practices have also grown.

High-cost lending is not limited to home mortgages. Check cashing outlets, payday loan companies, rent-to-own stores, subprime auto lenders, and pawn shops are additional examples of high-cost lenders.

While it is crucial that as many consumers as possible have access to credit, their access must not be hindered by unlawful lending practices. Federal law enforcement agencies have increased their enforcement activities to stop lenders who engage in fraudulent and abusive lending practices. In addition, Federal agencies and consumer groups have implemented aggressive education campaigns to help consumers learn how to safeguard the equity in their homes.

Consumers can protect themselves from loan fraud by taking some commonsense precautions, including comparison shopping

among several lenders, negotiating, and resisting, indeed refusing to yield to, pressure to sign any loan papers they don't understand. Nonprofit credit and housing counseling services are available to help consumers manage their credit and make decisions about loans and loan terms.

To help protect consumers, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the National Association of Attorneys General, the Department of Justice, and private consumer organizations have joined forces to inform Americans about their rights as borrowers, about the responsibilities of lenders, and about protecting their assets. This information is available in writing, by telephone, and online.

I encourage all Americans to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about how to protect themselves against fraudulent and abusive lending practices. By becoming wise and well-informed consumers, we can reduce the incidence of fraud and deception in the marketplace.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 5 through February 10, 2001, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon government officials, industry leaders, consumer advocates, the media, and the American people to participate in programs helping citizens to be responsible and wise consumers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., February 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 8.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and an Exchange With Reporters

February 5, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of our closest friend to the White House. This is the first visitor I have received since I've been the President. We've just had a very good visit. We talked about a lot of subjects, and I confirmed to the Prime Minister that America appreciates our friendship, appreciates our trading partner. We share a long border, and it's been a peaceful border.

I assured him that we will consult and keep him abreast of decisions that we make here that will affect Canada and peace in the world. And I look forward to not only reaffirming our friendship with the country; I look forward to developing a friendship with this good man right here. So it's an honor to welcome you here, sir.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you very much, Mr. President. For me, it's a great pleasure to be the first foreign leader to come and visit with you. But we feel it's a kind of a cousin coming to visit, because you know, we are two neighbors for so long, 4,000 miles of border, with no problems, big problems. Whenever they were our problems, we can talk, consult, and try to find an acceptable solution.

So I can tell the press that it was a very friendly meeting and a very productive meeting. We covered a lot of areas and look forward for a very good period with President Bush. On behalf of the Canadians, I want to wish you the best luck in your job. You're at the beginning, and I know that you will be successful. And when you need us, we'll be there, and we hope that when we need you, you will be there.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Chretien. Mr. President, if you will allow me in French, now, we had a very good meeting. This is the first time that I had a state visit—President Bush. We talked about many, many issues. We talked about our bilateral relations. We talked about other leaders and other people, and I think

that the beginning of our personal relationship is a very good one.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, what issue do you think will be the one that will be the biggest test of the leadership in the next 6 months?

President Bush. For me as the President, in regards to Canada?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Convincing Congress to promote free trade throughout our hemisphere. A free trading hemisphere is going to benefit Canada and will benefit the United States, and we've got a lot of work to do—for me to do—to get fast-track negotiating authority.

We're going to have a summit in Quebec, and I'm looking forward to being hosted by the Prime Minister, here, and the whole notion is to promote free trade and open markets around the hemisphere.

Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Q. Mr. President, there is an impression that you might prefer Mexico over Canada. Do you have a preference for either country?

President Bush. I've got a preference for friends. And the Canadians are longstanding friends of the United States. Mexico is an important country, as well, and I look forward to a meeting with President Fox in a couple of weeks. My preference is for friendly relations in our hemisphere.

I want the people of my country to understand that a foreign policy priority of my administration will be this hemisphere. And it's so important for the United States not to neglect the hemisphere. My first meeting is with the Prime Minister. Shortly thereafter, I'll be meeting with the President of Mexico. And we have great opportunities in this hemisphere to spread prosperity throughout. And it's going to be to our nations' mutual benefit when that happens.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, what did you think of the Prime Minister's comments and those by the former Ambassador here last year that left the impression Canada might have felt it would have been easier to work with Al Gore than with you?

President Bush. I didn't pay attention to it if he said that. I'm going to prove him wrong. But as for our discussions today, I didn't have any impression whatsoever that the Prime Minister came with any preconceived notion except one thing—that I will promote friendly relations with Canada.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, considering your good relations that you had with President Clinton plus what you said in 1993 about relations with President Bush, first President Bush and then-Prime Minister Mulroney, how do you expect your relations with President George W. Bush to be?

Prime Minister Chretien. Our relations will be very good. President Bush is the President of the United States. I'm the Prime Minister of Canada. We have common interests. We'll have different interests, and as we said before, it's very good to have these relations, and it's very good that Canada be seen as an independent country.

President Bush. Hold on. I've got a very important answer to give. The question was fishing. [*Laughter*] We talked about fishing, and I would hope someday to be able to go catch small-mouthed bass on the Prime Minister's—as he called it, the equivalent of Camp David. I could use a few techniques when it comes to fishing for small-mouthed bass. And one day, if all works out well, he can come down and catch large-mouthed bass on my ranch. [*Laughter*]

Q. Golf? Any plans to play golf together?

President Bush. If he gives me enough strokes. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico and former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada. After the Prime Minister's opening remarks, he spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act

February 5, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (APTA) of 1991, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith the third report to the Congress on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 5, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 6.

Remarks at Tree Top Toys & Books and an Exchange With Reporters in McLean, Virginia

February 6, 2001

The President. I am honored to be here, Carole. Thank you very much. Next time my mother shops, I am going to tell her to double the amount of purchases. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the other small-business owners who are here as well.

One of the unique things about America is the entrepreneurial spirit of our country. The small-business owner is really the backbone of the Nation in terms of job creation, in terms of hope, in terms of offering dreams for people. I am here to talk to these entrepreneurs about the benefits of the tax relief package, the benefits for the small-business owner.

First, we'll make the code simpler, consolidate the rates from five to four. By dropping the top rate from nearly 40 percent to 33 percent, we really say to the sole proprietor, the business owner, that there is more capital available for you to expand your business if need be, your own money in your own pocket to be able to make sure your small business flourishes.

I strongly believe and know that cuts in marginal rates will affect capital growth, which is so important for the growth of small businesses in America. Secondly, the tax relief package will help the consumers, the customers of the small-business owner.

We have an issue in America right now called energy, and the energy prices are beginning to affect the purchasing patterns of the people who come to the shops such as this one. Many of the Americans have got a consumer debt load that is significant, and it is important for us to provide meaningful tax relief for all taxpayers so that they can better manage their own personal accounts.

There is a lot of talk about paying down debt. And my budget that I will submit to the Congress does pay down the national debt. But by cutting taxes on everybody who pays taxes, by recognizing a family of four earning $50,000 a year will receive a $2,000 tax cut, it helps people get out from underneath their own personal debt load. And that's important. It's important for the families; it's important for the small-business owners.

And finally, as Carole mentioned, part of our tax plan eliminates the death tax. Small-business owners work hard to have a financial platform from which they can not only live but also a financial platform that they can pass on to their heirs. And the death tax is unfair. The death tax is a tax that unfairly penalizes people who have worked hard to build up their own businesses.

So this tax relief package is not only good for taxpayers; it is also good to stimulate and to help the entrepreneurial spirit in America, a spirit seen right here with these good folks who have taken risk, are creating jobs, but most importantly, realized their dreams of owning their own business. So it's such an honor to be here. I appreciate your inviting us. Thank you all for your hospitality. I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

David.

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, can you explain your position on a patients' bill of rights, as proposed today in the Senate? Are you for it, as it was outlined by Senators Kennedy and McCain and others?

The President. Well, I haven't seen all the details. But first, I am pleased that Senator

Kennedy and Senator McCain have come together to offer a plan. Inherent in their plan, as I understand, is some tort reform. That is a really important ingredient in order to move patients' bill of rights, as far as I'm concerned.

We can't have a patients' bill of rights that encourages and invites all kinds of lawsuits. Because the ultimate effect will be to run up the cost of business, particularly for small businesses. And so, as I understand, there is some tort reform language in there.

I'm a little concerned about the size of the cap on punitive damages. I want to make sure that if there is tort reform, it's a tight tort reform package, without a lot of loopholes that will allow trial lawyers to skirt the intent of the law. But as far as I am concerned, I am really pleased with the fact that they are moving legislation in the Senate. It is a good sign that Republicans and Democrats are getting together.

Q. May I just follow up on one point?

The President. Sure.

Q. The administration's meeting last night with Congressman Norwood—was that in any way an effort to stall this effort on a patients' bill of rights for now? Do you feel like anybody's trying to steal your thunder as you're trying to talk about tax cuts?

The President. No, I don't think so, David. I know the reason why our folks met with Charlie Norwood, like we're meeting with other people, is to lay out our principles, is to talk about an administrative initiative. And our initiative is going to encompass many of the principles that are inherent in John's and Senator Kennedy's—John McCain's and Senator Kennedy's bill. All these bills, they are going to get worked out over time.

I just want the people in the House and the Senate to know that I'm coming with a plan. And as you know—and you heard me in the campaign several times talk about the fact that our legislation in Texas, our patients' bill of rights in Texas, was a pretty strong piece of legislation. And one of the things I am concerned about is to make sure that the Federal Government law doesn't override what we did in our State.

There are a lot of details to be worked out. But I am really pleased with the progress, and I am very hopeful that we can get a patients' bill of rights on my desk pretty soon. And the fact that, again, John McCain and Senator Kennedy and others have come together is a good sign.

Airline Strikes

Q. Are you worried about the possibility of strikes at four major airlines, sir, and what can you do about it?

The President. I am worried about strikes at airlines. I think that could have a harmful effect on our economy. And I would urge that the parties settle their disputes. The President has got some opportunities—if they are unable to do so—some opportunities available, and I will explore all options. But I am concerned about it and so should America.

Africa

Q. Mr. President, it's now clear that the continent of Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, is very important to you. Colin Powell mentioned that over the weekend. But what's unclear are the priorities in sub-Saharan Africa. We understand that there is a problem with AIDS, and they're a mineral-rich country. What are your priorities for Africa?

The President. You bet. Well, the priorities have got to be the same priorities we have for our own hemisphere, for example, or for around the world: Freedom, democracy, opportunity through open markets. And so the first place to start on the economic front is to make sure we have free and fair trade with the African continent. There ought to be significant trade back and forth, and we ought to explore opportunities to do so.

If there are barriers—and some are worried about the textile industry barriers for example—we need to examine them all, and I will instruct Robert Zoellick to do just that.

In terms of having a peaceful continent, it is very important for us to work with countries like Nigeria—to enable Nigeria to have an effective peacekeeping force, to keep warring parties apart on that continent. It's also important for us not to ignore Africa, so that we can anticipate problems before they occur. Oftentimes on that important continent things get out of hand, and they could

have been prevented in the first place, which means to have the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser pay attention to Africa, which we will do.

Q. Are you possibly thinking of going back—going to Africa?

The President. Well, I'm—one country at a time. [*Laughter*] I'm going to Mexico first. I've got a lot of work to do at home. Gregory—David Gregory brought up a very important issue. It reminds me about how—it should remind you about how involved I'm going to be on pieces of legislation, whether it be patients' bill of rights or tax relief or education reform. I've got a lot of work to do here—to work with the Congress, to make sure that the principles that I think are important are inherent in these different pieces of legislation. I'll be making some trips, but I'm not exactly sure when I would be going to Africa, for example.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, what is it you think you're going to need to do to get enough Democratic support for your tax cut plan?

The President. Say that again now?

Q. What are you going to have to do to ensure that you get enough Democratic support for your tax cut plan to make sure that it gets down to your desk for a signature?

The President. Well, I appreciate that. The thing I'm going to need to do is to remind Democrats, one, our budget works. That you can set aside payroll taxes for Social Security, set clear priorities, pay down debt, and there's room for the $1.6 trillion tax cut. It started off at 1.3, and evidently it's grown to 1.6.

Secondly, to remind people in Congress that this tax relief package is fair and positively affects the lives of people who are standing up here by me. It is a positive effect on our economy.

Thirdly, remind them, we'd better act. The economy is slowing down, and we need to act and act as quickly as we possibly can, including working with Congress to make sure the tax cuts can take—as much of the tax cuts as possible can take immediate effect to help people.

Q. If I could follow up, do you favor doing something retroactively, or would you simply accelerate the benefits in the first year of your plan?

The President. We'll work with Congress on that. The strategy, or the goal—let me put it to you that way—the goal is to get money in the pockets of the working people as quickly as we can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:37 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Carole Segal, owner, Tree Top Toys & Books, Inc.

Videotaped Remarks in a Tribute to Former President Ronald Reagan

February 6, 2001

Laura and I have now spent 2 weeks in the house where you lived for 8 years. Everywhere we look, we find reminders of the great men and women who lived here and the achievements they left behind.

Your achievements, Mr. President, are clear to all Americans. They are found in the spirit of our Nation and the peace of the world.

You came here at a time when our country needed confidence. You told us we could be strong again, at home and abroad. And when you left, we were.

You came to the White House when the cold war was real. You told us, even when few believed it, that the evil empire would pass and that freedom would prevail. And your resolve made it happen.

In your time here, you never tried to seize credit, one of the traits we've always admired most about you. But tonight, on your 90th birthday, America knows where the credit belongs. America knows you came here 20 years ago and changed the world. America knows the good heart that always guided you, the unbending principles that always defined you, the kindness and courage and inner grace that makes you the man you are.

For all of that, your country thanks you, Mr. President. Your country honors you. And your country loves you.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 10:15 a.m. in Room 457 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building for later broadcast on CNN's ''Larry King Live.'' A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Chemical Weapons Convention Inspections

February 5, 2001

Dear _____ :

Attached is a report to the Congress on Chemical Weapons Convention inspections in the United States, submitted pursuant to section 309 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, and Patrick Leahy, ranking member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Richard Shelby, chairman, and William Duhnke, ranking member, Senate Committee on Intelligence; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, and John Conyers, Jr., ranking member, House Committee on the Judiciary; Porter J. Goss, chairman, and Nancy Pelosi, ranking member, House Committee on Intelligence. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 7. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks at the Tax Family Reunion and an Exchange With Reporters

February 7, 2001

The President. Well, Debora, thank you very much. I'm so honored to see you. And thank you for bringing your son and daughter here. The Vice President and I have been looking forward to this family reunion—tax family reunion. The nice thing about this reunion is you don't have any annoying relatives to deal with. [*Laughter*] But we're glad to welcome you to the White House.

One of the best parts of the campaign was to meet the hard-working Americans who really make up the backbone of our country. I'd go to the different cities around our great Nation and get off the airplane, and there'd be a tax family. And it was our way to put a face on a piece of important public policy. It was our way to say, behind all the numbers we were talking about, and to talk about budget, there were real, live Americans who will benefit.

And I want to thank you all for coming back. I look forward for you to—look forward to thanking you in person. I look forward to you to see the people's house, the place that Laura and I are now fortunate to call home.

I have one message for all the folks that were our tax families and all the folks from around the country: You helped me make my case, and now I intend to make good on my promise. I want it to be said that ours is a plan that fulfills a campaign promise. And that's important. A lot of people look toward the political process and say, "Oh, these candidates just say something and really don't mean it." When I campaigned for meaningful tax relief, I meant it. And tomorrow I'll submit a plan based upon exactly what I said on the campaign trail. I look forward to working with Congress to get the plan passed.

During the course of the campaign, I said it's as if our Nation had erected a toll booth right in the middle of the road of the middle class, making it hard for people to access the middle class, making it hard for hard-working Americans to realize more money for their own. And so we're going to start dismantling that toll booth, brick by brick. It begins by simplifying the code. We'll reduce the rates from five to four.

It recognizes that our tax code is unfair. It is unfair to people who struggle to get ahead. It is unfair for the single mom who lives on the outskirts of poverty, who's working hard to provide for her family. For every additional dollar she makes above $25,000, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who's wealthy. And that's not right, and it's not fair. It's not what America is all about, as far as I'm concerned. Our tax code makes the code more fair.

It is also fair that everybody who pays taxes should receive relief. And that's why we drop all rates. We drop the top rate, and we drop the bottom rate, and we expand the child credit from $500 to $1,000. Under our plan, a family of four making $50,000 a year will receive a 50-percent cut in the taxes they pay to the Federal Government. The average tax load will decrease by $2,000—from $4,000 to $2,000.

As Debora said, she calculated our plan, and she saves $1,000. Maybe for some, the number 1,000 doesn't mean much, and maybe for some, 2,000 doesn't mean much. But for thousands of Americans it means a lot.

I want to assure my friends, the tax families who are here, that we will submit a budget as expected to the United States Congress, a budget that sets aside all the payroll taxes for Social Security, a budget that sets clear priorities, a budget that pays down the national debt, and a budget that has got room for a meaningful, substantial tax reduction.

And there's a lot of talk about debt in this town, and it should be talked about—national debt. And our plan pays down debt. But I also want the Members of Congress to understand that there are a lot of folks struggling to get ahead who have got high consumer debt. There's a lot of people who are burdened by credit card debt in America. And when you couple that debt overhang with high energy prices, more and more of the backbone of this country struggle to save and struggle to get ahead.

So this tax relief package not only is a way to make sure our economy remains strong; it's a package that understands people need to have more of their own money. It says that with strict budgeting and prioritizing our budget, that when we have surpluses, we must remember who pay the bills in America. And it's these folks who pay the bills in this country. And they deserve relief.

And so I call upon Congress, when they think about tax relief, to think about the members of our tax family who represent all the people of our country, who work hard to get into the middle class and to stay in the middle class.

It's an honor to be your President. I'm so thrilled you all are here to say hello to us. I can't wait to greet you inside.

Thanks for coming, and God bless you all.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, Republican leaders are pushing for an even larger tax cut, sir. Do you think that's advisable?

The President. The tax cut is the right size. I believe it's the right size. And I think it's going to be very important for us and the Members of Congress to work together. But I'm going to make my case that the size of the tax relief package I propose is right.

Q. So you're saying it would be inadvisable, in your judgment, based on looking at the numbers of the surpluses, et cetera?

The President. I think for those who want to diminish the size of the tax cut, that would be inadvisable, and for those who want to increase the size of the tax cut would be inadvisable. It's the right size.

Office of National AIDS Policy

Q. Could you tell us how it is, sir, that your Chief of Staff didn't know what your plans were for the Office of National AIDS Policy and the President's Initiative for One America?

The President. We're going to have a—we're concerned about AIDS inside our White House, make no mistake about it. And ours is an administration that will fight for fair, just law in the country.

Last question.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, how concerned are you about the outbreak of violence following the election of Ariel Sharon? And also, can you tell us how you might take a different approach than President Clinton and his administration when it comes to Middle East peacemaking?

The President. We're going to play the hand we've been dealt. And we're going to play it well, with one thing in mind, that we promote peace in the Middle East. And I've talked to leaders in the Middle East, urging calm, and so has the Secretary of State.

And I just got off the phone with Prime Minister Barak and told him he fought the valiant fight, and he assured me he would support the Government's attempts to bring calm in the region. And we will continue to reach out to the parties in that region to promote an environment of stability and calm, to give the Sharon government a chance to do what he said he was going to do, which was to try to form a unity government and reach out to the parties to promote peace in the region.

See you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:37 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Debora Meskauskas, single mother, who met the President during the Presidential campaign, and her children Bridget and Mark; and Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Proclamation 7406—American Heart Month, 2001

February 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The year 2001 once seemed so distant that it became a symbol of science fiction. But today, researchers studying heart and other cardiovascular diseases have made 2001 a year when science rivals fiction.

Only 50 years ago, Americans were acknowledged to be suffering from an epidemic of heart disease. So little was known about the disease that it was thought part of the normal process of aging. Luck played a larger role in surviving a heart attack or hypertension than did medicine—and those who survived were forced to lead restricted lives.

But thanks to scientific advances and education, the death rate from coronary heart disease has fallen by nearly 60 percent since its peak in the mid-1960s. This startling improvement resulted not only from advances in the treatment of heart disease but also from gains in knowledge about its prevention. Scientists also have opened up new fields, including that of gene research. Their work promises to bring great improvements in the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

But problems remain. In particular, how can the rewards of scientific advances be brought to all Americans? Racial, ethnic, and geographic gaps still exist in the burden of disease. The number one killer of women is cardiovascular disease.

Another challenge is the increase in certain conditions and heart disease risk factors. Obesity and physical inactivity pose still other problems. More than half of American adults are overweight and obese, about one in four are sedentary, and another third are not active enough to reach a healthy level of fitness.

Meeting such challenges takes both will and technology. For example, researchers recently found that small changes in lifestyle that boost moderate-level physical activity can protect cardiorespiratory fitness and blood pressure as much as a structured exercise program. These are changes that all Americans can adopt.

Sudden death from cardiac arrest has also been a major health threat. Yet fortunately, more Americans are learning the warning signs of cardiac arrest. Calling 9–1–1 immediately and administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until an electric shock to the heart can be given to restore a normal heartbeat—a practice known as defibrillation—combined with early advanced care can result in long-term survival rates as high as 40 percent for certain types of cardiac arrest.

The Federal Government seeks to improve Americans' heart health by supporting research and public education through its National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health. The American Heart Association, through its research and education programs and its vital network of dedicated volunteers, also plays a crucial role in bringing about much-needed advances.

Americans have always believed in the power of science to improve lives, and it is their support and the use of scientific advances that has reduced the epidemic of heart disease. It will be through continued scientific efforts that we find even more answers and reduce the rate of heart disease even further.

In recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C 101) has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as ''American Heart Month.''

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2001 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject

to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:50 a.m., February 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 9.

Proclamation 7407—National Burn Awareness Week, 2001

February 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Burn injuries are a serious problem in the United States. Each year, over 3,000 people die and 16,000 are injured by fires that start in the home. These fires cost the Nation over $18 billion. Tragically, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities are those most likely to become victims of serious burns. Children are particularly vulnerable. Each year, about 800 children under the age of 15 die of fire-related causes and about 500 of these deaths are to children under the age of 5 years. In fact, children under age 5 have a death rate from fire more than twice the national average.

All Americans can make their homes safer by making sure they have a working smoke alarm. About 90 percent of U.S. households have smoke alarms. However, a recent survey found that smoke alarms in 20 percent of those households—about 16 million—were not working, mostly because the battery was dead or missing. Those families who have not yet done so should place a smoke alarm inside each sleeping room and on each level of a multi-story home and make sure the alarms are tested monthly and the batteries are replaced when necessary.

We should also learn what to do in the event of fire, including the ''stop, drop, and roll'' maneuver that can help prevent serious burn injuries. Those families that have not yet done so should make plans for escaping a house fire—and every American family should review and practice the plan regularly.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) helps to keep children and families safe from products that pose fire dangers. CPSC activities have contributed to a decline in fires and fire deaths over the past several years. For example, CPSC's standard for child-resistant lighters has helped reduce fire deaths from children playing with lighters by 43 percent since 1994.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 4 through February 10, 2001, as National Burn Awareness Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent burn injuries, especially to children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:50 a.m., February 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 9.

Letter to Congressional Majority Leaders on the Patients' Bill of Rights

February 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I was grateful for the opportunity to meet with you last month at the White House to discuss our shared goal of passing a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. Over the last two weeks my staff and I have met with Members of Congress from both parties, and I believe that we have an opportunity to work together

to enact legislation this year to address this important issue. I am writing to ask for your support, and for the support of all Members of Congress, for a bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights to provide all Americans with protections in managed care.

As Governor of Texas, I worked with Democrats and Republicans to enact some of the strongest patient protection laws in this country. My goal now in seeking Federal legislation is simple: I want to ensure that all patients receive needed medical care and that doctors are allowed to make medical decisions.

To achieve these goals, patients should have the right to an independent medical review of a health plan's decision to deny care. This review should be conducted by medical experts outside the health plan and must be binding on the health plan. I also believe that, following an independent medical review of a health plan's decision to deny care, patients who have been wrongly denied medical care should be allowed to hold their health plans liable in Federal court.

I cannot support a plan, however, that encourages unnecessary or frivolous litigation. Expensive litigation, and the resulting rise in health care costs, would only make it more difficult for Americans to afford health care coverage in the first place. I believe it is possible to provide patients a meaningful remedy when they have been wrongly denied care, without causing other Americans to lose coverage. A responsible remedy for patients should protect employers from the high costs of being subject to multiple causes of action in multiple venues and should provide a reasonable cap on damages.

As you requested, I have enclosed the principles by which I will gauge any piece of Federal legislation. I do not believe that any bill currently before the Congress meets all of these principles. However, I applaud the efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle who have stepped forward to address this issue. I believe we can work together to reach bipartisan agreement this year on a strong Patients' Bill of Rights that protects all Americans, does not override the patient protections already adopted by states, and avoids costly litigation.

I look forward to working with you and all Members of Congress to enact these principles into law as soon as possible. I also look forward to working with you to provide access to health care for the millions of Americans without health insurance.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Trent Lott, Senate majority leader.

Letter to Congressional Minority Leaders on the Patients' Bill of Rights

February 7, 2001

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George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader, and Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader.

Remarks on Transmitting Proposed Tax Cut Plan to the Congress

February 8, 2001

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It's good to see so many friends here in the Rose Garden. This is our first event in this beautiful spot, and it's appropriate we talk about policy that will affect people's lives in a positive way in such a beautiful, beautiful part of our national—really, our national park system, I guess is, as you would want to call it.

This is the land of economic miracles, and we are experiencing one here in our country. Latino businesses are growing faster than the Government can count. Back in 1997 there were 1.4 million Latino-owned businesses. Since then, the number has been growing by an estimated 25 percent. No one is entirely sure of the total. Your success has left all statistics behind, and America is better off for it.

The businesses you have built prove the continuing power of the American ideal, a promise of advancement to men and women of every background. This country appreciates you. We appreciate your vision, your hard work. And I congratulate you for your success.

To succeed, Latino-owned businesses need the same things all businesses need: moderate regulation, a sensible legal system, and a growing economy. For several months, however, our economic growth has been in doubt. And now, it may be in danger.

Americans are hearing, and some feeling, the economic slowdown. Americans hear about the news—many are beginning to actually feel what it means to be in an economic slowdown. Consumer confidence has slumped. Many business leaders are worried. A warning light is flashing on the dashboard of our economy. And we just can't drive on and hope for the best. We must act without delay.

My job is to lead. A President should not wait on events. He must try to shape them. And the warning signs are clear. All of us here in Washington, the President and the Congress, are responsible to confront the danger of an economic slowdown and to blunt its effects.

Today I am sending to Congress my plan to provide relief to all income taxpayers, which I believe will help jump-start the American economy. We must give overcharged taxpayers some of their own money back. We must give low income families fairer treatment. We must give small businesses a better chance to grow and to hire. For all these reasons, I urge Congress to help me strengthen our economy by lightening the tax load, the tax burden on the American people.

Here's how my tax relief plan will work. We will simplify our tax code, reducing today's five brackets to four lower ones: 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent, and 33 percent. Families with children will also receive a tax credit of $1,000 per child. We will end the death tax, reduce the marriage penalty, and expand tax incentives for charitable giving.

My plan is directed toward individuals and small businesses. It offers relief for everyone who pays income taxes, and it keeps our national commitments to Social Security and debt reduction. These are the details. But it is the results that will matter most.

If we pass this tax relief plan in a timely manner, three important things will happen: First, we will return $1,600 to the typical American family with two children. Working families earning between $35,000 and $75,000 will keep anywhere from $600 to $3,000 more each year. With this tax relief, families can save or pay off debt or pay for higher energy bills. This $1,600 is good for a family. Multiplied by millions of families, it is good for our Nation's economy. It means greater demand for your goods and your services at a time when demand may be slowing. I'm committed to accelerating economic growth. Lower interest rates will certainly help, but they need to be reinforced with tax relief as well.

There is talk in Congress of bringing this relief even quicker by making it retroactive to the beginning of this year. I strongly support that idea. We need tax relief now. In fact, we need tax relief yesterday. And I will work with Congress to provide it.

Our economy faces this challenge: Investors and consumers have too little money, and the U.S. Treasury is holding too much. The Federal Government is simply pulling too much money out of the private economy, and this is a drag on our growth.

Over the past 6 years, the Federal share of our GDP has risen from 18 percent to 21 percent, about as much as our Government took during World War II. President John Kennedy faced a similar situation in the 1960's. He warned then against storing up dollars in Washington by taking away more than the Government needed to pay its necessary expenses. ''High tax rates,'' he said, and I quote, ''are no longer necessary. They are, in fact, harmful. These high tax rates do not leave enough money in private hands to keep this country's economy growing and healthy.''

Forty years later our Treasury is full, and our people are overcharged. Returning some of their money is right, and it is urgent.

The second effect of my plan is to substantially reduce the taxpayers that bar too many Americans from the middle class. Our new 10-percent rate, along with the child credit, will cut Federal marginal tax rates by 40 percent on many struggling taxpayers.

I've talked about this problem for over a year, and I'll talk about it until we fix it. Under current law, say a waitress is working hard to get ahead, and she may have two children, earning $25,000 a year faces a higher marginal tax rate than a successful lawyer earning 10 times as much. That is not right, and that is not fair. The Government would take from her nearly one-half of every extra dollar she earns. Her hardest hours are taxed at the highest rates.

Today, tax codes are sending—our tax code sends this message to this woman: Stay where you are; you'll never get ahead. But that is not the message of America, as far as I'm concerned. And it must not be the message of our tax code. Our tax system must reward the dreams of a better life.

My plan dramatically reduces the marginal rate on many low income earners, rewarding overtime or a hard-won raise, encouraging Americans on their path to the middle class. Six million families, one out of every five families with children, will no longer pay Federal income taxes at all under our plan.

This country has prospered mightily over the last 20 years. But a lot of folks feel as if they've been looking at somebody else's party, that they've been looking from the outside. It's time to open the door and welcome everyone in.

And finally, this tax relief plan will be good not just for the short-term needs of our country and for our economy but for the long-term health of our Nation. Every big business began as a small business. Many of the great companies of our time were founded when the maximum tax rate on small businesses was only 28 percent. Today, many small businesses are paying a tax rate as high as 40

percent. Thousands of sole proprietors, people with dreams, pay high, high rates. That's not how one encourages innovation or job creation or expansion.

My tax relief plan reduces the marginal rates that many small businesses pay. We want you to have a fighting chance in a difficult economy. We also want people to have more funds to reinvest and to grow their businesses. We want to make sure that the next generation of success stories continues far into the future. I hope all of you will help me in this task. We have minds to change, and we've got some laws to pass. Our course is set, and I believe our case is strong.

This week I've been meeting with Americans of all backgrounds—young families, leaders of large companies, entrepreneurs, single moms. All are worried about the direction of our economy. All are agreed that action is needed. And today I'm acting, for your sake.

I urge the Congress to pass my tax relief plan with the swiftness these uncertain times demand. I will now sign a letter of transmittal and soon hope I'll be signing the needed tax relief.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Tax Cut Plan

February 8, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed please find my plan to provide needed tax relief to the American people. Over the last several months, the economy has slowed dramatically. I believe that the best way to ensure that our prosperity continues is to put more money in the hands of consumers and entrepreneurs as soon as possible. I look forward to working with the Congress to enact meaningful tax cuts into law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 8, 2001.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Norman Y. Mineta as Secretary of Transportation

February 8, 2001

Good afternoon to you all. Thank you all for coming. Norm, welcome back to the White House. Usually at events like this, a new Secretary is joining the Cabinet. This time a new Cabinet is joining the Secretary.

I'm pleased that you're back. I'm glad that your wife is with us. I'm going to welcome your family members to the Oval Office. Thank you all for coming.

For 21 years, Norm Mineta represented the Silicon Valley in the United States Congress. He understands the great challenges taking place in the economic life of our country. He has an understanding of the transportation needs of America. He knows that America relies more than ever on the soundness of our roads and rails, bridges and runways. And as our economy grows, so must our capacity to move people and goods quickly and efficiently.

This means investment in new infrastructure, as well as overdue repairs of the old. Working with State and local governments, we will work to meet the demands of our growing economy.

Americans are especially concerned about our aviation system. The results of economic expansion are clearly visible at our crowded airports. We must continue to reform and modernize the Federal Aviation Administration, and our Secretary of Transportation brings the talents necessary to address the problems and, more importantly, find the solutions.

Our new Secretary will also work with States and localities in planning new roads and alternative transportation, such as bus and light-rail systems. From Los Angeles to Austin to right here in Washington, the trials of commuting increase every year. It's going to take some clear thinking and creativity to accommodate our Nation's increasing travel demands. And Norm Mineta is the right man for the job.

It's a high honor to serve the two Cabinets, as the Vice President said. Norm has earned this honor. His life is a story of determination and courage and service. As a child, he lived

in an internment camp. As a young man, he wore his country's uniform in Korea and Japan. From there, he went on to become a mayor, a Congressman, and a Cabinet Secretary.

I thank him for accepting my invitation to serve again, and I'm honored to have him by my side.

Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Mineta's wife, Danealia. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Mineta.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

February 8, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 8, 2001.

Remarks at J.C. Nalle Elementary School and an Exchange With Reporters

February 9, 2001

The President. Good morning, everybody. How are you?

Students. Good morning.

The President. Thanks for letting me come by to say hello. Shall we get started?

Teacher Nancy Tentman. Boys and girls, we have a very special guest this morning. We are honored this morning to have the President of the United States here with us in our classroom, and he will be reading a story to us this morning. He's here on his visit to promote reading.

The President. I am here to promote reading. Thanks for letting me come by and read. First, I want to introduce the Secretary of Education, Dr. Rod Paige. He's a friend of mine. I knew Rod in Texas. He and I were from Texas. And I asked him to come up and become the Secretary of Education because he did such a fine job of being the superintendent of schools in Houston.

And we're all speaking about superintendents—we've got the superintendent of the Washington, DC, schools with us, Dr. Paul Vance.

Superintendent Paul Vance. Good morning, boys and girls.

Students. Good morning.

The President. Thanks for having us here at Nalle. I'm so glad to see your principal, Ms. Dobbins. She's a pretty special person, isn't she?

One of the things that happens when you get over 50—and I'm over 50—is you have trouble seeing. [*Laughter*] So in order for me to read this book called ''More Than Anything Else,'' I had to put on my glasses.

This is also Black History Month. And what's important about Black History Month is to read about different heroes who have made a difference in making history and to realize there are fantastic role models. So this is a combination of history plus reading. So thanks for letting me come by.

One reason I like to highlight reading is, reading is the beginnings of the ability to be a good student. And if you can't read, it's going to be hard to realize dreams; it's going to be hard to go to college. So when your teachers say, ''read,'' you ought to listen to her.

Ms. Tentman. Thank you.

The President. Also, I hope you read more than you watch TV. That's pretty hard. Does anybody do that, read more than they watch TV? [*Laughter*] It's good to read more than you watch TV. That's how you learn, and it's very important to practice.

Are you ready to go?

Students. Yes.

The President. Has anybody read this book yet?

Students. No.

[*The President read to the students.*]

The President. And that's the end of the story. And the story is about a young fellow who grew up very poor and worked really hard. But he knew something. He knew, if he learned to read, he could change his life. I think it's a great story, don't you?

Students. Yes.

The President. It's a story that teaches the power of reading and what it means. So that's what's important, to be able to read, because you can read somebody else's experiences too. And you can share. And this is the story of an unbelievable young man who became a great reader and a great leader.

So thanks for having me come. Anybody got any questions?

Ms. Tentman. Mr. President, we have a tradition here in our classroom that whenever we read a book—we have a reading chain here in our classroom. In each book we write the title and the author, and we'd be honored if you would join us in our reading chain by adding that book to our reading chain.

The President. I will do that. Thanks for letting me do that.

Good to see everybody.

[*The President signed a link for his book and added it to the classroom's reading chain, and then he autographed the book.*]

Ms. Tentman. Alright. Thank you so much. And we'll add that.

The President. I'm going to leave this here for you, too, as a gift.

Ms. Tentman. Okay. Thank you so much.

The President. Thanks, I appreciate it.

Ms. Tentman. And we will add this, boys and girls, to the end of our chain, and the President has signed it, ''More Than Anything Else.''

The President. How about that? It's pretty nice, isn't it? Thanks for having me come.

One of the reasons I came is, I think it's important for the Capital to stay focused on public education and public education reforms. One of the key ingredients in our package we sent up to the Congress is a reading initiative. I'm so impressed about what Ms. Dobbins is doing at this school, what the superintendent is insisting upon—accountability-based reading system.

And she told me that they've got a collaborative effort here with the National Institute of Health, which has developed curriculum based upon the science of reading. And it's impressive that the school and the District are willing to set high standards and ask the fundamental question: What works in education; are willing to implement curriculum that works; and then are willing to be held accountable for implementing the curriculum.

And thank you for letting me come. I appreciate you coming.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Racial Profiling

Q. Mr. President, would you be interested in establishing a panel along the vein of what President Johnson did, to look into racial profiling or, perhaps, considering an Executive order banning racial profiling?

The President. I'll look at all opportunities, starting with the gathering of information, where the Federal Government can help jurisdictions, gather information, compile information to get the facts on the table to make sure that people are treated fairly in the justice system.

Defense Budget

Q. Mr. President, do you have any—[*inaudible*]—of agreeing to the Pentagon's request that you increase your defense spending, your defense budget, or give a supplemental for 2000?

The President. I've sent the message that I think it's very important for us to not have an early supplemental. Secondly, Secretary Rumsfeld is beginning a review of the defense, a top to bottom review of what's happening in today's military, reviewing missions, reviewing opportunities for change, beginning to look at the transformation policy. And I will look forward to finding out what his report says.

I will be traveling the country next week, talking about some increases in the defense spending, along the lines of what I promised during the course of the campaign, starting with better pay for the men and women who wear the uniform.

Q. But they're saying it's going to affect military readiness.

The President. What's going to affect military—

Q. They're saying that they need more money—excuse me—they're not going to be able to be prepared for—

The President. Well, that's part of the review process. I hear—there are a lot of voices on a lot of subjects regarding the budget. We have yet to submit our budget; I will later on. But I have said during the campaign, I have said since I've been sworn in, it's important for us to do a top to bottom review, to review all missions, spending priorities, and that's exactly what the Secretary of Defense is going to do. And before people jump to conclusions, I think it's important to get that review finished.

Justice Department Budget

Q. What about the Justice Department? Are you asking for specific cuts in—[*inaudible*].

The President. We're looking at all—we've asked our Secretaries on all Cabinets to take a review of their full budgets, and we'll submit a budget here later on.

Office of National AIDS Policy

Q. Mr. President, on the subject of the AIDS Office, there are still some misunderstanding about whether there is going to be an AIDS czar, like—

The President. Well, there's going to be a focus on AIDS, and people can apply any title they want. But there's going to be a person in my office who has got the responsibility of coordinating the AIDS policy throughout the Federal Government.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. What did you say to Mr. Arafat?

The President. Oh, I had a good talk with Mr. Arafat. I've also had talks with other leaders throughout the region, and I urged calm. I said it was very important to give the newly elected leader of Israel a chance, a chance to form a government and a chance to do what he said he wanted to do, which is to promote the peace in the region. And I certainly hope that people recognize that change does not necessarily mean that the peace process won't go forward.

I think we ought to take Mr. Sharon for his word, and that is he wants to promote peace in the Middle East. I look forward to watching him put a government together and then fulfilling what he said he would do.

Q. Are you concerned about the violence yesterday, the bombings?

The President. I'm concerned about all kinds of violence. But I firmly believe that the best policy is to encourage leaders to just remain resolute in their willingness to promote the peace and give the Sharon government a chance to form a government and then to be able to do what he said he wanted to do, which is to promote peace in the Middle East.

Have a good weekend, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:21 a.m. in Ms. Tentman's classroom. In his remarks, he referred to Gloria Dobbins, principal, J.C. Nalle Elementary School; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 4

The President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Farmington, PA, to attend a Democratic Party retreat.

February 5

The President had a working luncheon with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark A. Weinberger to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul Wolfowitz to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

February 6

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon of Israel to congratulate Mr. Sharon on his electoral victory.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to name Richard Haas as Director of Policy Planning for the State Department.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate Ambassador Marc Grossman to be Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate Grant S. Green to be Under Secretary of State for Management.

February 8

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Senator Bill Frist to be one of two Senate representatives to the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michele Davis to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs.

February 9

In the morning, the President met with State and local superintendents of education in the Roosevelt Room. Later, he met separately in the Oval Office with Mardi Gras Queens, Utah Jazz basketball player Karl Malone, and a group of incumbent Louisiana politicians who recently switched their affiliations to the Republican Party. Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with King Mohamed VI of Morocco and Prime Minister Giuliano Amato of Italy.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 6

Joe M. Allbaugh,
of Texas, to be Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Election of Ariel Sharon as Prime Minister of Israel

Released February 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: Principles for a Bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights

Released February 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey on proposed tax cut legislation

Released February 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on National Mediation Board action regarding Northwest Airlines and the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Organization

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, February 16, 2001

The President's Radio Address

February 10, 2001

Good morning. This past week I have been making the case for tax reductions. I've asked Congress to act quickly on my tax relief plan, so that Americans can face these uncertain economic times with more of their own money. I will continue to make that case until relief has passed.

And next week I will also focus on another important issue, our national security. This is the most basic commitment of America's Government and the greatest responsibility of an American President. Our Nation's ideals inspire the world, but our Nation's ships and planes and armies must defend these ideals and sustain our allies and friends.

American influence is unquestioned, but maintaining it requires work in every generation. The relative peace our Nation enjoys today is not inevitable. Peace is earned by strength and strength begins with the men and women who wear the uniform. New weapons and technologies are important, but they are only as effective as the people who use them.

On Monday I will travel to Fort Stewart, in Georgia, to meet with soldiers and their families. I want to thank them for their service and give my full support in return. They deserve the best training, the latest and best equipment, and long overdue improvements in their pay, housing, and standard of living.

And so, as I promised, I will announce meaningful increases in funding to improve the lives of our men and women in uniform.

There's an old military saying: Soldiers enlist, but families reenlist. We need to treat families well and encourage military careers. All our men and women in uniform, after all, are volunteers. We must make sure our military is a place where Americans are proud to serve and proud to stay.

On Tuesday I will be in Norfolk, Virginia, for a tour of the Joint Forces Command and a glimpse of the next generation of military weapons. America has some big choices to make as we prepare for the challenges and dangers of modern warfare. Battles will no longer be won by size alone; stealth and speed will matter more. And we must make sure our country, itself, is protected from attack from ballistic missiles and high-tech terrorists.

At week's end I will meet in Washington with Secretary of State Colin Powell and our diplomats at the State Department. I selected General Powell for that post, in part, because he brings a soldier's wisdom to the work of diplomacy. His charge is to help me pursue a clear, consistent, and decisive foreign policy.

Whenever America acts in the world, our principles must be certain, our intentions beyond doubt, our strength beyond challenge. This is how conflicts are avoided. This is how problems are dealt with before they become crises.

Next week's trips signal the priority I place on our military. The highest honor and greatest duty of this office is to serve as Commander in Chief. I want every man and woman in the Armed Forces to know that I respect your service and appreciate your sacrifice.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:41 a.m. on February 9 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on United States Intelligence Provided to Multinational Organizations

February 9, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with section 308 of the 1997 Intelligence Authorization Act, I am forwarding to the specified committees of the Congress the eighth semiannual report on U.S. intelligence provided to the United Nations and other multinational organizations. This classified report details the types and volume of the intelligence support provided by the United States during the 6-month period ending September 30, 2000, and the purposes for which it was provided.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Richard C. Shelby, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; and Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 12.

Executive Order 13200—President's Information Technology Advisory Committee, Further Amendment to Executive Order 13035, as Amended

February 11, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–194), as amended by the Next Generation Internet Research Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–305), and in order to extend the life of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee so that it may continue to carry out its responsibilities, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13035 of February 11, 1997, as amended by Executive Orders 13092 and 13113 (''Executive Order 13035, as amended''), is further amended as follows:

Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13035, as amended, is further amended by deleting ''February 11, 2001 and inserting ''June 1, 2001,'' in lieu thereof.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 11, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 13, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 12, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 14.

Remarks to the Troops at Fort Stewart, Georgia

February 12, 2001

The President. Thank you. Thank you, General Sharp. Before I begin my remarks today, I want to ask for your prayers for those still missing after the tragic accident involving one of our naval submarines and a Japanese fishing vessel off the coast of Hawaii. Please join me in a moment of silence for those missing, their families, and our friends, the people of Japan.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

The President. Amen.

Major General, thank you for your kind introduction and your outstanding leadership. Secretary Rumsfeld, Senator Cleland, and Senator Miller—of the great State of Georgia—other Members of the United States Senate; Representative Kingston and other Members of the House, thank you all for traveling with me today.

General Hendrix, Major General Poythress, Command Sergeant Major McFowler, Command Sergeant Major Ruo, soldiers of the 3d Infantry Division, the 48th Infantry Brigade—as importantly, family members—and all those who make up the Fort Stewart home. It's a great privilege for me to be here today.

You're among the first in the Army to hear me extend ''Hooah!''

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I proudly do so, for there is no greater duty for the President and no higher honor than to serve as the Commander in Chief.

I'm especially honored to be here at Fort Stewart with the ''dog-faced soldiers'' of the 3d Infantry Division. You've written history with your courage, from the forests of the Marne to the frontlines of the cold war, from Casablanca to the Balkans, from Korea to Kuwait.

Today, you carry on this proud tradition, ready to project American power wherever America's interests are threatened. You've been called the most highly trained and rapidly deployable mechanized force in the world. That is high praise, and you have earned it.

I deeply respect your service. I appreciate your sacrifice. And I know what your service and sacrifice achieve for our Nation. In a dangerous world, our men and women in uniform give America safety. In a world of fast changing threats, you give us stability. Because of you, America is secure. Because of you, the march of freedom continues.

The freedom and security you make possible improve the quality of our life every day. Our Nation can never fully repay our debt to you. But we can give you our full support, and my administration will.

We owe you and your families a decent quality of life. We owe you the training and equipment you need to do your jobs. And when we send you into harm's way, we owe you a clear mission with clear goals. You and your families are the foundation of America's military readiness. But while you're serving us well, America is not serving you well enough. Many in our military have been overdeployed and underpaid. Many live in aging houses and work in aging buildings. You see some of this right here at Fort Stewart. Twenty-four thousand troops have been processed through Hunter Airfield in the last 12 months, deploying everywhere from Bosnia to the Bahamas.

Some members of the 3d Infantry Division are now in Bosnia for a second or even third time. In a few months, the 48th Infantry Brigade of Georgia's National Guard will also deploy there. Others in the 3d Infantry are getting ready to deploy to Kosovo.

You are among the most deployed units in the Army. But you live on a base that has some of the least developed infrastructure. Two-thirds of your barracks need renovation. Some of your workshops are housed in wood buildings built in 1941, buildings that were designed to last 10 years, which are now having their 60th birthday. [*Laughter*]

These problems, from low pay to poor housing, reach across our military and the result is predictable: Frustration is up; morale, in some places, is difficult to sustain; recruitment is harder. This is not the way a great nation should reward courage and idealism. It's ungrateful. It's unwise, and it is unacceptable.

We will do better. You deserve a military that treats you and your families with respect. And America needs a military where our best and brightest are proud to serve and proud to stay. I have great goals for our military, to advance its technology, to rethink its strategy. But as always, our strength begins with our people.

Today I'm announcing that our proposed 2002 budget will add $5.7 billion in new spending on the people of our military. Our budget will include $1.4 billion for military pay increases—pay increases on top of the increases the Congress passed the last couple of budget cycles; $400 million in funds to improve military housing; and $3.9 billion to improve military health benefits.

If our military is to attract the best of America, we owe you the best. You volunteered for this job. You decided to serve a cause greater than yourself. And I'm proud to lead you, and I'm committed to serve you. In the years ahead, I will have the opportunity to visit with thousands of our men and women in uniform. And I look forward to each opportunity to express my thanks on behalf of our Nation.

I'll never forget that my first visit as Commander in Chief was here, to Fort Stewart, home of the ''dog-faced soldiers.'' You are the Rock of the Marne, and America is rock-solid behind you.

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:12 a.m. at Cottrell Field. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, USA, Commanding General, and Com. Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo, Jr., USA,

Division Command Sergeant Major, 3d Infantry; Gen. John W. Hendrix, USA, Commanding General, and Com. Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Forces Command; and Maj. Gen. David Poythress, The Adjutant General of Georgia.

Remarks to the Troops at Norfolk Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia

February 13, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Thank you very much. General, thank you for that kind introduction, and thank you for your service to our Nation. I'm honored to be here with the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld. I picked a good man to be the Secretary of Defense.

General Shelton, thank you for accompanying us today. Admiral Perowne, Admiral Mayer, members of the NATO staff. I want to thank the NATO Ambassadors who are here, or the Ambassadors representing NATO countries who are here. I'm honored that you took time out of your day to come down. I'm thankful that members of the congressional delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia and other States around the Nation traveled with us. I'm particularly pleased that Senator John Warner is here, along with the former Governor of the State of Virginia, now-Senator George Allen.

I also want to recognize not only Members of the United States House of Representatives but also Ed Shrock, the newly elected United States Congressman from this district. I appreciate Ed traveling with us, as well.

Most of all, I want to thank the men and women who wear the uniform for your warm greeting, and thank you for your service to the United States of America. I also want to thank your family members who are here with you. Oftentimes, we talk about the men and women who wear the uniform; it's also important to remember the husbands and wives of those who do, as well.

Just this morning we're reminded of the risks of your duty and the sacrifices that you make. I ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer for the dead, the wounded, and missing crew members of the 25th Infantry Division who were involved in a training accident on Oahu this morning.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

The President. Amen.

We fly 19 flags here. Together, they symbolize one of the supreme achievements of the last century. NATO is the reason history records no world war III. By preserving the stability of Europe and the transatlantic community, NATO has kept the peace, and the work goes on.

When NATO was formed, the great challenge was to prevent conflict in Europe by a system of collective defense among three nations. In a message to Congress sent with the NATO Treaty, President Harry Truman explained his purpose this way: ''The nations signing this treaty,'' he said, ''share a common heritage of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. The security and welfare of each member of this community depend upon the security and welfare of all. None of us alone can achieve economic prosperity or military security. None of us alone can assure the continuance of freedom.''

This is still true today. Our challenges have changed, and NATO is changing and growing to meet them. But the purpose of NATO remains permanent. As we have seen in the Balkans, together, united, we can detour the designs of aggression and spare the Continent from the effects of ethnic hatreds.

I'm here today with a message for America's allies. We will cooperate in the work of peace. We will consult early and candidly with our NATO Allies. We will expect them to return the same. In diplomacy, in technology, in missile defense, in fighting wars, and above all, in preventing wars, we must work as one. Transatlantic security and stability is a vital American interest, and our unity is essential for peace in the world. Nothing must ever divide us.

A little while ago I saw an example of that unity in action. From the command center here, I had a glimpse of future threats and of the technology that will be used to meet them. These new systems are impressive, and they're only a beginning in the technologies we will need to deter wars in the decades to come. Because America, NATO, and our

allies have made the world more secure, we have an opportunity today given to few nations in history to prepare for the future, to think anew.

Eleven years after the end of the cold war we are in a time of transition and testing, when it will be decided what dangers draw near or pass away, what tragedies are invited or averted. We must use this time well. We must seize this moment.

First, we must prepare our nations against the dangers of a new era. The grave threat from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons has not gone away with the cold war. It has evolved into many separate threats, some of them harder to see and harder to answer. And the adversaries seeking these tools of terror are less predictable, more diverse. With advanced technology, we must confront the threats that come on a missile. With shared intelligence and enforcement, we must confront the threats that come in a shipping container or in a suitcase.

We have no higher priority than the defense of our people against terrorist attack. To succeed, America knows we must work with our allies. We did not prevail together in the cold war only to go our separate ways, pursuing separate plans with separate technologies.

The dangers ahead confront us all. The defenses we build must protect us all. And secondly, as you know firsthand, we must extend our peace by advancing our technology. We're witnessing a revolution in the technology of war, powers increasingly defined not by size but by mobility and swiftness. Advantage increasingly comes from information such as the three-dimensional images of simulated battle that I have just seen. Safety is gained in stealth and forces projected on the long arc of precision-guided weapons. The best way to keep the peace is to redefine war on our terms.

At my request, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld has begun a comprehensive review of the United States military, the state of our strategy, the structure of our forces, the priorities of our budget. I have given him a broad mandate to challenge the status quo as we design a new architecture for the defense of America and our allies. We will modernize some existing weapons and equipment, a task we have neglected for too long, but we will do this judiciously and selectively. Our goal is to move beyond marginal improvements to harness new technologies that will support a new strategy.

We do not know yet the exact shape of our future military, but we know the direction we must begin to travel. On land, our heavy forces will be lighter; our light forces will be more lethal. All will be easier to deploy and to sustain. In the air, we will be able to strike across the world with pinpoint accuracy, using both aircraft and unmanned systems. On the oceans, we will connect information and weapons in new ways, maximizing our ability to project power over land. In space, we'll protect our network of satellites essential to the flow of our commerce and the defense of our common interests. All of this will require great effort and new spending.

The first budget I will send to Congress makes only a start. Before we make our full investment, we must know our exact priorities, and we will not know our priorities until the defense review is finished. That report will mark the beginning of a new defense agenda and a new strategic vision and will be the basis for allocating our defense resources.

As I announced yesterday, my 2002 defense budget will increase spending on the people of our military immediately with better pay, better housing, and better—[*applause*]. This need is urgent, and it's obvious. [*Laughter*] You give the best, and we owe you the best in return. My 2002 budget will also include $2.6 billion as a downpayment on the research and development effort that lies ahead.

Yet, in our broader effort, we must put strategy first, then spending. Our defense vision will drive our defense budget, not the other way around.

Vice President Cheney often points out that the military itself is like a ship that cannot be turned around in a moment. It has a dynamic and momentum all its own, set in motion by events and decisions long ago and turning only in a wide, long arc. Change will not come easy for America's military and for our allies. But we must know our direction and make our turn. You can count on

me to lead these changes in a spirit of respect and gratitude for the military and its traditions.

Some things about America's Armed Forces must never change. In times of trouble and in times of peace, the men and women who wear the uniform are the military's greatest asset. Without your hard work and heroism, your discipline and personal courage, the finest of technologies cannot defend us.

Our NATO Allies have brought their own character and courage to the defense of liberty. We're cast together in a story of shared struggle and shared victory. Here, where three ships from England once passed on their way to Jamestown, we carry on the alliance that joined the old world and the new. We're allies, and we are friends. As long as we stand together, power will always be on the side of peace and freedom.

God bless the United States military. God bless NATO, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. outside the headquarters building of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. William F. Kernan, USA, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command; Gen Henry H. Shelton, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. Sir James F. Perowne, KBE, United Kingdom Navy, NATO Deputy Supreme Commander, Atlantic; and Rear Adm. Martin J. Mayer, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One

February 13, 2001

The President. Glad to see you all again. It's been a while since I've been able to emerge out of the—are you doing okay?

Tax Cut/Legislative Agenda

Q. We wondered what your thoughts were on the retail sales jumping seven-tenths of a percentage point last month, and does that still speak to the need for a tax cut?

The President. Oh, I think it's one good statistic amongst a sea of some pretty dismal statistics. I am concerned about the economy. I strongly believe the combination of monetary policy, fiscal policy will help ease whatever economic pain is on the horizon. I'm obviously very pleased about those numbers and hope that other numbers bear out that piece of good news.

Q. Are you going to try anything beyond what you've done already to try to get Congress to move up? I know you oppose retroactive, but they still have to pass to pass it.

The President. No, we've got to get it through, and I understand that. It's just, you know, the calendar is what it is, and we'll work with the Congress to get all our bills moving as quickly as possible. They're in charge of the timeframe, and I believe we're going to get a good hearing on our pieces of legislation as quickly as possible. But it will take a while.

U.S.S. Greenville

Q. Are you concerned about the allegations from the Japanese that the crew of the *Greenville* stood by and did not offer assistance?

The President. I called the Prime Minister today. That's why I was 3 minutes late, on the on-time administration. [*Laughter*] But I spoke to Prime Minister Mori. I assured him that we will do everything we can to try to recover and find—find or recover the bodies. He did not bring up that allegation to me. I have yet to hear all the facts from Secretary Rumsfeld, and I look forward to what he has to say. I am—I did assure him—I apologized on behalf of the country.

Marc Rich Pardon

Q. Are you distracted at all by the furor over the Marc Rich pardon and the former President?

The President. Not at all.

Q. Not a distraction?

The President. Not at all. I will tell you one thing, just in terms of the former President. All the allegations that they took stuff off of Air Force One is simply not true, for example. But no, I'm not the—sit down; I'll come back.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

[*At this point, the President left the press area. Later, he returned.*]

The President. As promised. [*Laughter*]

Strategic Vision Reassessment

Q. [*Inaudible*]—talked about modernizing the military a number of times. Should Members of Congress who are trying to promote their own program, like the F–22 or some of these older programs, should they be worried at this point?

The President. Well, I think they ought to wait until we have—the Secretary presents a strategic vision. I said during the campaign—as you know, Tom—I worry about defense spending based upon politics and not based upon a strategic vision. I said that again today. I said the strategy and the spending ought to follow. I don't think Members ought to worry about that. I think they ought to be pleased with that type of approach to budgeting.

Q. Will you be shutting down some major weapons programs?

The President. Let's wait until the review is finished.

President's Meetings With the Military

Q. Mr. President, as you've been talking to the soldiers and sailors the last couple of days, what kind of response do you feel like you've gotten? What have you learned from them?

The President. First of all, I think the men and women who wear the uniform respect the office of the Presidency, for which I'm grateful. I think they're just honored that the President would come and say hello.

I was taken aback by the—" taken aback" isn't the right word. I was—there was a lot of concern about overdeployments yesterday at Fort Stewart.

Q. About what?

The President. Overdeployments, it was on people's minds. I'm not surprised that was—talking about pay, and they were pleased to hear there were going to be some more pay increase coming. But there was a lot of talk about extended trips overseas. It's really not one trip; it's the multiple trips; and it's the time away from base, the training required.

You know, people are deployed to the Balkans. They go through training to prepare for the mission in the Balkans. They go to the Balkans. They then come back and have to be retrained for the mission that they used to be a part of. And sometimes the training exercises are not at the base in which they're—you know, their main base. And so there was just a lot of time away from their homes, and that was a concern.

I was touched by the ceremony when I reviewed the troops, to look in the eyes of the men and women who wear the uniform. It's a pretty powerful feeling, and it reminded me that we need to be very judicious and careful about committing our troops.

And today's incident—they called me early this morning about the Blackhawks that had crashed over Oahu. And it was right on the heels of the visit when I got to see, stare people in the eyes, realize how precious the lives are of everybody, of course—the soldiers are my direct responsibility as the Commander in Chief.

It was just—it was a very necessary trip, because it really personalized the job. I take the responsibilities incredibly seriously. I do want to see more of the military, meet more of the troops. I want to see more of the missions. I get a much better feel for what's happening in different—specialties.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—really respect the office. Did you get some feedback that they appreciate you or appreciate what you are going to do for the military?

The President. I think they've got high hopes for me and my administration. I felt like yesterday's statement, that first things first are the people who wear the uniform and that the first public statement I made since—or the first speech I gave on a military installation had to do with better pay and better housing and better medical care.

There is going to be—you know, redesigning the strategic vision of the military is going to take some time. But we must do it. There are going to be some tough choices to make, but that's why you get elected.

U.S.S. Greenville

Q. Mr. President, on the *Greenville,* U.S.S. *Greenville,* would you support a salvage effort?

The President. We've got an unmanned sub heading out there to determine exactly what the status is. I need to find the facts. I think we need to do what we need to do to get the bodies out of there, if they're there.

Q. You said you had apologized to Prime Minister Mori, but you got cut off.

The President. Oh, I'm sorry. Well, I did. I said I was—I apologized on behalf of our Nation for the accident that took place and the lives that are missing.

Q. Did he ask you to do anything or did he—

The President. He asked me to do everything I could—which we are doing—to find, to locate the missing folks.

Q. As a former military man yourself, sir, know the absolute preeminence of safety—every operation. Were you comfortable, as a former military officer that—were taken?

The President. John, I haven't seen the full briefing yet. And that's going to go up through the proper chain of command. I know the Secretary of Defense has asked that question and, once the facts have surfaced, I will—I'm sure it will be brought to my attention, and I'll be able to answer that question better after I hear the facts.

President's Upcoming Visit to Mexico

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, I'm looking forward to be with my friend Vicente Fox to make sure that he understands that when I say friends, that we'll be friends. I mean it. There will be a lot of discussions, a lot of issues. Trade is a big issue, energy a big issue, immigration a big issue. And I look forward to discussing them.

It's really a continuation of a chat we had in Dallas. He had been elected; I hadn't been. But we had stopped off in Dallas, had a chance to visit with him. I've known him from before, and I've got a good relationship with him. It's why I'm going to Mexico. I think it's going to be a good signal to the Mexicans and others in our hemisphere that the best foreign policy starts at home. We've got to have good relations in the hemisphere.

I assured the Prime Minister of Canada that my vision of the hemisphere goes both north and south. We had a really good visit, by the way. Chretien is a very interesting man, a down-to-earth fellow.

Mexico and California Energy Shortages

Q. He's the only politician who speaks out of one side of his mouth, and he's admitted that, himself. [*Laughter*] Do you think a potential solution to California's energy crisis lies in Mexico?

The President. Could be. You know, you've been reading talk about, well, Mexico needs to import natural gas. But every mcf of newly discovered gas in our hemisphere helps the overall supply picture throughout the hemisphere. Now, that sounds obvious, but somehow people are writing that, ''Well, you know, the idea of maybe working with Mexico to attract foreign capital, develop natural gas really won't help in the United States.'' Of course it will help in the United States. It means that there will be less exports from the United States to Mexico. There's an issue evolving right now in California about natural gas going from California to the Mexican powerplant. I don't know exactly what the status is. It's conceivable that that gas will be interrupted, and it will create, obviously, a problem for our neighbors to the south. But gas can flow both ways. And any gas down in Mexico that improves the Mexican situation will help America.

Secondly, the idea of—I am going to discuss this with the President, about improving the powerplants to be able to help additional power get into the western grid. That would obviously be farther west than where we're going to be. But yes, I think with an opportunity—potential.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—natural gas prices. Is there something the Government can do? Some people really need to—

The President. Yes, they are. We supported LIHEAP, of course. But what the natural gas price will end up doing is attracting more investment, more capital, more exploration, which we surely need. We've got a shortage of gas and a growing demand. That's why the price is where it is. The issue in the State of California, they didn't increase the supply of energy, but the demand for energy increased in a significant way. It turns out the Internet, while it created a brand new economy, also created a huge need for power. We need more power, pure and simple. That's part of the discussions with the President of Mexico will be, to determine whether or not there is the ability to jointly work on the ability to generate more power.

Investigation of Presidential Pardons

Q. Sir, I just wanted to follow up on the previous question. You had mentioned—you've often said, about your predecessor, that you want to look forward, and not the past. Do you think it's a good idea for Congress to be investigating pardons or for the Justice Department to do that? Or should they just let it go?

The President. I think it's time to move on. And—

Q. Will you ask Chairman—

The President. No, the Congress is going to what they're going to do. They've already started the process.

Q. What about your Attorney General?

The President. I haven't talked to the Attorney General about it. I read something about it today, but—

Q. He would consider—

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. The Attorney General just simply said that he would look at what Congress was doing.

The President. Yes, I don't think—didn't investigate; he was responding to a congressional inquiry. You know, the Congress is going to do what they're going to do. My attitude is, you know, all this business about the transition—it's time to move on; it is. It's time to stay looking forward, and that's what I'm going to do.

Q. Are you concerned that there's an—the appearance of a quid pro quo with all of the money flowing into the Democratic coffers?

The President. That's up for the able journalists in America to determine.

Always a pleasure. Sorry we don't get to spend so much quality time like we used to in the campaign.

Baseball

Q. Are you warming up for opening day? It's only 6 weeks.

The President. Down in Houston? [*Laughter*]

Q. Are you going to work with Tony Williams to bring a ball team to Washington?

The President. You're not going to believe this. It was one of the first topics he brought up during our conversation—seriously. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. en route from Norfolk, VA, to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia. The President also referred to LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Departure for Charleston, West Virginia

February 14, 2001

Situation in the Middle East

Good morning. I strongly condemn the terrible act of violence in Israel this morning. I have called Prime Minister Barak to express my condolences to the families of the people killed and to all the Israeli people.

As I told the Prime Minister, the tragic cycle of violent action and reaction between Israel and the Palestinians, particularly the escalation this week, needs to stop. I'm urging all parties to do their utmost to end the violence.

We will continue to work with all parties to try to restore calm to the region.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion With Employers of National Guard Personnel and Reservists in Charleston

February 14, 2001

The President. The Secretary and I are thankful you all are here; very thankful that the good Senator from this great State has traveled with us. It's an honor to be in his presence. He is an eloquent spokesman on what's right about America, and a pretty darn good spokesman about what's needed in West Virginia, I might add. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate the newly elected Congresswoman as well, Shelley Moore, for being

here. I want to thank the other members of the delegation.

I'm so pleased to come and talk about the Guard and reservists. I used to be in the Guard, and one of the best things about being the Governor, Governor, is to be the commander in chief of the Guard in Texas, and in your case, West Virginia. It's an honor, and I know you're going to take it and do a good job. You've got a pretty darn good start with a general leading the troops here in West Virginia.

I want you to know, Colonel Raney, I would have come back whether I won or lost. [*Laughter*] I fell in love with West Virginia during my time here. But now is not the time for politics. This is a visit about public policy, and that's the defense of our Nation. I'm going to give a more formal speech later on, but the purpose of this visit is to listen some but also to assure you.

I understand a couple things that are important: One, the role of the Guard and reservists not only abroad is important but, as importantly, at home. Part of our job is to assess real threats to the Nation and address those threats with corresponding defense policy. I'm worried that we are trying to be all things to all people around the world and, therefore, creating the tension that you accurately described. It's not only a tension for employer to employee; it's tensions, oftentimes, between husband and wife. And overdeployments, constant deployments really create a severe issue for morale all throughout the military. And we're going to address that by starting with redefining the mission or clarifying the mission of the United States military. And that's this: to be trained and prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Our administration will keep our commitments, and we've got a lot of commitments to keep. There will be no precipitous withdrawal from the commitments we inherited, but as we go forward we will be careful about troop deployment, judiciously use our troops. We understand that overdeployments not only affect those on active duty but also affect those in the Reserves and Guard. And I appreciate you bringing that up so very much.

I also appreciate very much the opportunity to highlight the patriotic role not only the guardsmen and reservists play but the patriotic role that the employer plays in America. It's a two-way street, and our Nation needs to be grateful for those who understand the bottom line is more than just profit and loss; the bottom line is also service to the country.

There's all kinds of ways employers can do that. They can give generously of health care; they can give generously of contributions and dollars to help in the communities in which they live. But employers also give incredibly generously when it comes to supporting the Guards and reservists—guardsmen and reservists who are now fulfilling much of the mission that is now taking place overseas.

It's a huge honor to be the Commander in Chief. I take the responsibility very seriously. We're going to have a foreign policy that's strong and consistent and clear, with a military that is focused and prepared to keep the peace. And the guardsmen and reservists will play a major role.

Now, Colonel Raney, I'm told that there are some other folks who may want to say something, in which case I'm prepared to listen or answer questions if you have any. If I don't know it, the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld will. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the discussion continued.*]

The President. I think it's important for the Nation to understand the critical role the Guard and reservists play in today's mix. And this mission—or this trip today is to clarify the mission, to not only say thanks to the folks of West Virginia but, hopefully, to get people around the country paying attention to reality. And reality is, the Guard and reservists carry quite a bit of the load overseas and also serve—set up some of these good employers as examples for others to look at and to follow.

So, thank you, Governor. Good luck on your speech tonight. You'll do great.

[*The discussion continued. A participant stated that letting everyone know about the opportunities available and having employers encourage people to take advantage of them*

would contribute to a viable force in the future.]

The President. John, I appreciate that. The good news is, in your State, is you've got more folks applying for jobs than exist in the Guard and Reserve. So evidently, word-of-mouth advertising is pretty darn effective.

Q. Our general helps us with that. [*Laughter*]

The President. We've got an overall issue of recruitment and retention throughout all the military. The Secretary and I will address that. It starts with better pay but also requires our Nation to have a focused mission. So it's clear about what the mission of the military is.

And I keep saying this over and over again, and we'll work with our allies to help them understand that our Nation is a nation of peacemakers; we'll help make the peace. But we're going to be reluctant to put troops on the ground to keep people apart, warring parties apart. It's a concern of me and the Secretary and others. And we will work with our allies to make sure they understand what our position is before we take any action.

[*The discussion continued. A participant stated that, given the energy situation, the United States had no choice but to be involved in the Middle East to ensure a continued oil supply.*]

The President. I appreciate you saying that. It reminded me of what Senator Byrd told me the other day. I can't quite put it as eloquently as he did, but he reminded me that we need a national energy policy of which coal needs to be an integral part.

Q. We are importing 60 percent of our oil daily—

The President. Which is a national security concern.

Q. — and about 12 million barrels a day.

The President. It is up to all of us to remind folks that we can safely mine coal, and we can cleanly burn it with the right technology. As a matter of fact, the Senator and I—Senator Stevens—were not only talking about the use of technology at home, clean coal technologies here at home, but also being able to have clean coal technology as part of an export policy, so that nations that have not developed like we have will be able to utilize the technologies that have been developed, much of which have been developed right here in the State of West Virginia.

The energy situation in the country is very serious. Demand is greater than supply. And we can affect demand, and will. We'll work on conservation measures. But we also have got to understand that we need to work on the supply side, Senator, and coal is in abundant supply here in America.

And my job and the job of others will be to convince many in the country who don't believe we can have a clean air policy and burn coal at the same time. I believe we can, and many of the experts know we can. And we've got to do it; we've got to sell the country on that.

In the meantime, we've also got to make sure that we're less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. The lack of an energy policy and national security concerns go hand-in-hand. And I'm very aware of that, sir.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Armory at the West Virginia Army National Guard Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, Adjutant General, and Col. William R. Raney, Director of Facilities and Engineering, West Virginia Army National Guard; and Gov. Robert E. Wise of West Virginia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to National Guard Personnel and Reservists in Charleston

February 14, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Sit down, please. Well, thank you very much, General. I appreciate those kind words, and I appreciate your warm welcome. I'm glad I came back to West Virginia. This is a State of good people, good folks, down-to-earth folks. And I'm glad to be in your midst again.

I particularly want to say thanks to General Tackett for his leadership. He's one of the finest Guard Generals in the United States of America. All you've got to do is look at his record.

Secretary Rumsfeld and I, we're looking at the General's record. It's because of your service that he looks good—[*laughter*]—because of his leadership that the record is good. So Secretary Rumsfeld and I say thank you, General, for your leadership. It's an honor for us to be here in your midst.

I appreciate the good Governor of this State's kind words. Good luck to you, Governor. He asked me today if he had any advice—if I had any advice to him about his state of the State address tonight. I said I did: Just keep it short. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank you for your hospitality, Governor.

I'm honored to be traveling from the Nation's Capital with one of the most eloquent public servants our Nation has had in a long time, somebody who not only represents the great State of West Virginia well but cares deeply about our country, its standing in the world—a guardian of what is right, protector of the grand traditions in the United States Senate. And that's, of course, the great United States Senator, Senator Robert Byrd.

You all sent somebody who is plenty capable to take the Governor's place in the Halls of Congress, somebody who will represent West Virginia well in the House of Representatives, somebody who brings a lot of class to the office. And that is Shelley Moore Capito.

And traveling with us are two Members of the United States Senate, Senators Stevens and Inouye, as well as Chairman Jerry Lewis. And I want to thank those Members for traveling with us. It just goes to show how powerful—it just goes to show how powerful Senator Byrd is. [*Laughter*] He said, ''I think you fellows may need to come over and pay a visit to West Virginia.'' All of us said, ''Yes, sir, we're on our way.'' [*Laughter*]

I also want to thank Command Master Sergeant Leonard, the senior enlisted man for the Guard and Reserves. Sergeant Leonard, thank you for coming.

Finally, I don't want to embarrass the fellow, but I'm going to. In 1968, July of '68, I was stationed in Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Audience member. Hooah! [*Laughter*]

The President. You don't sound old enough to have been there. [*Laughter*]

But today when I got off the airplane, Master Sergeant David Eshbaugh from West Virginia was there to greet me. He and I shared the same dorm in Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. And David, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for greeting me at the foot of the stairs when I got off the airplane. And thank you for your service, too.

There is an old saying that example is the true language of men. The example of this State speaks of duty and honor. The people of West Virginia have always answered the call to military service. There are an awful lot of mountaineers who have made this country proud. And the men and women of the West Virginia National Guard and Reserves continue that tradition. When it comes to readiness, as the Governor mentioned, the State's Army and international Guard units are ranked at the top of our Nation, and the West Virginia National Guard has more people than openings. It's a darn good sign that things are right in the ranks here in this important State.

I also want to recognize the employers of the National Guardsmen and reservists, especially those who are here today. Citizen soldiers have always depended on selfless employers. The generosity of the employers in West Virginia wasn't learned in MBA textbooks or in business schools. It was learned because these folks are patriotic. They care about their State, and they care about their country. You put love of country above love of profit, and you have the gratitude of our Nation.

This is the National Guard's Year of the Employer, and it's a recognition that the employers of the guardsmen and the reservists justly deserve. National Guardsmen and reservists are a part of a great and enduring American tradition. The National Guard itself is the oldest part of America's Armed Forces, with a history reaching back more than three and a half centuries.

During the American Revolution, volunteers and minutemen earned our freedom. Today, our Guard and Reserve help preserve it. The National Guard has a unique role. It serves America within our borders and beyond our borders. You assist your neighbors in times of natural disaster, in flood and storm and fire. The West Virginia National

Guard, for example, has been activated for disaster relief 15 times in the last 6 years. All Americans have learned to count on the National Guard in times of crisis to lend a strong and helping hand.

The Guard reservists also provide for the common defense. This has always been so, but it has never been more important than today. During the last few years, American active forces have been reduced in size, even as American commitments have increased. The Guard and Reserves have stepped up to the challenge.

More than ever, you find yourselves a part of overseas missions, serving with your active duty counterparts. In Bosnia and Kosovo, reservists make up 15 to 20 percent of the force. You know firsthand. Less than 2 months ago, a number of airmen from the 130th Airlift Wing came home from Operation Joint Force after flying missions from Germany to the Balkans.

During my tenure as Governor of Texas, hundreds of National Guardsmen and reservists were sent to Bosnia, and I was enormously proud of them. They did what they always do: They performed their duty, just as you performed your duty.

As threats to America change, your role will continue to change. The National Guard and reservists will be more involved in homeland security, confronting acts of terror and the disorder our enemies may try to create. I welcome the important part you will play in protecting our Nation and its people. The National Guard and Reserves are a vital part of America's national defense. And I want you to know that you not only have a former guardsman in the White House; you have a friend.

Beyond the role you play in the Armed Forces, America's citizen soldiers display values that are central to our Nation: character, courage, and sacrifice. You demonstrate the highest form of citizenship. And while you may not be full-time soldiers, you are full-time patriots.

In his book ''Citizen Soldier,'' the distinguished historian Stephen Ambrose wrote this: ''At the core, the American citizen soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong. And they didn't want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought, and they won. And we, all of us living and yet to be born, must be forever profoundly grateful.''

Professor Ambrose was writing about the soldiers of World War II. But his words apply to this audience and to the men and women around the world who proudly wear the uniform. Your uniform shows that you are living your life for others, for your fellow West Virginians in time of suffering and crisis, for your fellow Americans when our safety is threatened, and for the values and ideals our country represents when our allies and friends ask for help.

All Americans benefit from your service, and we'll always be grateful. Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. at Yeager Field at the West Virginia National Guard Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, Adjutant General of West Virginia; Gov. Robert E. Wise of West Virginia; Com. Sgt. Maj. John J. Leonard, Jr., Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; and M. Sgt. David (Mike) Eshbaugh, 167th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard.

Telephone Remarks on Former President Ronald Reagan's 90th Birthday

February 15, 2001

The President. Mrs. Reagan, hi, how are you today?

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Good, thank you. Listen, I'm honored. I'm here in the Oval Office—

Mrs. Reagan. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, thank you. And I'm getting ready to sign a birthday card to the President, my first document I'll sign as the President, which is a joint resolution from the Congress—

Mrs. Reagan. Oh, how nice.

The President. — which expresses our deep gratitude and admiration for President Reagan.

Mrs. Reagan. How nice.

The President. We honor him with his greatness and his goodness. And we honor

you, as well, for your strength of character and your service.

So I'm getting ready to sign right now—

Mrs. Reagan. Oh, this is very exciting.

The President. Well, thank you, ma'am. It's exciting for me, as well. It's an honor. And I look forward to sending the document and the pen that I use to you.

Mrs. Reagan. Oh, how nice. How nice.

The President. At any rate, it's great to talk to you.

Mrs. Reagan. Well, it's great to talk to you, too. And I can't thank you enough.

The President. Well, thanks a lot.

Mrs. Reagan. It's wonderful. Wait until I tell Ronnie.

The President. Give the President a hug and a kiss.

Mrs. Reagan. I will.

The President. Thanks a lot.

Mrs. Reagan. Thank you.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. H.J. Res. 7, approved February 15, was assigned Public Law No. 107–1.

Remarks to State Department Employees

February 15, 2001

The President. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. It's an honor to be here with you, and thank you all for that warm welcome.

As the Secretary mentioned, I'm focusing this week on America's national security. And few are more important to that mission than the people of the State Department, both foreign service and civil service. Our gathering here will be seen by some 10,000 State Department personnel in the Washington area. It will be seen by 37,000 committed men and women, including many foreign service national employees in 250 posts all over the world.

So to those in this room, those around the town, those across the world, thank you for what you do on behalf of the American people. You do so much to sustain America's position in the world and so much to foster freedom. And for that, we are grateful.

In a few moments I'll go upstairs to witness the swearing-in of 38 new foreign service officers. Our hope is that they draw strength and inspiration from your example, because you all are the finest diplomats in the world.

The flags that surround us here represent every country with whom the United States has diplomatic relations. They are a powerful reminder that you are one department of our Government that literally never sleeps. America's commitments and responsibilities span the world in every time zone. Every day you fulfill those responsibilities with quiet excellence. You solve problems before they become headlines. You resolve crises before a shot is fired. And when tragedy or disaster strikes, you are often the first person on the scene.

The other markers that surround us speak even more directly of your devotion to duty. They memorialize your colleagues who gave their lives to our country. The earliest are from the 18th century, understanding your long record of service and the long march to freedom. Others are all too recent, bitter reminders of the dangerous times we live in, like the ones marked Kenya. I know the example of these American heroes inspires you, just as seeing you all here today inspires me.

It's sometimes said that State is the one Federal department that has no domestic constituency. Well, whoever said that is wrong. Let me assure you that between me and Secretary Powell, you do have a constituency.

Speaking of the Secretary, I chose him to be our Secretary of State because he is a leader whose dignity and integrity will add to the strength and authority of America around the world. He is the absolute right man for the job.

The Secretary and I are counting on you, on your help, as we pursue a clear and consistent and decisive foreign policy, a foreign policy that serves both our vital interests and our highest ideals. Our goal is to turn this time of American influence into generations of democratic peace. This requires America to remain engaged with the world and to project our strength with purpose and with humility.

America will set its own priorities, so that they're not set by our adversaries or the crisis

of the moment. We must work closely with our democratic friends and allies in Europe and Asia. We must engage Russia and China with patience and principle and consistency. We must build our trade relations across Africa and help nations that are adding to the freedom and stability of their continent.

And closer to home, we must work with our neighbors to build a Western Hemisphere of freedom and prosperity, a hemisphere bound together by shared ideals and free trade, from the Arctic to the Andes to Cape Horn. Building this hemisphere of freedom will be a fundamental commitment of my administration. Our future cannot be separated from the future of our neighbors in Canada and Latin America. Our bonds of language and family and travel and trade are strong, and they serve us all well.

Some look south and see problems; not me. I look south and see opportunities and potential. When I travel to Quebec in April and meet with other hemispheric leaders at the Summit of the Americas, I look forward to doing this: I look forward to discussing how we can build a century of the Americas. And I'll carry this message with me tomorrow when the Secretary and I go to Mexico for my first foreign trip as the President.

These are exciting times in Mexico, times of change and times of possibility. Mexico has seen a new birth of freedom, and trade is creating hope and economic progress. The door is open to a closer partnership with the United States. But nothing about this new relationship is inevitable. Only through hard work will we get it right.

President Fox and I will get started at his ranch tomorrow. I'm looking forward to hearing his ideas on expanding trade throughout the hemisphere, on safe and orderly migration, on expanding educational opportunity for all our children, and what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

President Fox and I met as Governors, and I look forward to renewing and deepening our friendship. But I look forward even more to forging a deeper partnership between our two great nations, a partnership characterized by cooperation, creativity, and mutual respect.

I want to thank you all for welcoming me here today. I'm glad the Secretary invited me. I'm glad I responded positively. [*Laughter*] Oftentimes, those of us who hold high offices don't stop and say thank you as much as we should. So, today I'm doing just that. On behalf of the American people, thank you for the service to this great country, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:28 p.m. in the main lobby at the Harry S. Truman Building. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for State Department Foreign Service Personnel

February 15, 2001

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. I'm so honored that you invite me to your place of business. [*Laughter*] Ambassador Davis, you remind me of my mother. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Director General Grossman, as well. Family members, it is my honor to be here with you as you watch your loved ones get sworn in. And on behalf of every American, congratulations. You have just become a part of the best diplomatic corps in the world.

In the months and years ahead, Secretary Powell and I will be counting on you, and so will your fellow citizens. Throughout the decades of your career, we'll all be counting on you, even as you go about your work with little fanfare. When you succeed, most Americans, most of the time, will never hear about it. A crisis that is averted just doesn't make a headline; a problem that is solved hardly ever leads the evening news. I have confidence—I have confidence—and so does the Secretary, that you will hold up the legacy of excellence found in this building.

As you take up your first assignments overseas, I want you to remember that you will be the image of America, the face and voice of her values. You will represent the strength of America, our compassion, and our humility. This is a high calling and a difficult one, and your country appreciates your work.

It is the duty of America to support you, as well. This room honors one of America's

greatest diplomats, Ben Franklin. Franklin once wrote, ''Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.'' Today you join America's diplomatic shop. Our job is to support you as you support and sustain America's interests and ideals around the world.

So once again, congratulations to you all. God bless you, and God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the Harry S. Truman Building. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, former First Lady Barbara Bush; and Ruth A. Davis, Director, Foreign Service Institute.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

February 15, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. It's my honor to welcome Members of the United States Senate and Members of the United States House up here in the Cabinet Room to discuss the budget.

I'll be submitting a budget to the Congress in short order, and I wanted to brief the members of the budget-writing committees about our priorities, our intentions, and of course, get the feedback. I get to propose a budget, and these folks get to write the budget. And we look forward to having a good discussion on it.

Inherent in the budget, of course, is our desire to make sure we protect Social Security—I think there is unanimity around the table for that—that we set clear priorities, that we fund the priorities. In our budget, we're going to prove to the American people that we can pay down debt, fund priorities, protect Social Security, and there will be money left over, which we strongly believe ought to be passed back to the taxpayers.

I look forward to the discussion with the chairman, near-chairman, and thank you all for coming.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions. Yes, Jim.

Q. Mr. President, will you be telling the Members of Congress that you hope to hold spending to below 4 percent, the increase in spending?

The President. We're not going to give a specific number today, but we are going to argue, make the case that we can slow the rate of spending down; that our spending will be based upon priorities, the priorities I campaigned on; that we will meet the objectives that I talked about in the campaign, which is protecting Social Security, funding public education, strengthening the military, paying down debt—and we'll be paying down debt; but that we believe the right number for the tax relief package is $1.6 trillion.

Tax Cut Plan

Q. Mr. President, if the Senate were to vote today on your tax package, the vote would probably be 51–49 against you, given that there are two Republicans who have said they're not in favor of it as is. What can you say to Democrats to try to bring more of them on board in the Senate?

The President. I can say, wait until you see our budget. You'll see that it's well thought out, that we meet important priorities. And I—we've got a lot of work to do; I understand that. But this is a democracy; people have different opinions about the subjects.

The people I want to talk to, though—first, before there is any vote—is the American people. And I will; I'll take my case to the American people about why I think tax relief makes sense. I'll remind Members of both the Senate and the House that there is a lot of debt at the Federal level, but there is a lot of debt at the private level. We've got a lot of people struggling to pay off credit card consumer debt. I'll tell people that if you're a family of four making $50,000, you get an additional $2,000, so you can decide what to do with your money.

So I've got a lot of work to do, but I'm convinced that when the American people hear our plan, they will support it. I think we've got a very good chance of getting the tax package through.

Representative Cynthia McKinney

Q. Mr. President, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, who serves on the Armed Services Committee in the House, feels that she was snubbed because she didn't go with you during your defense tour this week.

What do you say to her and some of the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, especially after you met with them saying that you're into an inclusive era?

The President. We had a very good meeting here and discussed a wide range of issues. I'm glad their Members came up, sat right here at this table, and expressed their opinion. My administration certainly never attempts to leave anybody out. And to the extent that Members—any Member feels left out, I'm sorry that that's the case. But we took the Members on that trip, and there will be other trips.

U.S.S. Greenville

Q. Mr. President, were you surprised to learn that there were civilians at the helm of the submarine that sank the Japanese fishing boat?

The President. Well, I think what is going to be necessary is for Secretary Rumsfeld and the Defense Department to review all policy regarding civilian activity during military exercises. I look forward to the Defense Department review of the policies, their current policies, particularly in light of the recent tragedy that took place in Hawaii.

I want to reiterate what I said to the Prime Minister of Japan. I'm deeply sorry about the accident that took place. Our Nation is sorry that the accident happened, and we will do everything we can to help recover the bodies.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Memorandum on Expediting Federal Decisions Relating to the Siting and Operation of Power Plants in California

February 15, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Expediting Federal Decisions Relating to the Siting and Operation of Power Plants in California

Governor Davis of California has directed State and local agencies to expedite the review and licensing of new power generation facilities, and he has requested that Federal agencies do the same.

The Federal Government should make every effort to work with California and to help its citizens. I hereby direct all relevant Federal agencies to expedite Federal permit reviews and decision procedures with respect to the siting and operation of power plants in California. All actions taken must be consistent with statute and ensure continued protection of public health and the environment while preserving appropriate opportunities for public participation.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 11

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

February 12

In the morning, the President traveled to Fort Stewart, GA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Lee Armitage to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dov Zakheim to be Under Secretary of Defense and Comptroller.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thelma J. Askey to be Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth I. Juster to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Faryar Shirzad to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore William Kassinger to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott Whitaker to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation.

The President announced his intention to designate Laura S. Unger as Acting Chairwoman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

February 13

In the morning, the President traveled to Norfolk, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gov. Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael P. Jackson to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate John M. Duncan to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

February 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, WV, where he visited the West Virginia National Guard's emergency operations center to watch a simulated emergency flood response exercise. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Ivan Grdesic of Croatia, Emmanuel Touaboy of the Central African Republic, Juan Jose Bremer Martino of the United Mexican States, Milan St. Protic of Yugoslavia, Kanat Saudabayev of Kazakhstan, Meret Orazov of Turkmenistan, and Carlos Alzamora Traverso of Peru.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry D. Thompson to be Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore B. Olson to be Solicitor General of the United States.

The White House announced that the President will have a working visit with President Andres Pastrana of Colombia at the White House on February 27.

February 15

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. James to be Assistant Attorney General overseeing the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel J. Bryant to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will have a working visit with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea at the White House on March 7.

February 16

In the morning, the President traveled to San Cristobal, Mexico, where he participated in a joint press conference with President Vicente Fox of Mexico. In the evening, he traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Howard Taft IV to be Legal Advisor to the Secretary of State.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 13

Bill Frist,
of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Submitted February 15

Sean O'Keefe,
of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, vice Sylvia M. Mathews.

Paul D. Wolfowitz,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, vice Rudy F. de Leon.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 14

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Pastrana of Colombia

Released February 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Republic of Korea President To Visit Washington

Announcement on signing the joint resolution recognizing Ronald Reagan's 90th birthday

Released February 16

Remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer in a question and answer session with the travel pool on U.S. airstrikes on Iraq

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Mexican Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Berruga on the President's meeting with President Vicente Fox of Mexico

Acts Approved by the President

Approved February 15

H.J. Res. 7 / Public Law 107–1
Recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan

The President's News Conference With President Vicente Fox in San Cristobal, Mexico

February 16, 2001

President Fox. Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Mr. President. This morning I have held very productive and cordial talks with the President of the United States, Mr. George W. Bush. We have agreed on a set of principles and values to provide our relationship as neighbors with more constructive dynamics of more intense cooperation, in order to unfold all the potential of our bilateral relations.

The fact that the President—George Bush's first foreign visit has our country as its destination is a clear message of the interest his administration places on strengthening links with Mexico. At the same time, it is quite a distinction.

This starting point is very encouraging, so that both Mexicans and Americans, together, to inaugurate an era of shared prosperity together. I also acknowledge President Bush's demonstration of friendship by coming to Guanajuato, the cradle of Mexico's independence. And I am particularly grateful for his greeting my mother, Dona Mercedes, as well as for his visit to my house—his house—here in San Cristobal.

Let me tell you, Mr. President, that you will always be welcome in this, your home—or, in your language, President, you know that we consider you a friend of Mexico, a friend of Mexican people, and a friend of mine.

The agreements we have reached today are embodied in the document that we have, and we ratified our commitment to values of democracy and the promotion of human rights, as well as the aim of the fruits of development reach all sectors of our society.

The global and hemispheric agenda, also an important part of our talks, as is fitting in a mature dialog between two prominent members of the international community. We have identified a renewed will for cooperation to design, together with our Canadian partners, a region guided by the search for shared prosperity.

We, the Presidents of Mexico and the United States, have the favorable circumstance of beginning our respective mandates simultaneously. This enables us to project our common objectives with a long-term vision and to undertake negotiations in areas that require a decisive and systematic impetus from the two governments.

Mr. President Bush, the spirit in which we have conducted this first working meeting marks the beginning of a novel stage in our bilateral relations. I am certain that we will be able to take advantage of the historic opportunity we have today to set out on the way to a century of shared prosperity. We will face this challenge on the basis of mutual trust, with a fresh and creative vision to advance in the topics of our bilateral agenda.

Once again, welcome, and this is your home.

President Bush. *Muchas gracias, amigo, el Presidente de Mexico. Su recepcion tan calida refleja el grande amistad entre nuestros pueblos. Me hace sentir que estoy entre familia.* Thank you very much.

It's a great honor to come to Mexico as this important nation enjoys a new birth of freedom, signaled by President Fox's election. Our meetings today have been a really good opportunity to renew our personal friendship and the friendship between Mexico and the United States.

Mexico is the first foreign country I have visited as President, and I intended it to be that way. Our nations are bound together by ties of history, family, values, commerce, and culture. Today, these ties give us an unprecedented opportunity. We have a chance to build a partnership that will improve the lives of citizens in both countries.

I came here today to seek President Fox's views on how we can go about building on our partnership. We enjoyed a warm and substantive and frank dialog on the many issues that shape the relationship between America and Mexico.

We talked about strengthening our trade relationship, which offers hope and opportunity on both sides of our border. We talked about how our two nations can work together to meet our current and future energy needs. We exchanged ideas about safe and orderly migration, a policy that respects individuals on both sides of the border. We talked about expanding educational opportunities. We talked about what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

We also talked about what we can do together to extend the benefits of freedom and prosperity throughout the entire hemisphere. I told President Fox that building a hemisphere of freedom will be a fundamental commitment of my administration. We both look forward to discussing these ideas with other hemispheric leaders in Quebec in April at the Summit of the Americas.

We are welcoming a new day in the relationship between America and Mexico. Each nation has a new President and a new perspective. Geography has made us neighbors. Cooperation and respect will make us partners. And the promise of the partnership was renewed and reinvigorated today.

Thank you very much.

President Fox. If I understood correctly, we're going to take questions in Spanish for the Mexican press, and some questions in English for the American press. So we'll go first to the women first, and here we'll take the Spanish question first.

Immigration Policy/Situation in Iraq

Q. I have two questions, one for the President of Mexico. We've spoken about new agreements and a new path on migration issues. What has been the advancements on the two topics as you—your campaign to open the border for the free transit of people and to have the free trade agreement in the same way that the European community has done it?

You talked to President Bush about the amnesty, about the illegal aliens in the United States. I have a question for President Bush. What is the message that you want to send right now? What does the United States want to send to the world as a message with the new bombing of Iraq? And above all, why, Mr. Bush, at this point, when you are establishing a dialog with the President of Mexico—why? Is this a beginning of a new war?

President Fox. Actually, we discussed amply the migration issues that we have. But this is not the meeting in which decisions or details are going to be reached, because they do not belong in the power of—the executive power, as such, because they have to have the participation of other groups.

We have spoken on migration from the viewpoint of our countrymen that are in the United States, and we have spoken about the possibilities of working on agreements of temporary legal work and employment. We have spoken on the firm idea that we have of fighting violence against immigrants and to work based on the law and to see how the "coyotes" and all the people that will be taking these people—or the *polleros* taking our illegal workers into U.S. territory.

We have spoken of a long-term vision and approach and constructive approach on this topic. And perhaps here, the most important thing will be presented by President Bush later on. But certainly there is a new attitude; there is a new way of approaching things, much more positive approach to things on this issue of migration.

The conclusion has been to create a commission at the highest level, as it was read in the Guanajuato Proposal, to begin and to discuss and to advance on this topic on very concrete steps. I believe this is a great advancement on what we had before.

President Bush. In answer to part B of your question, the United States is engaged in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. We will remain so. Since 1991, our country has been enforcing what's called a no-fly zone. A routine mission was conducted to enforce the no-fly zone, and it is a mission about which

I was informed and I authorized. But I repeat, it is a routine mission, and we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone until the world is told otherwise.

Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Sir, as you say, this is the first military action you've taken as President of the United States. I'm wondering whether it signals a hardening of the U.S. position towards Iraq. And specifically, is it your goal to drive Saddam Hussein from power? And secondly, are you putting Saddam on notice today that American military action will be more frequent or more forceful than it was before you became President?

President Bush. Mr. Fournier, Saddam Hussein has got to understand that we expect him to conform to the agreement that he signed after Desert Storm. We will enforce the no-fly zone, both south and north. Our intention is to make sure that the world is as peaceful as possible. And we're going to watch very carefully as to whether or not he develops weapons of mass destruction, and if we catch him doing so, we'll take the appropriate action.

President Fox/Drug Certification

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, welcome to Mexico. We will be waiting for you in Cancun. The question is on globalization; the question, support to Mexico. And another question, certification in Mexico, will it continue? Will it disappear forever? Would you trust our friend, Fox?

President Bush. The question is on drug certification and really about our relations with President Fox. I trust your President. He's the kind of man you can look in the eye and know he's shooting straight with you. I appreciate the fact that he was a one-time Governor. I've got kind of partiality to Governors.

We need to work together on the drug issue. One of the reasons why drugs are shipped—the main reason why drugs are shipped through Mexico to the United States is because United States citizens use drugs. And our Nation must do a better job of educating our citizenry about the dangers and evils of drug use.

Secondly, I believe there is a movement in the country to review all the certification process. I'm certainly going to take the message back to the Members of Congress that I firmly believe that President Fox will do everything in his power to root out the drug lords and to halt drug trafficking as best as he possibly can.

As you know, he made some very bold and courageous statements about extradition. He showed unique leadership on that issue. It certainly caught my attention. And I believe when the American people and the Members of Congress hear this bold action that he's willing to take, they will understand what I know, that he is committed to battling the drug trade.

Jim—Steve, [Steve Holland, Reuters] sorry. You are? [*Laughter*] We've got you out of order—I know you're Steve. *Stefan, hombre muy bueno.*

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Sir, now that Republicans have told you there are not enough votes for your tax plan in the Senate, how do you proceed from here? And do you consider cutting the size of it?

President Bush. His question was about our tax plan. I don't agree with that assessment, that there are not enough votes in the Senate. I believe when it's all said and done, we're going to get a tax bill out of the House and the Senate that will be at the level I think it ought to be. I know there is a lot of speculation about Members, but it's early—it's early in the process.

Washington, Mr. President, has got a unique way of asking Presidents to negotiate with themselves. And that's not what is going to happen in this administration. We'll get a tax package because it's the right thing for the American people.

Ours, Mr. President, is getting ready to submit a budget that will set priorities: Education will be a priority; health care for our citizens will be a priority; setting aside Social Security—all the payroll taxes for Social Security will be a priority. We've still got money left over, and I want to pass some of it back to the people who pay the bills, in order to make sure our economy does not drag.

And the President and I talked about economic growth. He knows exactly what I know, that if our economy were to slow significantly, it would affect our abilities to see the benefits of free trade; it would affect the Mexican economy.

And so I want to assure our friends from Mexico that we will put fiscal and monetary—I have nothing to do with monetary policy, of course—but fiscal policy in place that will affect economic growth, because it is beneficial not only for our people but for the Mexican people.

Look, to answer your question directly, we are going to get a good tax cut through, and I think it is going to be the size I'm suggesting.

Situation in Iraq

Q. To President Fox, since you two are working together on several actions that you want to undertake together in a short future and also in the long-term future, do you support the military actions like the ones like the United States is doing, bombing Iraq? Thank you.

President Fox. I do not have a position or a statement on that topic, specifically because this will be done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the future.

It's your turn.

President Bush. Short answer, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

Campbell Brown [NBC News].

President's Visit to Mexico

Q. Much has been made of you choosing Mexico as your first foreign trip. But it is also causing consternation among the European allies and Canada that you are going to put a greater emphasis here at the expense of those countries. What do you say to that, please?

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that question. First, I met with Prime Minister Chretien and assured him that a vision of—a foreign policy that understands good policy starts in the neighborhood is a vision that goes both north and south.

I would hope that nations around the world, and leaders, would understand the logic behind saying that good foreign policy, good relations must be firm on our borders. I can't think of anything more logical and more commonsensical than to understand our hemisphere, which can be and will be bound by freedom and free markets and free trade is in the interests of our people.

We'll have a foreign policy as one that engages the world. I've rejected isolationism, as you know, and protectionism. Ours is going to be an active foreign policy. It's going to be consistent and firm, one that starts, though, by building friendships, in this case, renewing a friendship. And it should send a strong signal to all nations who watch that if you're our friend, we'll be your friend. And Mexico is our friend and will remain our friend.

Situation in Iraq and President's Visit

Q. Thank you very much, Presidents. A question for President Fox: Do you think that it is not an improper gesture in this for a visit that the recent bombing of Iraq is one that is attracting the attention, and would put a shade or a shadow on this meeting here in Guanajuato?

President Fox. I see no reason why we should connect one event with the other one. Here we are in the process of building up and constructing a strategy to foster the economic and human development of a complete region that is formed by three countries that have been associated under a free trade agreement, and the direct relationship between the United States and Mexico that has proven already that has made advancements, very constructively.

The levels of trade that we have had are really fantastic, and they are the envy of many people—many people have never thought that in the year of 2001 with a trade balance of $250 billion. This has meant development for the United States. It has meant employment in the United States. It has meant development and employment in Mexico, as well.

This is what has allowed us to reduce substantially the level of poverty in Mexico. In the last 4 years, more than 4 million poor people have gone beyond extreme poverty levels. This is what we have invested on, to take these people above this level. And all the time that we have invested, discussing these strategic points, allow us to see that

there is a possibility of going ahead to get more benefits from good relationships and to be true partners toward prosperity and to be true friends and to be true neighbors.

And this purpose is something that has been clearly stated today, and we're very pleased with it. And we are full of confidence that we can see the future with a more optimistic approach as of today's meeting.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Apologies to you, Presidente Fox, for not asking a question about the U.S. and Mexico. But President Bush, if I may, another question about Iraq. As we understand it, this was in response to violations that have happened over several weeks, perhaps several months. What prompted you to take this decision at this time?

President Bush. The commanders on the ground, rightly, make the decision as to how to enforce the no-fly zone. I want to assure those who don't understand U.S. policy that this is a routine mission. Some of the missions require the Commander in Chief to be informed. This was such a mission. It is not the first time it has happened, regrettably so.

We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones. The no-fly zones are enforced on a daily basis. It is a part of a strategy, and until that strategy is changed, if it is changed at all, we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone.

But anyway, the decision is made on the ground, Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Energy Policy

Q. I would like to ask you whether there was a petition from the U.S. Government as far as oil is concerned, or any requests for support on electricity and oil?

President Fox. No, not specifically. We spoke about the California problems, by itself, and, yes, we are speaking about the possibility of creating an energy policy that will be common to all the northern part of the country and into Canada, the United States, and Mexico and part of Central America, to try to create a synergy or a synergism so that each one of the countries would benefit from all these policies, because there is energy that we need to import in Mexico that we do not have enough, and at this moment we know in some part of the U.S. territory, this is happening, too. And the same could happen to the Central American countries.

Here, what is important is to have a common policy whereby no one takes advantage of the other. But the other way around it, and it's a win-win situation for everyone, that everyone would be benefited from the organization of an energy plan for the benefit of all the continent of, in this case, the northern part of the Americas.

We also spoke about water problems at the border zones. These are common problems that we have, and if we administer and manage these common problems in a timely manner, in a positive and optimistic way, we could mutually be benefited in the water problems that we have at the border. And this is something that obviously we discussed here.

I believe this is the foundation that we laid down for our project today. And we are trying with good will to remove all the obstacles and to take advantage of all the opportunities that we have. And certainly, today we saw more opportunities than obstacles. And therefore, I do ratify that this makes us see the near future with much more optimism than before.

Q. Mr. President, when you met with President Fox in August in Dallas, you talked about the possibility of finding ways to share energy resources. With the current climate in America—energy prices high, supplies low—can you tell me how you pushed that issue today——

President Bush. Yes, I appreciate that.

Q. ——and what's in progress——

President Bush. The question was about energy policy. First of all, good energy policy is one that encompasses not only Mexico but Canada. We must think about energy shortages and energy demands in regards to our hemisphere.

Secondly, the President and I did discuss how best to share resources to the benefit of both countries. We talked about the possibility of exploration in Canada and the United States and Mexico. A cubic foot of gas imported into Mexico is one, obviously, less able to burn in the United States. It is a hemispheric issue, and it needs to be elevated to the Presidential level.

We did talk about power, the generation of power; the possibility as to whether or not in Baja, for example, more power could be added to the western grid. It's an obvious opportunity, if possible. Now, there are some bottlenecks, and one of the things we need to do is address those bottlenecks, one of which is the ability to transmit power from south to north.

Now, there is pipeline availability. And we're going to need to—so when we talk about an energy policy at home, it is also in the context of Mexico and Canada. This is an issue where we need to continue the dialog. It's an issue that is going to affect the people of Mexico and the people of the United States if we don't recognize that we need more supply.

We can conserve better. There's no question about it. But demand is far outstripping supply, which is creating a real problem for the working people of our respective countries. And so this subject, rightly so, took quite a bit of time in our meeting and is going to take more time down the road.

We have a great opportunity to come together and have a strategy that honors Mexico and honors its sovereignty and, at the same time, recognizes that people are what matters most. And we've got to make sure our people have got the energy necessary to be able to find jobs and find work.

President Fox. We are finished.

Thank you very much for coming to the press conference. Good luck, and thank you.

President Bush. They just want to get in the picture.

NOTE: The President's first news conference began at 2:37 p.m. at Rancho San Cristobal. President Fox and the Mexican journalists spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Joint Statement by President George Bush and President Vicente Fox Towards a Partnership for Prosperity: the Guanajuato Proposal

February 16, 2001

We met today at Rancho San Cristobal, in Guanajuato, in a dialogue of friends and neighbors to agree on important goals and principles that will govern relations between our two countries.

We are united, as never before, by values and interests that cover the entire span of our rich and broad relationship. That relationship is grounded in our respect for democracy and human rights, not just for ourselves but for all people in every nation. We share a fundamental commitment to free trade as an engine of economic growth and development that leaves nobody behind. And, we are committed to ensuring the rule of law, the framework on which our people's freedom and prosperity depends. This common outlook is the basis for a full, mature, and equitable partnership for prosperity.

Among our highest priorities is unfettering the economic potential of every citizen, so each may contribute fully to narrowing the economic gaps between and within our societies. We acknowledge the dynamism achieved through NAFTA, which has ushered in dramatic increases in trade that have transformed our economic relationship. After consultation with our Canadian partners, we will strive to consolidate a North American economic community whose benefits reach the lesser-developed areas of the region and extend to the most vulnerable social groups in our countries. To this end, we support policies that result in sound fiscal accounts, low inflation, and strong financial systems.

Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We believe that Mexico should make the most of the skills and productivity of their workers at home, and we agree there

should be an orderly framework for migration which ensures humane treatment, legal security, and dignified labor conditions. For this purpose, we are instructing our Governments to engage, at the earliest opportunity, in formal high-level negotiations aimed at achieving short and long-term agreements that will allow us to constructively address migration and labor issues between our two countries. This effort will be chaired by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General of the U.S. and the Secretary of Foreign Relations and the Secretary of the Interior of Mexico.

We attach the utmost importance to issues affecting the quality of life along our common border. We shall work for the economic and social development of our border communities, fight violence and strive to create a safe and orderly environment. We will form a new high-level working group under the auspices of the Binational Commission to identify specific steps each country can take to improve the efficiency of border operations. We will begin immediate discussions to implement the NAFTA panel decision on trucking.

Drug trafficking, drug abuse, and organized crime are major threats to the well-being of our societies. To combat this threat, we must strengthen our respective law enforcement strategies and institutions, as well as develop closer and more trusting bilateral and multilateral cooperation. We want to reduce the demand for drugs and eliminate narcotrafficking organizations. To this end, we will undertake immediate steps to review law enforcement policies and coordination efforts in accordance with each country's national jurisdiction. We will consult with our NAFTA partner Canada regarding development of a North American approach to the important issue of energy resources. Building on the strength of our respective cultures, we will seek to expand our partnership broadly in ways that help secure a better future for our people. Education is a key to that future; we will increase exchanges and internships that help develop human capital and promote respect for each other's rich cultural heritage. We will seek new cooperation in science, technology, and the environment, on which much of our economic progress and our people's well-being will depend. Beyond the bilateral agenda, our two Governments are also ready to discuss regional and hemispheric issues important to both our nations. The Summit of the Americas, to be held in April in Quebec City, will provide a valuable forum in which the hemisphere's democracies can address and advance shared goals of strengthening democratic institutions and stimulating economic prosperity through free trade and education. We reaffirm our support for the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas as soon as possible.

We believe our two nations can now build an authentic partnership for prosperity, based on shared democratic values and open dialogue that bring great benefits to our people. We want to move beyond the limitations of the past and boldly seize the unprecedented opportunity before us. In order to achieve these goals and follow up on the commitments we made today, we have agreed to meet frequently, as necessary, over the course of our respective terms of office. We will do so as friends, in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
February 17, 2001

Good morning. As you listen to me today, I'm in Texas after a visit to Mexico, where I had a very good meeting with President Vicente Fox. Members of Congress this holiday weekend are in their States and districts. Soon, we'll all head back to Washington with a lot of work ahead of us.

The work begins with a responsible budget. In Washington, people deal with trillions of dollars and sometimes can forget that every bit of it is someone's earnings. My job is to make sure no one forgets. We must be good stewards of your tax dollars.

My budget will fund our priorities from education to defense to protecting Social Security and Medicare. It will pay down our national debt. And when we have done all

that, we will still have some money left over. I strongly believe we should return that money, the leftover money, to you, the American people, in the form of tax relief. It is, after all, your money.

My tax relief plan is a fair one, lowering the rate for all taxpayers. The typical family of four with two children will get $1,600 in tax relief. And the greatest benefits, the largest percentage reductions, will go to those who need them most. My plan is pro-growth. It gives our economy a jump-start by leaving more money in the hands of those who have earned it.

My proposal to cut income taxes across the board is now in the hands of Congress. Amid growing concern over the economy and high energy costs, we're seeing a good deal of bipartisan agreement that now is the time to reduce the tax burden and slow the growth of Government spending. In 10 days I'll be taking this case in person to a joint session of Congress.

In addition to debt reduction and tax relief, we have some other important priorities, including a bold proposal to reform American education. Money isn't the whole answer. High standards and accountability matter most. But if we're serious about reforms, like early reading and teacher training, testing on reading and math in every school, the Federal budget must reflect these commitments.

School districts don't need more vague mandates from Washington. They do need clear goals and real support. So my budget for the Department of Education will have a higher percentage increase than any other Federal department. We'll pay for new testing programs and new reading and intervention programs and new choices for parents with children in failing schools. We will spend more on our public schools, but we're going to expect more in return, and this will improve the lives of countless children.

Not long ago, agreement on debt reduction, tax relief, and education reform seemed impossible. But today, people in both parties are impatient with the status quo—with high debt, high tax bills, high energy bills, and falling education standards. This is our chance to act, and we cannot let it pass.

If you happen to see your Congressman or Senator home in your neighborhood this holiday weekend, I hope you'll take time to thank him for working with me to reform public schools and to give tax relief to everyone who pays taxes.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:50 p.m. on February 15 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Executive Order 13201—Notification of Employee Rights Concerning Payment of Union Dues or Fees

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*, and in order to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Government contracts, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. (a) This order is designed to promote economy and efficiency in Government procurement. When workers are better informed of their rights, including their rights under the Federal labor laws, their productivity is enhanced. The availability of such a workforce from which the United States may draw facilitates the efficient and economical completion of its procurement contracts.

(b) The Secretary of Labor (Secretary) shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this order. The Secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations and issue such orders as are deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve the purposes of this order.

Sec. 2. (a) Except in contracts exempted in accordance with section 3 of this order, all Government contracting departments and agencies shall, to the extent consistent with law, include the following provisions in every Government contract, other than collective bargaining agreements as defined in 5 U.S.C.

7103(a)(8) and purchases under the "Simplified Acquisition Threshold" as defined in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

"1. During the term of this contract, the contractor agrees to post a notice, of such size and in such form as the Secretary of Labor shall prescribe, in conspicuous places in and about its plants and offices, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. The notice shall include the following information (except that the last sentence shall not be included in notices posted in the plants or offices of carriers subject to the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151–188)):

"NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

Under Federal law, employees cannot be required to join a union or maintain membership in a union in order to retain their jobs. Under certain conditions, the law permits a union and an employer to enter into a union-security agreement requiring employees to pay uniform periodic dues and initiation fees. However, employees who are not union members can object to the use of their payments for certain purposes and can only be required to pay their share of union costs relating to collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustment.

"If you do not want to pay that portion of dues or fees used to support activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration, or grievance adjustment, you are entitled to an appropriate reduction in your payment. If you believe that you have been required to pay dues or fees used in part to support activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration, or grievance adjustment, you may be entitled to a refund and to an appropriate reduction in future payments.

"For further information concerning your rights, you may wish to contact the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) either at one of its Regional offices or at the following address:

National Labor Relations Board
Division of Information
1099 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20570

"To locate the nearest NLRB office, see NLRB's website at www.nlrb.gov."

"2. The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, and related rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor.

"3. In the event that the contractor does not comply with any of the requirements set forth in paragraphs (1) or (2) above, this contract may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part, and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in or adopted pursuant to Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001. Such other sanctions or remedies may be imposed as are provided in Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as are otherwise provided by law.

"4. The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) herein in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in connection with this contract unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including the imposition of sanctions for non compliance: Provided, however, that if the contractor becomes involved in litigation with a subcontractor or vendor, or is threatened with such involvement, as a result of such direction, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States."

(b) Whenever, through Acts of Congress or through clarification of existing law by the courts or otherwise, it appears that contractual provisions other than, or in addition to, those set out in subsection (a) of this section are needed to inform employees fully and accurately of their rights with respect to union dues, union-security agreements, or the like, the Secretary shall promptly issue such rules, regulations, or orders as are needed to cause the substitution or addition of

appropriate contractual provisions in Government contracts thereafter entered into.

Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary may, if the Secretary finds that special circumstances require an exemption in order to serve the national interest, exempt a contracting department or agency from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of section 2 of this order with respect to a particular contract, subcontract, or purchase order.

(b) The Secretary may, by rule, regulation, or order, exempt from the provisions of section 2 of this order certain classes of contracts to the extent that they involve (i) work outside the United States and do not involve the recruitment or employment of workers within the United States; (ii) work in jurisdictions where State law forbids enforcement of union-security agreements; (iii) work at sites where the notice to employees described in section 2(a) of this order would be unnecessary because the employees are not represented by a union; (iv) numbers of workers below appropriate thresholds set by the Secretary; or (v) subcontracts below an appropriate tier set by the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary may provide, by rule, regulation, or order, for the exemption of facilities of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor that are in all respects separate and distinct from activities related to the performance of the contract: Provided, that such exemption will not interfere with or impede the effectuation of the purposes of this order: And provided further, that in the absence of such an exemption all facilities shall be covered by the provisions of this order.

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary may investigate any Government contractor, subcontractor, or vendor to determine whether the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order have been violated. Such investigations shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall receive and investigate complaints by employees of a Government contractor, subcontractor, or vendor where such complaints allege a failure to perform or a violation of the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. (a) The Secretary, or any agency or officer in the executive branch of the Government designated by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary, may hold such hearings, public or private, regarding compliance with this order as the Secretary may deem advisable.

(b) The Secretary may hold hearings, or cause hearings to be held, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section prior to imposing, ordering, or recommending the imposition of sanctions under this order. Neither an order for debarment of any contractor from further Government contracts under section 6(b) of this order nor the inclusion of a contractor on a published list of noncomplying contractors under section 6(c) of this order shall be carried out without affording the contractor an opportunity for a hearing.

Sec. 6. In accordance with such rules, regulations, or orders as the Secretary may issue or adopt, the Secretary may:

(a) after consulting with the contracting department or agency, direct that department or agency to cancel, terminate, suspend, or cause to be cancelled, terminated, or suspended, any contract, or any portion or portions thereof, for failure of the contractor to comply with the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order; contracts may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended absolutely, or continuance of contracts may be conditioned upon future compliance: Provided, that before issuing a directive under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide the head of the contracting department or agency an opportunity to offer written objections to the issuance of such a directive, which objections shall include a complete statement of reasons for the objections, among which reasons shall be a finding that completion of the contract is essential to the agency's mission: And provided further, that no directive shall be issued by the Secretary under this subsection so long as the head of the contracting department or agency continues personally to object to the issuance of such directive;

(b) after consulting with each affected contracting department or agency, provide that one or more contracting departments or agencies shall refrain from entering into further contracts, or extensions or other modifications of existing contracts, with any noncomplying contractor, until such contractor

has satisfied the Secretary that such con tractor has complied with and will carry out the provisions of this order: Provided, that before issuing a directive under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide the head of each contracting department or agency an opportunity to offer written objections to the issuance of such a directive, which objections shall include a complete statement of reasons for the objections, among which reasons shall be a finding that further contracts or extensions or other modifications of existing contracts with the noncomplying contractor are essential to the agency's mission: And provided further, that no directive shall be issued by the Secretary under this subsection so long as the head of a contracting department or agency continues personally to object to the issuance of such directive; and

(c) publish, or cause to be published, the names of contractors that have, in the judgment of the Secretary, failed to comply with the provisions of this order or of related rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary.

Sec. 7. Whenever the Secretary invokes section 6(a) or 6(b) of this order, the contracting department or agency shall report the results of the action it has taken to the Secretary within such time as the Secretary shall specify.

Sec. 8. Each contracting department and agency shall cooperate with the Secretary and provide such information and assistance as the Secretary may require in the performance of the Secretary's functions under this order.

Sec. 9. The Secretary may delegate any function or duty of the Secretary under this order to any officer in the Department of Labor or to any other officer in the executive branch of the Government, with the consent of the head of the department or agency in which that officer serves.

Sec. 10. The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council) shall take whatever action is required to implement in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) the provisions of this order and of any related rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary that were issued to implement this Executive Order. The FAR Council shall amend the FAR to require each solicitation of offers for a contract to include a provision that implements section 2 of this order.

Sec. 11. As it relates to notification of employee rights concerning payment of union dues or fees, Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, which, among other things, revoked Executive Order 12800 of April 13, 1992, is revoked.

Sec. 12. The heads of executive departments and agencies shall revoke expeditiously any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, as it relates to notification of employee rights concerning payment of union dues or fees, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 13. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, nor does it, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any right, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 14. The provisions of this order shall apply to contracts resulting from solicitations issued on or after the effective date of this order.

Sec. 15. This order shall become effective 60 days after the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Executive Order 13202—Preservation of Open Competition and Government Neutrality Towards Government Contractors' Labor Relations on Federal and Federally Funded Construction Projects

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal

Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*, and in order to (1) promote and ensure open competition on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (2) maintain Government neutrality towards Government contractors' labor relations on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (3) reduce construction costs to the Federal Government and to the taxpayers; (4) expand job opportunities, especially for small and disadvantaged businesses; and (5) prevent discrimination against Government contractors or their employees based upon labor affiliation or lack thereof; thereby promoting the economical, nondiscriminatory, and efficient administration and completion of Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. To the extent permitted by law, any executive agency awarding any construction contract after the date of this order, or obligating funds pursuant to such a contract, shall ensure that neither the awarding Government authority nor any construction manager acting on behalf of the Government shall, in its bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents:

(a) Require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other related construction project(s); or

(b) Otherwise discriminate against bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors for becoming or refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise to adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other related construction project(s).

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit contractors or subcontractors from voluntarily entering into agreements described in subsection (a).

Sec. 2. Contracts awarded before the date of this order, and subcontracts awarded pursuant to such contracts, whenever awarded, shall not be governed by this order.

Sec. 3. To the extent permitted by law, any executive agency issuing grants, providing financial assistance, or entering into cooperative agreements for construction projects, shall ensure that neither the bid specifications, project agreements, nor other controlling documents for construction contracts awarded after the date of this order by recipients of grants or financial assistance or by parties to cooperative agreements, nor those of any construction manager acting on their behalf, shall contain any of the requirements or prohibitions set forth in section 1(a) or (b) of this order.

Sec. 4. In the event that an awarding authority, a recipient of grants or financial assistance, a party to a cooperative agreement, or a construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing, performs in a manner contrary to the provisions of sections 1 or 3 of this order, the executive agency awarding the contract, grant, or assistance shall take such action, consistent with law and regulation, as the agency determines may be appropriate.

Sec. 5. (a) The head of an executive agency may exempt a particular project, contract, subcontract, grant, or cooperative agreement from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this order, if the agency head finds that special circumstances require an exemption in order to avert an imminent threat to public health or safety or to serve the national security.

(b) A finding of "special circumstances" under section 5(a) may not be based on the possibility or presence of a labor dispute concerning the use of contractors or subcontractors who are nonsignatories to, or otherwise do not adhere to, agreements with one or more labor organizations, or concerning employees on the project who are not members of or affiliated with a labor organization.

Sec. 6. (a) The term "construction contract" as used in this order means any contract for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, or repair of buildings, highways, or other improvements to real property.

(b) The term "executive agency" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in 5 U.S.C. 105, excluding the General Accounting Office.

(c) The term "labor organization" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in 42 U.S.C. 2000e(d).

Sec. 7. With respect to Federal contracts, within 60 days of the issuance of this order, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council

shall take whatever action is required to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation in order to implement the provisions of this order.

Sec. 8. As it relates to project agreements, Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, which, among other things, revoked Executive Order 12818 of October 23, 1992, is revoked.

Sec. 9. The Presidential Memorandum of June 5, 1997, entitled "Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects" (the "Memorandum"), is also revoked.

Sec. 10. The heads of executive departments and agencies shall revoke expeditiously any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing the Memorandum or Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, as it relates to project agreements, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 11. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, nor does it, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any right, whether substantive or procedural, enforce able by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Executive Order 13203—Revocation of Executive Order and Presidential Memorandum Concerning Labor-Management Partnerships

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, as amended by Executive Orders 12983 and 13156, which established the National Partnership Council and requires Federal agencies to form labor-management partnerships for management purposes, is revoked. Among other things, therefore, the National Partnership Council is immediately dissolved.

Sec. 2. The Presidential Memorandum of October 28, 1999, entitled "Reaffirmation of Executive Order 12871—Labor-Management Partnerships" (the "Memorandum"), which reaffirms and expands upon the requirements of Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, is also revoked.

Sec. 3. The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and heads of executive agencies shall promptly move to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, or the Memorandum, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this order shall abrogate any collective bargaining agreements in effect on the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Executive Order 13204—Revocation of Executive Order on Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Certain Contracts

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994, which requires, with respect to contracts for public buildings, that successive contractors offer a right of first refusal of employment to employees of the prior contractor, is revoked.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Labor (Secretary), the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, and heads of executive agencies shall promptly move to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall terminate, effective today, any investigations or other compliance actions based on Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National Memorial Center Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 19, 2001

Thank you, Senator, for your kind words. Thank you all very much. Thank you very much. Mr. Governor, thank you very much. The picture was a better picture. [*Laughter*]

Laura and I are honored to be here. I want to thank the choirs for their beautiful music. I want to thank the congressional delegation for your hospitality. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. It's good to see you again, sir.

I appreciate so very much the tour of the Memorial Center we just took. It is a really well-done place. It's powerful. Bob Johnson, you and your board deserve a lot of credit.

I particularly want to thank our tour guides, Jeannine Gist and Richard Williams and Major Ed Hill. A lot of Americans are going to come and be better people for having walked through this Center.

I want to thank the families of the victims, the survivors, and the fine citizens of the great State of Oklahoma for your welcome.

One of the things that we remember of that day in 1995 is the conduct of the leaders of Oklahoma—Oklahoma City and of your State, particularly your Governor and his great wife, Cathy. You had just taken office, Frank, and yet, in the aftermath of the awful moment you showed such character and strength. America came to admire that, and the people of Oklahoma will never forget it.

Americans found a lot to admire in Oklahoma during those days. You suffered so much, and you responded with courage. Your loss was great, and your pain was deep, but far greater and deeper was your care for one another. That is what lasts, and that's what brings us back to this place on this day.

Memorials do not take away the pain. They cannot fill the emptiness. But they can make a place in time and tell the value of what was lost. The debris is gone, and the building is no more. Now, this is a place of peace and remembrance and life.

A mother who lost her daughter here will be working in the new museum. She said, "When I come down here to the memorial I've always felt a very good feeling. This is where she was happy, and this is where she was last. The time for mourning may pass, but the time for remembering never does."

Here, we remember one act of malice. The Gates of Time record the very moment of it. Yet, we also remember many acts of human kindness and heroism and love. Some were recorded, some not. But by 9:03 on that morning, a new and hopeful story was already being written. The truth of Oklahoma City is the courage and comfort you found in one another. It began with the rescue; it continues with this memorial; it is recorded in this museum.

Together, you endured. You chose to live out the words of Saint Paul, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Because of this spirit, your memorial belongs to all America. People from all over our country come here every day and will always come to look and remember and say a prayer. Oklahoma City will always be one of those places in our national memory where the worst and the best both came to pass.

The presence of evil always reminds us of the need for vigilance. All of us have an obligation to confront evil wherever and whenever it manifests itself. We must enforce laws and reject hatred and bigotry, and we have a duty to watch for warning signs.

Last year the United States Secret Service conducted a study of targeted violence in our Nation's schools. They found that most of the time, the person who planned the violence told someone before the attack. In almost every case, the individual displayed some behavior that caused others to be concerned. We all have a duty to watch for and report troubling signs.

The evil that destroys and the good that saves are equally real. Both can be taught. Both can be learned. All order in our society begins in the souls of citizens. Character is often shaped or bent early in life. In every family and in every school, we must teach our children to know and choose the good, to teach values that defeat violence, to teach good kids—kids to respect one another, to do unto others, the meaning of love.

Our first response to evil must be justice; yet a part of us is never satisfied by justice alone. We must search for more—for understanding and healing beyond punishment. Faith tells us that all wrongs are righted and all suffering redeemed. But that faith is tested, especially for those of you with empty chairs at home. Hardest of all is the loss of the children, of the lives taken so soon after they were given.

I hope it helps to remember that we are never closer to God than when we grieve. Faith is tested in suffering. And faith is often born in suffering, for that is when we seek the hope we most need; that is when we awaken to the greatest hope there is; that is when we look beyond our lives to the hour when God will wipe away every tear, and death will be swallowed up in victory.

On this Earth, tragedy may come even on a warm spring day, but tragedy can never touch eternity. This is where they were last, but beyond the Gates of Time lie a life eternal and a love everlasting. You in Oklahoma City are victims of tragedy and witnesses to hope. You have overcome evil, and you have suffered with courage. And for that, your Nation is grateful.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. on the lawn at the Oklahoma City National Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Don Nickles; Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; Mayor Kirk Humphreys of Oklahoma City; Robert M. Johnson, chair, and Richard Williams, member, Board of Trustees, Oklahoma City National Memorial; and Jeannine Gist and Major Ed Hill, members, Board of Directors, Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Education in Columbus, Ohio

February 20, 2001

[*Principal Maria J. Stockard welcomed guests and introduced the roundtable participants.*]

The President. Thank you, Maria. Maria, thanks very much for your hospitality. I thank all the people that are on your staff that accommodated this horde of folks that travel with me. [*Laughter*] And I hope we haven't been too disruptive, but it's an honor to be here.

First, I want to say thanks to my friend, the Governor. It's good to see you again, Bob. I appreciate your hard work here. I want to thank the congressional delegation that traveled with me: the Senator, two Congressmen—other than Congressman Pat Tiberi from this district. Deborah Pryce and Dave Hobson came down on the plane with us, and I appreciated our discussion, and thanks for your time, both of you. And thank you, Mike, as well, for being here. I want to thank my friends the Wexners for being here.

One of the things we saw was a program of mentors. And it's a good way to lead into the strength of an accountability system and what it means, because a mentor is really not very effective unless there is a need identified. I mean, what we need to use mentors for and a host program for is to combine the love of our citizenry with enabling children to learn to read, in this case, by identifying problems.

One of the things that I'm insisting that the Congress enact is a law that says that if you receive Federal money, you, the State, or the local jurisdiction must measure to show us whether or not children are learning. The heart of education reform is accountability. The heart of making sure every child learns and no child is left behind is accountability. Because how do you know if you don't measure? How can you possibly judge

whether or not a child is learning to read and write and add and subtract unless we know?

A system that refuses to be held accountable is a system that shuffles children through. And guess who gets shuffled through? In my State, oftentimes children whose parents didn't speak English as a first language, inner-city children. It's so much easier to walk into a room and say, "Oh, these kids aren't supposed to learn. Let's just move them through. It'll be okay. Somewhere along the line something positive may happen." That's unacceptable to me, and I think it's beginning to be unacceptable to America. I know it's unacceptable to Rosa.

I got to know Rosa last summer when I was in your school district, and she knows what I know, that good education starts with high standards and the unfailing belief that every child can learn, regardless of their background or their circumstances; secondly, that local control of schools is paramount to change and excellence. It's important to empower the superintendents, like Rosa. She knows what I know, a great principal of a school is going to make an enormous difference as to whether or not children learn. One of the reasons we picked this school is because of Maria's guidance and leadership.

But also, the cornerstone of reform and the need to make sure we meet the national goal of no child being left behind, is to test. I'm unalterably opposed to a national test. Any kind of national test would undermine local curriculum and local control of schools. But I do believe it makes sense and is right to ask the question: If you receive Federal money, what are the results for the money spent? I know that some say, "Well, testing is punishment." No, testing is a diagnostic tool, necessary to correct problems early, before it's too late.

Later on, I'll be in St. Louis, Missouri, today, and I'm going to talk about a reading initiative that will start at the Head Start Program. But in order to make sure any reading initiative or any math initiative that takes place is effective, we must measure. And we must make sure that children, by the way, all start at the same spot, at the same starting point, in order for the accountability systems to make sense.

I think it's fundamentally—well, I know it's fundamentally important to ask the question, "What works?" Particularly, "Will, the host program work?" How do you know if you don't measure?

When we ask the question, "What works?"—Rosa asks that question all the time here in the Columbus School District. And the feedback she gets from accountability system will help determine not theory but the practicality of good curriculum and teacher training programs and giving students the necessary language skills to be able to succeed in our society.

So I'm here to talk about accountability as the cornerstone for the kinds of reforms that will empower local folks to make necessary decisions. One of the key components of any accountability system is there must be a consequence. If there is success, there must be a consequence. Often times, the best success, as these local educators will tell you, is to have a parent walk up—like our good parent here, Brenda—and say, "Thanks for what you're doing. You saved my son," or "You saved my daughter." That's the best feedback. But I also believe there needs to be bonus plans, and my budget will include some notion for bonuses for districts that succeed.

However, if we find failure, there must be a consequence. And I believe that districts ought to be given—those who received Federal money ought to be given a reasonable period of time to correct problems. And there needs to be some intermediate help to help districts correct problems.

But at some point in time there has to be a final moment. At some point in time we've got to say, "Failure is unacceptable." We believe every child can learn, and since every child isn't learning, something else must happen. And I believe the best program is that which empowers local districts, empowers us to make different choices if the children are mired in mediocrity and failure.

I'm excited about the progress I've seen being made on our public school reform in Washington, DC. It starts with the understanding that Washington is not the fount of all knowledge. As a matter of fact, we're going to pass power back out of Washington to empower people at the local level. But

it's important for us to have that national goal of every child being educated and the best public school system ever possible on the face of the Earth. And that's a goal both Republicans and Democrats, and those who don't care about any political party, can agree on.

And we're making progress, and I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to put the most important cornerstone of reform in place, and that's accountability.

Someone who is not afraid of being held accountable because she's got an unbelievably positive record and a positive spirit and a great attitude is the superintendent of schools right here in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Rosa Smith.

[*Superintendent Rosa Smith welcomed the President and Mrs. Bush and briefly described the Columbus schools accountability system, noting that students were assessed every 9 weeks.*]

President Bush. Thank you, Rosa. As I mentioned, I had the honor of meeting Rosa last summer, and to show you how powerful she is, she said, "You need to appoint Dr. Rod Paige to become Secretary of Education." [*Laughter*] Well, 6 months later, I did. [*Laughter*]

[*Ms. Stockard introduced veteran reading teacher Maisie Glover, who gave her perspective on the effectiveness of assessment as a resourceful tool to help students succeed.*]

President Bush. I think that's important for people to hear. The assessment system is never meant to punish; it is meant to provide a useful tool to both teacher and specialists and principals and superintendents to determine what works.

There's a lot of discussion about parental involvement in schools. There is nothing that will make a parent more involved than to know whether or not his or her child is learning. One of the things that in my State I did when I was the Governor was encourage there to be open transparency when it came to performance. So everybody knew—so everybody was aware of whether or not their school—a lot of parents think their school is doing just fine, until the results are posted.

And we've got a parent here that I can't wait for you all to hear from. [*Laughter*] I got an earful behind the scenes—[*laughter*]—a positive earful. [*Laughter*] Tell us your story, Brenda.

[*Brenda Seffrin stated that parents must be held accountable also, and she described how her learning-disabled child had progressed after she enrolled him in Ms. Stockard's school.*]

The President. You were going to tell me something? [*Laughter*] Don't panic——

Ms. Seffrin. Why are you putting me on the spot? [*Laughter*]

The President. Join the club. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Stockard. She indicated that she had several questions written——

Ms. Seffrin. Well, I just was wondering if you could recommend any programs for our school to help encourage children—and this is for you, too—to write books, as well as read books. If there was anything that we could do.

The President. My recommendation is you tell Maria that. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Seffrin. Okay. [*Laughter*]

The President. The truth of the matter is, the best way to achieve objectives is to empower people at the local level to make those decisions. That's why a good principal, like Maria, will encourage parental involvement, so she gets feedback from what parents would like to see their children doing.

Part of the problem is Washington. People look at Washington and say, "Well, we've got all the answers up there." And the truth of the matter is, we don't, particularly when it comes to education. We may be able to provide some funding, so long as that funding is not so prescriptive that it hamstrings the ability for people to make decisions necessary—because I can assure you the schools in Columbus, Ohio, are really different from Laredo, Texas. The children are—they're to be loved, but we've got different challenges in different parts of the country. And that is why flexibility is important. And that's why specific programs that you'd like to see incorporated in the schools ought to be taken to the principal and not to some distant land called Washington, DC.

[*Ms. Stockard introduced Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio, who said the report of the State's Commission on Student Success, concerning how Ohio could achieve the best possible system of high standards, assessment, and accountability, aligned with the President's proposals and had support from Ohio legislators.*]

The President. I appreciate that, Governor. Thanks, I—the Governor recognized legislators who will decide the fate of the program. I need to do the same thing. [*Laughter*] One of the things chief executives in government know: We get to propose; we just don't get to write the law. We occasionally get to veto law, but we don't get to write it.

There's a lot of pressure on Members from a couple of fronts. One is the no-testing crowd, based upon there's no role for government. I strongly disagree, and I hope you agree with me, because we need to be results-oriented people. All we're asking is, is it working? What are the results?

There's another segment of our society, the no-testing crowd saying, "All they do is teach the test." Well, just ask Brenda what it's like to see her son get taught how to read, who then was able to pass the literacy test.

There's a group of folks that'll say, "You can't test because it's racist." What's racist is not testing. What's racist, it seems like to me, is giving up on kids, just move them through and hope we get it right—and hope we get it right. One of the most profound statements I heard was from a lady in Houston who was the reading czarina from the Houston Independent School District, who worked for Rod, named Phyllis Hunter. She said, "Reading is the new civil right." That's a pretty powerful statement when you think about it.

The fate of the program that I've submitted depends upon Members of the United States Congress, and you've elected a good one from the Columbus area named Tiberi—sitting right up here. Are you with me, Pat? [*Laughter*] Not to put any pressure on you. [*Laughter*] Just teasing.

Representative Patrick J. Tiberi. What do you think, Deborah? Sorry. [*Laughter*] Do I have the stage? [*Laughter*]

The President. Yes, you do. You've got the vote, and you've got the stage.

[*Representative Tiberi complimented the President for his passion on the issue of education reform and stressed that all sectors should participate, not just the Federal Government.*]

The President. That means yes. [*Laughter*] Smart man, holding out to negotiate. [*Laughter*] Thanks for traveling with us, Pat.

Representative Tiberi. Thank you.

The President. I am passionate on the subject. I can't think of a more noble goal than to make sure every child is educated. And it's going to happen. You see, the systems in the past have viewed kind of mass migrations of students through, and one of the things that an accountability-oriented system will do is, we start judging each child on his or her individual merit.

One of the keys to success—and I think we're going to get this out of Congress, by the way, and I hope the members of the legislature support the Governor on this—is to do what they call disaggregating results. When you measure, you must measure on a child-by-child basis. Think about what the reform means, that when we start viewing—saying each child matters and we're going to track each child based upon his or her progress, it starts to provide the catalyst for ultimate change, which is a system that slowly, surely evolves away from the mass migration of students through schools to tailoring programs to meet an individual's needs.

The mentoring program that The Limited has put in place is the beginnings of a system that is able to focus on a child on a one-to-one basis. Rosa says that they assess each child's progress on a 9-week basis. That says we're first asking the question, what about this particular child? In the past, accountability systems that really weren't holding people accountable would just lump people into an overall group.

And so I want to applaud the members of the Ohio Legislature for being willing to think about how to encourage reform within the system.

There's a lot of debate about school choice, and there should be. That's fine. But the cornerstone for reform is accountability, ultimately, giving parents, if need be, depending on whether the State likes it or not, the opportunity to make a different choice.

That's up to the State. As far as I'm concerned, if a district receives Federal money, and that school won't teach and won't change, then at some point in time that money should not go to continue to fuel failure.

And one option is charters, and one option is school choice, but another option is private tutoring or private schools. But that's—and the Congress is going to wrestle with that issue. But the whole reason I'm here today is to remind people that the true agent for reform is accountability and be willing to measure on a child-by-child basis, and then correct on a child-by-child basis, where correction is needed. And you watch what happens in America.

The spirit of reform, and as Pat said, the willingness for people to discuss this issue in an open way is going to really reinvigorate the public schools. And to say to our teachers, loud and clear, "We love you for teaching," and to say to our principals, "Thanks for being the catalysts, the educational entrepreneurs we need," to herald the great superintendents around the country that are making a major difference, that's what this is all about.

And this is something our country must achieve and will achieve. And it's not going to come out of the Federal Government. We're just a small part of it. But one thing the President can do is to continue talking about this issue until we get it right. And that's exactly what I'm going to do.

[*Ms. Stockard then described how her students colored simple bar graphs to chart their own progress toward specific goals throughout the school year. Mrs. Bush discussed the impact and value of teachers to the Nation, and said she hopes to attract young people to the profession.*]

The President. Brenda, have you got anything else you want to say, now that you're warmed up? [*Laughter*]

Ms. Seffrin. No, but thank you for being here. It really meant a lot.

The President. Well, thanks. We're delighted.

Well, what do you think, Gov?

Governor Taft. I think you've got Congressman Tiberi's vote. [*Laughter*] Senator DeWine is looking very supportive back there.

The President. He is supportive.

Governor Taft. And Congresswoman Pryce as well. I think that she looks supportive. I think you're making some headway. And I just want to say this, we really appreciate the fact that you have come to Ohio to highlight your education program.

The President. It's a great State.

Governor Taft. Really, your first domestic trip outside of Washington. We're honored.

The President. Well, thanks. It's a great State, and it seems like every time I come to Columbus, I'm coming to another school. That's a great testimony to the school district. And for those in Columbus who don't realize this, actually I've got some roots here. My grandfather was raised in Columbus, Ohio. Yes, Prescott S. Bush. So we're proud of the city and really appreciate the hospitality always shown when we come here.

Thanks very much for having us. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The roundtable began at 10:42 a.m. in Room 19/20 at Sullivant Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to Representatives Deborah Pryce and David L. Hobson; Senator Mike DeWine; and Les Wexner, State chairman, Business Leadership Council for OhioReads.

Remarks on the Robert Hanssen Espionage Case

February 20, 2001

This has been a difficult day for those who love our country, and especially for those who serve our country in law enforcement and in the intelligence community.

Allegations of espionage of an FBI counterintelligence agent are extremely serious and are deeply disturbing, particularly disturbing for the thousands of men and women who work for the FBI, whose mission is to protect our national security and who now must deal with allegations that one of their own may have undermined it.

I have the utmost confidence in Director Louis Freeh and the men and women who serve in the FBI, those who represent our

country in the CIA and in the Justice Department. I thank them for their service. I commend them for their sacrifice. Allegations of espionage are a reminder that we live in a dangerous world, a world that sometimes does not share American values.

I thank the men and women who proudly serve our country. But to anyone who would betray its trust, I warn you: We'll find you, and we'll bring you to justice.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. aboard Air Force One en route from Columbus, OH, to St. Louis, MO. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Moline Elementary School in St. Louis, Missouri

February 20, 2001

Sarah, thanks for those kind words. And Chris, thank you very much. Now, what you forgot to say is what I can say, and that is, I believe and know that a school succeeds when there is a dynamic principal in charge of the school. And that's the case here at Moline. I also know it's important to have a superintendent of schools who is willing to push the bounds of excellence, and that's what you have in your superintendent of schools.

We're so honored that you would welcome us here. Laura and I are glad to be traveling to the great State of Missouri. I want to thank your senior Senator Kit Bond. I want to thank Congressman Clay. I want to thank Congressman Akin for your hospitality. And Governor, I'm so pleased you're here as well.

We put out an invitation to all the Governors to join us next Sunday night at the White House for dinner, and the Governor has agreed to come and eat some ribs. I think it is—[*laughter*]—maybe not ribs, but—but I appreciate so very much you taking time to be here today.

Boys and girls, thank you all, as well, for your hospitality. We had a chance to listen to some third graders read. They sound like sixth graders to us.

Let me talk a little policy, if you don't mind. There's a time for politics in our society, and that ended a while ago. Now is the time for good public policy, and it starts with the universal goal of every child being educated in America. That sounds like anybody would say that, but to me, it's an achievable goal.

There are some certain principles to which we need to adhere in order to meet that goal. First, setting the highest of high standards; understanding that all children can learn; not accepting excuses when certain children don't learn; not adhering to a system that shuffles children through because it's so much easier to quit as opposed to focus on a child-by-child basis. Good education starts with high standards, whether it be set by the President, the Governor, or the superintendent or the principal or the teacher in the classroom.

Secondly, I strongly believe in what we call local control of schools. I believe it's critically important for those of us in the Federal Government to align authority and responsibility where it belongs, and that is at the local level. There's the old statement, "One size fits all"—doesn't work when it comes to educating children. I fully subscribe to that.

You've got different issues, Governor, in the State of Missouri, than we had in the State of Texas. We have the same goals, the same objectives, the same heart, but you have a different set of problems. And therefore, it's incumbent upon us in the White House to work with Members of the Congress to pass Federal money back with as much flexibility as possible, to trust local people to set the course for excellence for all the children in the different school districts around the country.

Thirdly, accountability is critically important for—to meet the goal that no child will be left behind. It is incredibly important to measure, because without measuring, how do you know if a child is learning to read and write and add and subtract? How do you know? It seems like it's a fundamentally fair question for those of us in public life to ask. We're spending money; we'd like to know in return whether or not children are learning.

Now, I don't believe the Federal Government ought to design a test, Governor. I think you can design your own. You've certainly done so, at least in this school district;

they've designed their own accountability system. It's an accountability system that's so impressive because it's not just a measurement on an annual basis, it's a frequent measurement to determine whether or not a specific child is learning. And if that child isn't, there's immediate help. When there's a problem diagnosed, help comes. That's what's so important about having accountability; it's the cornerstone for reform.

I'm going to ask Congress to pass legislation that says that any school district which receives Federal money must design a test on an annual basis so that we know. It's the framework for addressing problems early, before it's too late. It says that consequences matter, but more importantly, if we set up the systems right, by disaggregating results, by treating each child as a person, not part of some overall group, we begin to have an education system that says each child matters, and we're going to track each child as he or she goes through the system. It's a critically important part of education reform.

I believe we can do a better job of teaching children to read. One of the reasons we chose this school is not only because of the strong appetite for diagnosing children early and the willingness to cure problems before they become acute, but this is a school that focuses on a reading curriculum that works.

I hope it's said that the Bush administration is willing to ask the question, "What works?" and then helps districts implement programs that do work. Phonics works. It's an important part of a good reading—balanced reading curriculum. The reason I know is because I have asked the question to folks at the National Institute of Health. They're not Republicans; they're not Democrats; they're not—they are scientists, who have spent a lot of time figuring out how to make sure all children have the capacity to learn.

And while there needs to be balanced reading curriculum, it is critically important for us to make sure the curriculum employed around the country is a curriculum that actually will achieve the results that we want, and that is children reading by the third grade.

So I'm sending up to Congress a proposal called Reading First. It is a $5 billion program over 5 years. It will triple the amount of reading money available for local districts to access. It says that inherent in any good program is the need for districts to develop a K-through-two diagnostic tool; that is, a simple tool that will enable K-through-two teachers to determine who needs help early.

There will be money involved in the reading program to help retrain teachers on how to teach a curriculum that works. One of the things that we must recognize in our society, Governor, is that sometimes our teacher colleges do not—are not able to match the hearts of teachers and give them the skills necessary to be effective teachers. There needs to be a lot of retraining, unfortunately. And until the teacher colleges get it right in terms of teaching curriculum that works, it seems like to me, a useful role for Government is to provide funds for teacher retraining. I'm not saying all teacher colleges fail. You would probably argue with me here that Missouri teacher colleges don't fail. But sometimes you find teachers in classrooms who have got all heart but lack the skills necessary to understand the science of reading. And it is incumbent upon us to match the heart and skills together.

We need to make sure that our Head Start Programs not only fulfill the social functions and the health functions that they do today but that Head Start Programs become, first and foremost, a reading program to give the little guys the skills necessary to be able to come to these elementary schools prepared and ready to take advantage of the programs that these fine elementary schools, like this one, have got and offer for children.

And finally, in order to make sure that a reading program works, there needs to be a strong emphasis on curriculum to help districts decide what curriculum to choose, what curriculum will work.

I am absolutely convinced that we can do a better job of teaching all children to read, because I start with the thought that all children can learn to read. I refuse to accept systems, and refuse not to challenge systems, that give up on children early.

I came from a State where there was a lot of children whose parents did not speak English as their first language. It was much easier to say, "Gosh, these little kids are too difficult to educate. Let's just move them

through." Those days are unacceptable. That frame of mind is not right for America, and we can do a better job. It starts with putting trust where it belongs.

Madam Superintendent, I promise you, I know where the great educational entrepreneurship of America lay, and it lay right here, in districts such as this one, and schools such as this one. It's trust in local people—it starts with trusting local people to make the right decisions. It's a system that is—in its framework, encourages reform when reform is needed, and rewards excellence when excellence is found.

And so I'm here, frankly, to call upon the citizens of this important State to help pass legislation that will not only focus on teaching every child to read but legislation that will have at its cornerstone, at its very core, a reform agenda based upon accountability, based upon measuring each child, based upon making sure that no child is left behind.

America is a great land. It will be a greater land when every child is educated. The strength of our country is the public school system. That strength will be even stronger—even stronger—when we insist that every child be measured, every problem corrected, and every child challenged to be the best he or she can be. That can happen, and it is going to happen.

It's an honor to be here. God bless you for what you do, and thank you for your hospitality. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in Room 2. In his remarks, he referred to Principal Sarah Riss, Moline Elementary School; Superintendent Chris Wright, Riverview Gardens School District; and Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri.

Remarks at a Tax Family Reunion in St. Louis

February 20, 2001

Thank you very much. Before I have a chance to say hello to you all and watch the Mighty Mights skate, I want to talk a little bit—some public policy.

Today I was in St. Louis talking about education. There is no more important subject as far as I'm concerned, to make sure every child gets educated. I know the Yahngs feel the same way. But I also want to talk about the budget, the budget of the United States Government, and the budget of the people of the United States.

I'm going to submit a budget next week to the United States Congress. It is a budget that will set priorities, just like each family does in America—set priorities. My priorities will make sure that we preserve and protect and strengthen Social Security, so that there's a Social Security system available for the Yahngs and their children, and for you, as well. A priority in my budget will be to make sure that the health care system in America is strong for the elderly, for the uninsured, and for all of us concerned about health. A priority will be public education.

Today I talked about a reading initiative which goal is to make sure that children can read by the third grade. I can't think of a better priority. By the way, I also understand that local control of schools is the best way to achieve that priority.

Last week I spent time touring military bases. The defense of our Nation is a priority. And in my budget I will submit, amongst other things, a pay raise for the men and women who wear the uniform. Restoring morale in the military not only means better pay, better housing, better health care; it also means having a Commander in Chief who will clarify the mission, the mission of the United States military to have fighting forces trained and prepared to fight war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A priority of mine, in my budget, will be paying down national debt. And yet after setting priorities, there's still money left over. And so while we're concerned about the Federal budget, I'm also concerned about the budget of people such as the Yahngs, who are here standing next to me.

I think it makes sense to understand who pays the bills. I think it makes sense to understand who fills the coffers of the United States, and it's the working people. And so I'm going to ask Congress to pass a tax relief package, recognizing that we can meet priorities, but also help families meet their own priorities.

I'm deeply concerned about the high cost of energy. American families are paying more

and more for energy these days. I'm concerned about consumer debt. There's a lot of discussion about national debt, and that's a concern. But I'm also concerned that a lot of working folks have got their own debt, and it seems wise to set priorities at the national level and get people their own money so they can meet their own obligations, to meet their own debts.

I'm asking Congress to pass $1.6 trillion in tax relief, after we've met priorities. That's over a 10-year period of time. It's a fair plan. It's a plan that says, as opposed to trying to pick and choose who the winners are, that everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief. It is a plan that significantly reduces taxes for people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're a family of four making $35,000, you'll receive a 100 percent tax cut. It's an average tax relief, for families, of $1,600. The Yahng family, under the plan I submit, will receive actually more than that. They now pay $2,000 in taxes to the Federal Government. If this plan is enacted by the United States Congress, they'll end up paying $150 of taxes. That's $1,850 more that they can decide what to do with.

It's your money. It will give you a chance to set your priorities for your family. It says that we in the Federal Government have a fundamental trust in the people of America, and that's where our faith should be—in the people. The best Government is that which trusts America, and there's no better way to make that trust explicit than to share your money with you.

I want to drop all rates and simplify the code. The reason this family will receive the tax relief they're going to get is because we've dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, and doubled the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

As well, I'm going to ask Congress to provide relief from the marriage tax. Our tax code ought to encourage family, ought to recognize marriage as a sacred institution. And I think we ought to listen to the voices of the farmers and small-business people and eliminate the death tax, so that those who struggle—[*applause*].

This is a plan that's going to require the people to speak up. It's the beginning of a series of trips around our great Nation where I'm going to make my case, not to the folks in Congress or in Washington, DC, but to the American people. I have an awesome responsibility to be the President of everyone. I assume that responsibility, and I'm going to be the President of everyone, and I believe this tax relief plan is fair for everyone who pays taxes in America. It is the right thing to do at this point in our history.

It also makes economic sense. I am concerned about our economy. I'm concerned about its—that we've lost some wind in our sails. I believe good monetary policy combined with good fiscal policy, will provide a needed second wind to economic growth. We must keep the pie growing so that people who want to work can find a job, people who want to dream are able to realize their dreams in the entrepreneurial—as a small-business person or as an entrepreneur.

One of the great strengths of America is the entrepreneurial spirit of our country. Any President and the Congress must do everything in our power to create an environment where the entrepreneur can flourish, where people can realize their dreams. America is a land based upon dreams, a land where people should aim high, and our tax code ought to encourage capital formation and economic growth. But most of all, America is made up of fine, decent, honorable citizens, citizens who work hard every day to provide for their families—just like my friends here—citizens who, once the Nation meets our priorities, ought to keep their own money, so you can spend, and you can save, and you can dream.

I'm so thankful that you all came. I really appreciate you all standing up here today with me. I'm pinching myself every day. [*Laughter*] It is an unimaginable honor to represent the great people of this country, the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and all my public policy will be designed to keep it great and to invigorate our people.

Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:50 p.m. at the Kirkwood Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chuck Yahng, assistant sports information director, St. Louis University, his wife, Amanda, and their children, Evan and Claudia.

Remarks at Townsend Elementary School in Townsend, Tennessee

February 21, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Fred, thank you very much. I appreciate your invitation.

Principal Fred Goins. We appreciate your coming.

The President. And I'm glad I accepted. It's a beautiful part of the world. I was touched by the number of your citizenry who came and lined the roads as we came in to wave and say hello. And I thank them for that, as well. I wish I could thank them in person. I hope they realize my wave was a sincere wave of gratitude.

I want to thank Gary Pack, the superintendent of schools. Let me say a couple things about what I've learned. I've learned this as a parent; I've learned it as a Governor; I know it as the President, that a school is really only as good as its principal, and when you have a fine principal, you've got a fine school. And I appreciate your service. And the same with the superintendents.

But with—the heart and soul of any education system, of course, are the teachers. And I want to thank those who are teaching. I'm sorry that my wife is not here with us today. If she were giving the speech—and most of you, if you had heard both of us, would rather hear her—[*laughter*]—she would say that one of her missions will be to convince Americans who are coming up to be a teacher. There's nothing more noble than to teach. And so, to the teachers of this school and the teachers throughout all of Tennessee, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I also want to thank my friend, the Governor of your State, Don Sundquist. He is a good man, and he married—like me—he married above himself. [*Laughter*] But Laura and I love Don and Martha. They have been our friends for a long time, and I appreciate your hospitality.

I want to thank your Senator, Bill Frist. I'm particularly nice to Senator Frist these days, since much of what I'm proposing is going to need to be passed out of the United States Senate. But I've got a strong ally in Senator Frist, and a good friend.

I want to thank members of the Tennessee congressional delegation, Congressmen Duncan and Jenkins and Van Hilleary, for being here, as well. I got to know these folks during the course of the campaign, and they were stalwarts.

I also want to thank my friend, the chairman of the Education Committee, from the State of Ohio, Congressman John Boehner. I am so thankful the chairman is here. I'm going to be discussing education policy today, the framework for good policy, and it's going to require the leadership of John and—on the House side, and Frist and others on the Senate side to get this bill through.

So, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for not only being here—I'm surprised they didn't check you at the border coming in. [*Laughter*] But I'll let you on the plane so we can fly back together and talk policy.

I'm also most appreciative of the mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, for being here. I've known Mayor Ashe for years and years and years, and he has done a fabulous job of being a fine public servant in Knoxville. So Victor, thank you for coming.

And finally, a former public servant, a distinguished Tennessee citizen, a man whose son is—sees my daughter at the University of Texas, hopefully in the library—[*laughter*]—and that's Lamar Alexander.

I want to thank these distinguished officials. I want to thank the local officials. Senator, thank you, as well. Thank you for coming.

There's no more important subject than public education. We must get it right to make sure no child is left behind. My philosophy is this: First, all of us in positions of responsibility must set the highest of high standards for every child. I believe every child can learn, and that ought to be indelibly etched into our national conscience, that every single child in America has got the capacity to learn and we should accept nothing less. And we must set high expectations for every child. We must raise the bar.

I also strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe the best way to chart the path to excellence for every child in America is to insist that authority and responsibility be aligned at the local level.

So I look forward to working with the Members of the House and the Senate to pass power out of Washington, to provide flexibility for the Federal funds so that the Governors, superintendents, principals can design programs that meet your specific needs. As the old adage, one size does not fit all in public education—it is very true. It is very true. We had the same goal in Tennessee and Texas, and that is, every child learn. But we've got different issues in Texas than you have in Tennessee, and that's why we need to have flexibility.

The cornerstone of reform, as far as I'm concerned, is not only high standards and maximum flexibility but strong accountability systems. I think it's so important to measure. I think it's a legitimate thing—I know it's a legitimate request from those of us in public life to say, if you receive taxpayers' money, you measure, and you show us whether or not the children are learning.

And when I ask Congress to pass legislation that says, in return for Federal help, the State of Tennessee, local jurisdictions must develop accountability measures on an annual basis, three through eight, to determine whether or not our children are learning. It is essential we do so.

Now, I know there's some around who will say, "We can't measure. It's not the proper role of the Government." Well, I believe the proper role of any government at any level is to insist upon results. There are some who will say, "Well, we can't have the test because all they'll do is teach the test." Well, I went to a writing class here in this school, and they were teaching the children to write, and therefore, they were able to pass the test.

You don't teach the test when it comes to literacy. We went to a Title I classroom—or a classroom with Title I students in it, where the teacher was using some of the most advanced thought about teaching reading, a balanced approach including phonics. You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test. I don't buy teaching the test as an excuse to have a system that doesn't hold people accountable for results.

Finally, there are some who will say, "You can't test because it is a matter of race to test." I think it is a matter of race not to test. I think it's racist not to test, because oftentimes in our school districts, those who are most easy to shuffle through are those who live in the inner cities or whose parents may not speak English as a first language. No, we must measure because we want to know. We want to know when there's success.

When a teacher told me in that classroom, she said, "We're making great progress in our new reading program here. It's been in place for 3 years. We're making fine progress," we know because there's accountability. People should welcome accountability. It's a way to diagnose and to solve problems. It's a way to say that every single child matters in America, and not one child ought to be left behind.

I don't support, my friends in Congress don't support the design of a national test. All a national test will do is undermine local control of schools. But we look forward to working with States and local jurisdictions to develop accountability systems that meet your needs so we achieve what we want. And that is an education system focused on each individual, an education system that diagnoses early and solves problems early.

Yesterday I also outlined some funding priorities of mine. I'm going to submit a budget next week to the United States Congress. It's a budget that sets clear priorities. A priority is going to be to make sure that our Social Security System and the payroll taxes are saved for Social Security and the Social Security system is strong. A priority would be Medicare. A priority is going to be to make sure our troops are well paid and well housed and well trained, so that we can keep the peace. A priority is going to be, pay down debt. A priority is going to be tax relief, so hard-working Americans have got more money in their pocket to pay down their own debt and to cover the cost of high energy costs.

A priority is going to be public education, as well. As a matter of fact, in the budget I submit, the largest increase of any department will be for the Department of Education. Federal funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Act will go up by $1.6 billion, an 8 percent increase in funding.

I think it's so important for us to prioritize public education. At the same time, we prioritize—make it a priority of making sure our money is spent well. A priority has got to be diligence when it comes to taxpayers' money. And that's why I'm confident the combination of an increase in spending coupled with education reform that holds people accountable is the right path for America to take.

And finally, yesterday I proposed additional spending for a national reading initiative that will set this goal: Every child will be reading at the appropriate level by the third grade. It's going to require schools, districts willing to challenge the status quo if children are failing. It's going to mean we're going to have to think differently about Head Start. Head Start should remain and will remain a place where children are treated for disease and the health and human service component to it. But I think Head Start ought to be moved to the Department of Education, to highlight the need to make sure that our youngsters get a head start on reading and math.

The billion-dollar-a-year additional money for the reading initiative will allow districts to access money for K-through-two diagnostic testing, for curriculum development, for teacher training, to make sure that the teacher I saw today—the skills that she has are given to all the teachers who are charged with teaching reading.

We've got an aggressive program for public ed. It's a program, though, that has deep faith in the ability of local folks to make sure the children are educated. It's a program the philosophy of which says that the people that care most about the children in towns in Tennessee are the citizens of towns in Tennessee, are the parents in towns in Tennessee, are those concerned folks who every day try to figure out how to make your community a better place to live.

Now, the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. It lies in the classrooms. It lies in the after-school activities, the Scout troops, run by local citizens. And our philosophy, the philosophy of the bill that I'm going to submit to the Congress, incorporates that greatness of America in its core.

It's a thrill to be here in Townsend. It is a—you're the heartbeat of America. And you're the future of America, by making sure every single child gets educated.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Pack, director of schools, Blount County School District; Mayor Victor Ashe of Knoxville, TN; and Lamar Alexander, former Governor of Tennessee and former U.S. Secretary of Education. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

The President's News Conference

February 22, 2001

The President. Good afternoon. It's been about a month now since I've taken office, and I thought it appropriate to come by and have a press conference. Before I do so, though, I'd like to make a few comments.

One of my missions has been to change the tone here in the Nation's Capital to encourage civil discourse. I think we're making pretty good progress. I want to thank the Democrats and the Republicans who have been coming up to the White House to hear me make my case. I appreciate their responsiveness. I just hope they vote for my agenda that I'll be submitting next week in a budget address to the Congress.

I have a reasonable and balanced budget. It meets growing needs with a responsible rate of increase in spending. It funds priorities. And my administration has no higher priority than education.

Yesterday I announced that the Department of Education will receive the largest percentage increase of any Department in the Federal Government, a little more than an 11-percent increase. But with new money will come high expectations. We must insist on results and support programs that work. It is in the best interests of American children that we reform our public schools by having strong accountability at its core.

Our budget will honor commitments of America's senior citizens. Social Security and Medicare funds will be protected for Social

Security and Medicare. We're now spending $216 billion on Medicare. Under my budget, Medicare spending will increase by more than 21 billion in 2002. My budget also locks away $2.6 trillion of the $5.6 trillion surplus for Social Security over the next 10 years.

Our budget is fiscally responsible. If enacted, it will reduce debt by an unprecedented amount over the next 4 years. Altogether, about 60 percent of the projected Federal surplus will be used to fund priorities and to reduce debt.

After we've funded our priorities, after we pay down an unprecedented amount of debt, we'll still have money left over, which leaves us with two options: first is to spend it on bigger Government; or return it to the taxpayers who earned it. I believe it should be returned to the taxpayers. It's the people's money, and the Government ought to be passing it back after it's met priorities.

It is also necessary because these are uncertain times—increasing layoffs, growing consumer debt, lower consumer confidence—and lower taxes will help our economy. This will be a responsible and fair budget that reflects the Nation's priorities. I invite the American people to listen to what I have to say to the Congress.

I will be glad to answer any questions you have.

Robert Hanssen Espionage Case

Q. Mr. President, in light of the latest spy scandal, should senior FBI officials be required to take polygraph tests? And secondly, what, if any, responsibility should the FBI Director, Louis Freeh, bear for this breach of national security?

The President. I have confidence in Director Freeh. I think he does a good job. I have confidence in the men and women who work at the FBI. I am deeply concerned about the current spy case, as is Director Freeh. He has made the right move in selecting Judge Webster to review all procedures in the FBI to make sure that this doesn't happen again. We ought to be concerned about espionage in America. In the statement I made the other day, I said we will be diligent. We will find spies, and we will prosecute them. I am pleased that they caught the spy. Now the courts must act.

Q. Polygraphs—do we need polygraphs, though, to be able to catch them?

The President. I look forward to seeing what Judge Webster has to say. I presume he's going to review that issue and will make a recommendation to the Director and to me.

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that——

The President. It's not your turn, but go ahead. [*Laughter*] Yes, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Clinton Pardons

Q. Do you believe that pardons were for sale in the Clinton White House? And what, specifically, do you think should be done to look into, to investigate the circumstances of the President's brother-in-law accepting money to lobby him on pardons?

The President. David, I—as far as this White House is concerned, it's time to go forward. I've too much to do to get a budget passed, to get reforms passed for education, to get a tax cut passed, to strengthen the military, than to be worrying about decisions that my predecessor made.

I understand there's going to be some people on Capitol Hill that are going to be asking questions. That's their right to do so. But I can assure you our White House is moving forward. And to the extent the Justice Department looks into this matter, it will be done in a nonpolitical way. During John Ashcroft's confirmation process, I said that the Justice Department will conduct its business in a nonpolitical way, and we will do so.

Q. Can I just follow?

The President. Sure. Yes, David.

Q. Other Presidents are commenting on this matter. On the Rich pardon specifically, former President Carter said that in his opinion, it was "disgraceful." Do you not have an opinion on a power that is absolute and is vested in you as the President?

The President. My opinion is I will—should I decide to grant pardons, I will do so in a fair way. I'll have the highest of high standards.

But the President made the decisions he made, and he can answer the questions raised by the American citizens and the press corps. This White House is moving forward. We've got a lot to do. We've got a lot of

people to convince on our agenda. I think we're making pretty good progress, but there's a lot of work to be done.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, do you think that U.S.-Russian relations have been damaged by the new spy case? And secondly, are the Russians showing any flexibility on a missile defense system?

The President. I intend to deal with Mr. Putin in a very straightforward way, to be up front with him on all matters. I am, of course, disturbed about the espionage—the alleged espionage that took place. I'm mindful that there are people who don't particularly care what America stands for and people who are interested in our secrets.

Secondly, I was pleased to see comments from Russian leadership that talked about missile defense. It is a—their words indicate that they recognize that there are new threats in the post-cold-war era, threats that require theater-based antiballistic missile systems. I felt those words were encouraging.

When I meet with Mr. Putin, I'm going to talk to him about exactly what he meant by those words. We have no meeting set up yet, I might add, but I took that to be encouraging, Steve. It reminded me of what happened after I met with Mr. Ivanov. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Putin also talked about theater-based systems and the ability to intercept missiles on launch. And to me, it's indicative of his recognition of the realities of the true threats in the post-cold-war era, threats from an accidental launch or threats as a result of a leader in what they call a rogue nation, trying to hold ourselves or our allies or Russia, for that matter, hostage. So I was pleased with what I saw.

John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Sanctions Against Iraq

Q. Sir, the Secretary of State is departing for the Middle East tomorrow. One of the things that he will be discussing with Middle East leaders is the possibility of modifying sanctions on Iraq, and I'm wondering what message he will take from this administration to leaders in the Middle East in the area of sanctions that matter, sanctions that are effective on the regime but do not carry with them the same level of criticism that current sanctions have had in that they affect the Iraqi civilian population more than they do the regime, sir.

The President. We're reviewing all policy in all regions of the world, and one of the areas we've been spending a lot of time on is the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. The Secretary of State is going to go listen to our allies as to how best to effect a policy, the primary goal of which will be to say to Saddam Hussein, we won't tolerate you developing weapons of mass destruction, and we expect you to leave your neighbors alone.

I have said that the sanction regime is like Swiss cheese. That meant that they weren't very effective. And we're going to review current sanction policy and review options as to how to make the sanctions work. But the primary goal is to make it clear to Saddam that we expect him to be a peaceful neighbor in the region, and we expect him not to develop weapons of mass destruction. And if we find him doing so, there will be a consequence.

We took action last week, and it may be on your mind as to that decision I made. The mission was twofold. One was to send him a clear message that this administration will remain engaged in that part of the world. I think we accomplished that mission. We got his attention. And secondly, the mission was to degrade his capacity to harm our pilots who might be flying in the no-fly zone. And we accomplished that mission, as well.

Q. Sir, if I could follow up——

The President. Yes, John, go ahead.

Q. How would you characterize sanctions that work, sir?

The President. Sanctions that work are sanctions that when a—the collective will of the region supports the policy, that we have a coalition of countries that agree with the policy set out by the United States. To me, that's the most effective form of sanctions.

Many nations in that part of the world aren't adhering to the sanction policy that had been in place, and as a result, a lot of goods are heading into Iraq that were not supposed to. And so, good sanction policy is one where the United States is able to build a coalition around the strategy.

Yes, ma'am.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Mr. President, if I can go back to the controversy surrounding former President Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, are you at all concerned that these controversies are serving as a distraction for your administration's agenda? Are you concerned that further congressional hearings will mean that lawmakers are spending more time on those matters than on working on your policies?

The President. I—as I said earlier, I've got a lot of work to do, and I think I've got the Congress' attention. I certainly hope so. There has been a lot of discussion about tax relief, and I'm pleased with the progress being made on that important subject. There's a lot of hot debate that have already taken place, and we've just begun to make the case. I'm beginning to travel around the country to important States—all the States are important, of course, but some States may be more important than others right now in trying to convince some lawmakers to hear the message of the people. This is an issue that affects everybody who pays taxes. Congress is listening to the debate. They're participating in the debate.

There's a lot of discussion about education reform on the Hill, and I'm confident that the focus will be the right focus. And my speech Tuesday night, I hope, will help keep the focus on the agenda.

Yes, ma'am. You're next.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. Mr. President, why do you refuse to respect the wall between the church and state? And you know that the mixing of religion and government for centuries has led to slaughter. I mean, the very fact that our country has stood in good stead by having the separation—why do you break it down?

The President. Helen, [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers]. I strongly respect the separation of church and state——

Q. Well, you wouldn't have a religious office in the White House if you did.

The President. I didn't get to finish my answer, in all due respect. I believe that so long as there's a secular alternative available, we ought to allow individuals who are helping to be able to choose a program that may be run by a faith-based program, or will be run by a faith-based program.

I understand full well that some of the most compassionate missions of help and aid come out of faith-based programs. And I strongly support the faith-based initiative that we're proposing, because I don't believe it violates the line between the separation of church and state, and I believe it's going to make America a better place.

Q. Well, you are a secular official.

The President. I agree. I am a secular official.

Q. And not a missionary.

Airstrikes on Iraq

Q. Sir, on the airstrikes in Iraq, the Pentagon is now saying that most of the bombs used in those strikes missed their targets. Given that, what is now your assessment of how successful those strikes were? How much danger do the remaining installations that we missed in those strikes pose to our forces? And would you hit them again if commanders in the field asked for authorization to do so?

The President. I—we had two missions. One was to send a clear signal to Saddam, and the other was to degrade the capacity of Saddam to injure our pilots. I believe we succeeded in both those missions.

The bomb assessment damage report is ongoing, and I look forward to hear what the Pentagon has to say as they fully assess, completely assess the mission. And I will continue to listen to the commanders in the field. My job as Commander in Chief is to get input from the commanders in the field, and we will do everything needed to protect our pilots, to protect the men and women who wear the uniform.

"Brunei" [Frank Bruni, New York Times].

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. You said that your $1.6 trillion tax cut is reasonable and responsible within the outlines of the budget you're going to present. If, when that gets to Congress, things start getting layered on to it, like corporate tax cuts, capital gains, would you still support it? And if it reached your desk at a higher level, would you sign it?

The President. As you know, I shy away from hypotheticals, Pancho. I'm going to resist the Christmas tree effect of tax policy. I don't want people putting ornaments on my plan. I have made it clear to the business interests that the best tax policy is one that reduces the taxes on the people, and I hope they listen to me, and I hope they help me get the tax plan through that I have proposed.

And the reason I feel so strongly about that is, one, a marginal cut will help the economy. Secondly, I am deeply concerned about high energy prices and their effect on the working people in the country. I am concerned about consumer debt. I know there's a lot of talk in Washington about paying down the national debt, and that's fine and good, and our budget will do so. But I am very concerned about the fact that a lot of consumers in our country have got high consumer debt. And I believe we need to share some of their money with them so they can help manage their own personal finances. And I will resist the temptation by folks to pile on their pet projects on to our tax cut.

Q. But if they do pile on?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm not willing to admit defeat right here before I've begun to fight or persuade—let me put it to you that way. I think I've got a pretty good case, and I think that many of the business interests will hear that case.

Yes, sir.

Plan Colombia/Fast-Track Trading Authority

Q. You've shown a lot of interest in Latin America issues.

The President. *Si.*

Q. I have a double question for you. The first one has to do with Colombia. There's a big meeting on Tuesday with President Pastrana, and a lot of people are still worried about the implications of Plan Colombia, which your predecessor set in motion, about possible future military involvement of the United States. I want to know your impressions of Plan Colombia.

And my second question has to do with the free trade agreement for Latin America. You're going to be going to Quebec in April. Are you going to ask for fast-track approval so this thing can get going again, because it's been kind of dormant lately?

The President. I appreciate that question. I'd love to have fast-track approval. I think it's going to be important to work with our neighbors to the south and Canada to the north, to promote free trade throughout the hemisphere.

I spoke to the Prime Minister of Canada this morning, and that subject came up, about the summit, upcoming summit. And so we're going to begin the process in Congress. Ambassador Zoellick will be working with Members of Congress to lay the groundwork for the ability for the President to have what they call fast-track negotiating authority.

Secondly, I look forward to my meeting with President Pastrana. I'm looking forward to the briefing that he'll be bringing from Colombia. And I, too, am worried about ever committing the United States military to an engagement in that part of the world. I know we're training, and that's fine, but the mission ought to be limited to just that. And so I share the concern of those who are worried that at some point in time the United States might become militarily engaged.

Now, in terms of the success of the mission, the President's going to bring me his firsthand account of what's taking place in the country. I am concerned about the amount of acreage in cultivation for the growth of coca leaves. We've got to do a better job of working with the Colombia Government on its eradication program.

I had a long talk about the Andes with President Fox. I'm convinced President Fox will be a stabilizing influence for that part of the world. Fortunately, we've got a good relationship so that he will share with me his insights as things develop. He has had meetings with Mr. Pastrana and Mr. Chavez, and I believe Vicente Fox is going to be a stabilizing influence and a positive influence on the Andes.

Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

China and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, on Iraq, what is your understanding of the Chinese presence in Iraq, especially with regard to constructing

military facilities? And do you see anything that you see as a violation of U.N. sanctions?

The President. We're concerned about the Chinese presence in Iraq, and we are—my administration is sending the appropriate response to the Chinese. Yes, it's troubling that they'd be involved in helping Iraq develop a system that will endanger our pilots.

Q. That is what they're doing, sir, you're convinced that is——

The President. We think that may be the case. Let me just tell you this. It's risen to the level where we're going to send a message to the Chinese.

Let's see. Kelly Wallace [Cable News Network].

Q. Oh, I get a second one?

The President. Yes, Dick [John Dickerson, Time].

Presidential Pardons

Q. Mr. President, when you campaigned—I know you want to move forward on this question of pardons—but when you campaigned, you talked about the legacy of the sixties, where leaders didn't stand up and take their moral role and say something had been done wrong here. You want to move forward, but on the question of these pardons, do you feel there's any moral obligation, in terms of your office, to stand up and say to those who may be watching this, look, something has been done wrong here?

The President. I think the press corps will ferret out any wrongdoing. My job is to assure the American people that this administration will have the highest ethical standards. And we're going to move forward. The President made decisions he made, and I made the decision in this White House to move forward. And we will.

Q. President Bush, given the questions that are being raised about the involvement of Senator Hillary Clinton's brother in the pardons process, what kind of guidance would you give members of your own politically active family in not only seeking pardons but seeking any other influence on any other issues with your administration?

The President. My guidance to them is, behave yourself. And they will.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, to follow up on your answer on the tax question, perhaps looking at it the other way, some people are saying that perhaps it's too large a tax cut.

The President. Some are saying it's too small; some are saying it's too large; and I'm saying it's just right.

Q. But are you willing——

The President. Let him have another. I interrupted him.

Q. You were not willing to be flexible in terms of people who want to increase the size. Are you willing to be flexible with people who want to lower the size of your tax cut?

The President. I think it's just right. We've thought long and hard about the right number. This is a well-planned-out tax relief package that addresses the concerns of working Americans. It is needed; it is necessary; it will make a very positive difference in the lives of people who pay taxes. And our country can afford it.

There is a choice we have to make: Once we meet priorities, do we increase the size of the Government, or do we increase the amount of money in the pockets of the people who are working for a living? It is the right size, and it is the right time for tax relief in the country.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News]. And then you're next.

Q. And on that same subject——

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. ——your tax and budget package, how can you be sure that, as you put it, there will be money left over? All it would take would be a less than one percentage point drop in productivity for that out-year surplus to dwindle or maybe even vanish. And also, nobody, including Alan Greenspan, thinks that it would provide much of a current stimulus.

The President. First of all, I think given the choice between increasing the baselines of the budget, to the extent to which it had been increased the past, and passing money back to the people, I think Mr. Greenspan—not to put words in his mouth—but it seems like—why I don't just put some words in his mouth—[*laughter*]—it seems like what he said in his testimony is, he would rather see

tax relief rather than increasing the size of the budgets beyond the needs of the country.

Secondly, I believe we can do a heck of a lot better in growing our economy than the basic assumptions in the 10-year plan. I believe that good monetary policy, good fiscal policy, good regulatory policy, good trade policy will enable our economy to grow beyond the scope that is envisioned in the current budget projections.

Secondly, I believe, as well, that if we don't pass some of the money back to the people that pay the bills, it is going to be spent. And I worry about a bloated Federal Government serving as a drag on economic growth.

Yes, sir.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's Upcoming Visit

Q. Mr. President, Stephen Sackur of the BBC.

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. You have a meeting with Prime Minister Blair tomorrow.

The President. Correct.

Q. There are some concerns in this country about the European plan for what they call a rapid-reaction force, their own military capability. What will you tell Prime Minister Blair about the American attitude to this rapid-reaction force?

The President. I, first, look forward to the visit. I'm anxious to meet the Prime Minister. We've had a couple of good conversations on the telephone. I'm thankful that he's coming across the—actually coming down from Canada—but coming across the sea to visit us. Laura and I are looking to having a private dinner with he and Mrs. Blair Friday night. We'll be having a press availability after our meeting, and——

Q. I know, but I think a lot of people would like to——

The President. Well, why don't we wait until after he and I visit so I don't have to give the same answer twice.

Q. But just on the whole outline of the question of the European defense capability——

The President. You bet. I understand, you're trying to get me to tell you the answer twice. [*Laughter*] Britain and the United States have got a special relationship. We'll keep it that way. I look forward to talking to the Prime Minister about the importance of NATO. It is—anyway, let me visit with him first. I promise to call upon you tomorrow. Nice try.

Yes, sir.

Federal Budget

Q. Mr. President, you've talked a lot about areas of the budget that are going to increase—education; today you talked about Medicare; you've talked before a little bit about defense. You haven't talked much about the areas where, to come in with a budget that's going to be responsible, you'll have to do some cuts.

The President. Yes.

Q. Where might we see you take the red pen to the budget?

The President. Let me remind you, and the people who are listening, that accounting in Washington is a little different than the way normal—I shouldn't say "normal" people—the average person accounts. This is a town where if you don't increase the budget by an expected number, it's considered a cut.

We're going to slow the rate of growth of the budget down. It should come to no surprise to anybody that my budget is going to say, loud and clear, that the rate of growth of the budget, for example, from last year, was excessive. And so we'll be slowing the rate of growth of the budgets down. That, evidently, is a cut. In my parlance, it's not a cut. When you increase spending, it's not a cut.

I will be glad to explain some of the slowdowns and some of the increases and perhaps a decrease or two after we put the budget out. Let me submit it on Tuesday, and then I'll be glad to answer any questions.

Thank you for this. I look forward to this—I look forward to future press conferences.

Q. Frequently? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, yes, of course. [*Laughter*]

Q. Once a week?

The President. Well, you don't want to see me once a week. You'll run out of questions.

Q. Twice a week?

The President. Oh, twice? [*Laughter*] I'll be running out of ties. [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's second news conference began at 2:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Judge William Webster, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is leading the investigation of Special Agent Robert Hanssen; President Vladimir Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov of Russia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Statement on the Death of Dale Earnhardt

February 22, 2001

I have asked my close friend Joe Allbaugh to attend today's memorial service for Dale Earnhardt. I am saddened by the untimely loss of this American legend and want to express my deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and fans. Dale was an American icon who made great contributions to his sport. Dale's legacy will live on for millions of Americans. He was an inspiration to many.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Budget Review Board and an Exchange With Reporters

February 23, 2001

The President. Good morning. Welcome to the Budget Review Board. We've been going over the budget that I'll be submitting to the Congress next Tuesday night. I want to thank OMB Director Mitch Daniels for doing a really fine job.

It is a budget that clearly sets out priorities. It is a budget that sets aside Social Security money for only—to be used only for Social Security. It is a budget that will substantially pay down debt, and it's a budget that provides meaningful, real tax relief for our citizens.

In the budget, I prioritize education. I talked about that yesterday. We also prioritize the health care needs. We recognize the Federal Government plays a very important role in researching cures for disease, and therefore, our budget increases the NIH budget for 2002 by $2.8 billion, the largest increase in that Department's history.

And so I'm very much looking forward for the American people to see and hear the budget presentation. It's a practical budget. It makes a lot of sense. It meets a lot of needs. And the people of this country are going to realize we spent a lot of time on it and will realize that they've got an administration that is practical, full of common sense, and always asks the question, how can we help the people of the country?

Thanks.

National Economy

Q. Is the uptick in inflation going to make it harder to get the economy going again?

The President. Not with the Secretary of the Treasury at the helm.

Thanks a lot.

Opening Day Plans

Q. Are you going to Puerto Rico to see the Rangers?

The President. Are you?

Q. I'd like to.

The President. I'm not putting out my opening day plans yet.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 17

The President and Mrs. Bush attended a hometown celebration welcoming them on their first home visit to Crawford, TX.

February 19

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where they toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial Interactive Learning Museum. Later, the President met privately with survivors and family members of victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Columbus, OH, where the President toured Sullivant Elementary School classrooms and met with reading mentors.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Louis, MO, where the President toured Moline Elementary School classrooms and listened to a reading of "Amazing Grace." Later, the President met with Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis at a private residence.

The President named Ruben Barrales as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

February 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Townsend, TN, where he met with students from Doyle Middle School at McGhee Tyson Airport. Later, he toured Townsend Elementary School classrooms and listened to several essay readings.

While returning to the airport in the afternoon, the President stopped in front of Heritage Middle School to shake students' hands, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a private dinner at the home of Katharine Graham, executive committee chairman, Washington Post, Co.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Natsios to be Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maria Cino to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brenda L. Becker to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Aufhauser to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert E. Fabricant to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Robert Bolton to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

The President announced the appointment of Gary R. Edson as Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy National Security Adviser.

February 22

The President announced his intention to nominate James Andrew Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil at the White House on March 30.

February 23

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey.

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD. Later, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tim S. McClain to be General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Pittsburgh, PA, and Council Bluffs, IA, on February 28 and Little Rock, AR, and Atlanta, GA, on March 1.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 17

Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding Executive Orders

Released February 20

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer to the press pool aboard Air Force One

Released February 22

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of John F. Maisto as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Franklin C. Miller as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Jendayi E. Frazer as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Daniel Fried as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Robert G. Joseph as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Proliferation Strategy, Counterproliferation and Homeland Defense at the National Security Council

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Cardoso of Brazil

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at Camp David, Maryland

February 23, 2001

Q. How is it going so far?

President Bush. Pretty darn good.

Winston Churchill

Q. How was lunch? Is it true that Churchill once came to this cabin?

President Bush. That's exactly right.

Meeting With Prime Minister Blair

Q. How goes the get-acquainted session?

President Bush. Good, John [John Roberts, CBS News], thank you. Ambassador Johndroe was telling us where to go.

Winston Churchill

Q. Sir, can you tell us the historical significance of where you're standing?

President Bush. This is where Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the first visitor to Camp David, stayed. It's a huge honor for Laura and me to welcome the current Prime Minister and his wife. And we're about to have a press availability to answer all these difficult questions that you're throwing at us, John. I promised the Prime Minister that you in particular would behave well during the press conference—and Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

All right, we're actually now going to go for a walk of a couple miles.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, where's your coat?

Prime Minister Blair. It's around somewhere, but actually it's a lot warmer than Canada.

President Bush. You shouldn't have noticed that.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:23 p.m. on the porch of Holly Lodge. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Blair's wife, Cherie, and Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Blair at Camp David

February 23, 2001

President Bush. Welcome. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister, from our strongest friend and closest ally, to Camp David. We've had a couple of formal visits. More importantly, we had a nice walk around Camp David, and got to know each other. And as they told me, he's a pretty charming guy. He put the charm offensive on me. [*Laughter*] And it worked. No, we're delighted, and tonight we'll have a dinner, just the four of us, and Mrs. Blair and Laura and the two of us, and I'm really looking forward to it.

This is a chance for me to tell the Prime Minister how dedicated my administration will be to an alliance that has made a huge difference in the world, an alliance that I firmly believe will make a difference in the years to come.

We discussed trade. We discussed defenses. We discussed the Prime Minister's vision of a strong NATO. We discussed a lot of subjects. The thing I want to leave people with the impression of is that ours will be a strong and good personal relationship and a alliance that will stand the test of time.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Well, I was delighted to come here, and I've been really enthusiastic about our meetings so far. They've been absolutely excellent, very productive, as I hoped and expected. We discussed a whole range of issues. I think we've been through all the issues that you would expect, plus

some more. And I've found it a very, very useful meeting, indeed.

And I just want to make one point by way of introduction, which is that our countries have stood together in some very difficult times, very hard times, some of the most testing times the world has ever known. And the reason we've come through those times together and stronger is because we share the same values; we share the same interests; we have a lot of common history; but I think, most of all, we have the same perception of the world and the belief in freedom and the belief in standing up for what is right and just. And everything that I've heard today confirms for me in my view that that relationship will carry on and strengthen in the years to come.

I thank you very much, indeed.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Missile Defense System

Q. Mr. President, have you received a commitment from the Prime Minister to support your missile defense plan, including building missile defense sites in Britain?

And Mr. Prime Minister, do you think that there is a threat that requires a missile defense shield, and would you allow missile defense sites to be built on your—in your country?

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, before we answer that, generally when I ask for one question, we only get one question coming. Well done. [*Laughter*]

We had a long discussion about missile defense. I will, obviously, let the Prime Minister speak for himself. I made the case, like I will do to all the leaders with whom I meet, that we need to think differently about the post-cold-war era, that there are new threats that face people who love freedom.

There is the threat of an accidental launch of a missile. There are the threats of potential blackmail when one of these nations develops weapons of mass destruction and be willing to point at America, Britain, our allies, our friends, people with whom we've got commitments. And we've got to deal with those in a realistic way. And the Prime Minister asked a lot of really good questions, and he can answer what you asked, Ron.

But we're in the process of coming up with a realistic way to deal with the true threats. It makes a lot of sense to explore options. It makes a lot of sense to develop defenses to face the true threats. It also makes sense for us to send the message to the world that in the post-cold-war era, the United States will handle its responsibilities to keep the peace in a constructive way, by reducing our offensive weapons, as well. And I'm now talking to the Pentagon to come up with a level of nuclear weaponry that will help us keep the peace. As to whether or not there will be sites or no sites, that's too early to determine, because I have yet to propose to the Prime Minister what will work.

Prime Minister Blair. First of all, let me say, I understand and share the concerns of the President and the American administration about weapons of mass destruction and nuclear proliferation. And I think it's very important in that context that we discuss all the ways that we can deal with this threat, which is a real threat and a present threat, both in relation to offensive and defensive systems.

And I said to the President, and I want to repeat to you, that I welcome very much the approach that the administration has taken, which is to be very open about this, which is to talk to people about it, to make sure that allies are consulted properly. These are very, very big and important issues. But we welcome the dialog that there has been on it. And I think if you look at the world today and you see those countries that are developing weapons of mass destruction, I think it is a debate, that it is right to have.

Q. Can I ask you both about missile defense? Mr. President, can I ask you, if you fail to get agreement among your key allies, including Britain, are you prepared then to go ahead alone with some form of missile defense system? And if I can ask the Prime Minister, are you prepared to say in principle now you could back an American missile defense system?

President Bush. I don't think I'm going to fail to persuade people. I think it makes—it's commonsensical to say to our friends, let's come together, work together, to develop a

defense against the true threats of the 21st century. And so, I don't accept your hypothesis.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I'm sure, for my part, that this is a debate that is important to have, for the very reasons that the President gave earlier. And I think if you look at the weapons of mass destruction that people are trying to develop in nuclear proliferation, that it's important that we look at every single way we possibly can of dealing with this threat.

Now, as the President said a moment or two ago, we don't have a specific proposal on the table yet. But I understand and share the American concerns, as I've said many times before. And I think what is important is that if we take this forward in a constructive way and have the right discussion with allies, then we can find a way through this. I've always believed that, incidentally, and I believe that even more firmly having talked to the President today.

President Bush. I'll give you a followup answer.

I thought it interesting that Mr. Putin talked about missile defenses. I know there are some concerns in Europe about Russian reaction to the development of defenses that will make the world more peaceful. And Mr. Putin has started talking about the need for folks to develop—think about developing systems that will intercept missiles on launch, for example, theater-based systems that will keep the peace.

We found that to be a breakthrough of sorts, a recognition that the cold war has passed, that we are not Russia's enemy—I don't view Russia as our enemy, either—and that there will be new threats that we have to deal with. If we are peaceful, loving people, we must use our technologies to appropriately deal with the threats that we'll be facing. And I thought that was a positive breakthrough.

Steve Holland [Reuters].

Situation in Iraq

Q. Yes, sir. Could both of you explain how you keep the Iraqi sanctions from crumbling, and how do you explain how the Iraqi sanctions could be reconstituted to keep them from—to help ease the strain on the Iraqi people?

President Bush. We spent a lot of time talking about our mutual interests in Iraq and the Persian Gulf, and from our perspective, as you know, I made the famous statement that our sanctions are like Swiss cheese. That means they're not very effective, and we're going to work together to figure out a way to make them more effective.

But I think the Prime Minister and I both recognize that it is going to be important for us to build a consensus in the region to make the sanctions more effective. Colin Powell left today, after lunch, to move around the Middle East, collect thoughts and to listen, with a policy of strengthening our mission to make it clear to Saddam Hussein that he shall not terrorize his neighbors and not develop weapons of mass destruction.

Prime Minister Blair. Yes, if I can just add to that, I think that—I mean, of course, we've looked the whole time to see how we can make sanctions more effective. But don't be under any doubt at all of our absolute determination to make sure that the threat of Saddam Hussein is contained and that he is not able to develop these weapons of mass destruction that he wishes to do.

And as I constantly point out to people, I mean, this is a man with a record on these issues, both in respect to the murder of thousands of his own people, in respect to the war against Iran, in respect to the annexation of Kuwait. And we know perfectly well, given the chance, he will develop these weapons of mass destruction. Indeed, he's trying to do so and will get as much technology as he can to do so.

Now, of course, we've got to—we're all conscious of the fact that our quarrel is not with the Iraqi people, who in many ways suffer under the yoke of Saddam Hussein. But—and therefore, it's important that we make sure that the sanctions hit him, Saddam, as effectively as they possibly can. But we need to contain that threat, and that's why the action that we took is right and justified.

President Bush. BBC guy [Stephen Sackur, BBC], as promised.

European Rapid-Reaction Force

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. If I can pick up on what we were discussing yesterday, now that you've had a chance to talk to the Prime Minister, do you share the concerns of many in your party that the European plan for a rapid-reaction military force could seriously undermine NATO? And I'd like to hear first your response and then the Prime Minister's.

President Bush. The Prime Minister and I spent a lot of time on this subject, as well, and I support his point of view. He assured me that NATO is going to be the primary way to keep the peace in Europe and that the United States—and I assured him the United States will be actively engaged in NATO, remain engaged in Europe with our Allies.

But he also assured me that the European defense would no way undermine NATO. He also assured me that there would be a joint command, that planning would take place within NATO, and that should all NATO not wish to go on a mission, that would then serve as a catalyst for the defense forces moving on their own.

And finally, I was very hopeful when we discussed the Prime Minister's vision that such a vision would encourage our NATO allies and friends to bolster their defense budgets, perhaps. And so I support what the Prime Minister has laid out. I think it makes a lot of sense for our country.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I was very grateful for what the President had to say on that issue. And the important thing to remember is that, as the President has just outlined to you, this is in circumstances where NATO as a whole chooses not to be engaged. It is limited to the peacekeeping and humanitarian tasks that are set out. It is not a standing army. It is a capability that Europe should have, but the sovereign decision of each nation is necessary for each operation.

And speaking together as the founders of NATO, we would never do anything to undermine NATO. But where NATO as a whole chooses not to be engaged, it is important that we have the capability, where it's right and within these limited tasks that I've set out, to be able to act, should we choose to do so ourselves.

And I think, done in that way, it is something that can strengthen NATO, give us an additional string to our bow in circumstances where NATO doesn't want to be involved. And I think the President is absolutely right in a sense to put it up to us in Europe and say, "Well, if we are going to do this, then let us make sure that our capabilities match our aspirations." And I think done in that way it is good not just for Europe, but it's good for NATO and the U.S., as well. And I think that the discussion we had on it was very useful and very constructive.

Bush-Blair Relationship

Q. How much an obstacle is it to this special relationship you say you want to have on behalf of your two countries that you are ideologically poles apart? A tax cutter versus a tax raiser; a pro-death penalty versus an anti-death penalty; America first versus an interventionist—[*inaudible*]——

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]—you shouldn't be slandering in that way. [*Laughter*] He can handle his politics in Britain, and I'll handle mine in America. But we've got a lot of common interests. We agree on trade. We agree on ways to keep the peace. But most important, both of us recognize that this is a special relationship, the relationship between America and Britain, and we're going to keep it that way.

It is—the Prime Minister referred to the great history of the relationship between our two countries, and this is a fantastic legacy for both of us to inherit. And it's a legacy I take seriously, and it's a legacy that I will work hard to protect. I can assure you that when either of us get in a bind, there will be a friend on the other end of the phone.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I endorse that completely. And I think it's important to recognize, as well—I mean, you know from the work that we do in Europe, as well, there are very strong alliances that can be formed with people across so-called ideological divides of that type. But I think what is important is that what we have in common, our two countries and our interests, are so much more important for us in the work that we do.

And I should say also that I don't think if you look at the problems that are on the

President's agenda, even his domestic agenda now in terms of the economy, in terms of some of the things—we actually had a brief conversation about education policy when we were on our walk together—I think there are some interesting things happening that—there's a good dialog on some of these things, too. So I'm sorry to disappoint you.

President Bush. John [John King, Cable News Network].

China and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you spoke yesterday about sending a message to China if it is proven that the Chinese Government was helping the Iraqis at those missile sites—the air defense sites, excuse me. Mr. Prime Minister, I'm interested in what British intelligence tells you about any Chinese involvement, and if Chinese involvement is proven, what specific steps are each of you prepared to take beyond just publicly voicing your displeasure?

President Bush. If I can answer that first, because we had a little bit of news today that the Chinese responded to our inquiry. And you're going to have to ask Condi Rice what specifically they said, but if I could paraphrase, it was: If this is the case, we'll remedy the situation. But we did get a response. As I told you yesterday, that we filed a complaint and they responded this morning.

Q. Do you trust that they will keep their word in that regard?

President Bush. I think you've always got to begin with trust until proven otherwise.

Mr. Prime Minister, you may want to——

Prime Minister Blair. I've got nothing to add to that, actually. I think that's the sensible approach, and it's the one we took, too.

Clinton Pardons

Q. Prime Minister, having stood squarely behind President Clinton for the last 4 years, through thick and thin, do you feel any embarrassment today on his behalf, as his Presidency clearly ended in scandal and sleaze?

Prime Minister Blair. You know, Trevor, as I've said over the last few days when I've been asked about this, Bill Clinton is a friend of mine and will remain a friend of mine. But I am not getting into what has been in the newspapers and media over here. I don't think it's appropriate for me; I don't think it's right.

President Bush. Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News].

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, your administration has yet to become actively engaged in the peacemaking process, particularly in Northern Ireland. Are you planning to become more engaged?

And Mr. Prime Minister, based on what you've observed so far, do you expect that President Bush will be as engaged as President Clinton?

President Bush. Well, we talked about the peace process and I, like I did in the campaign, want to again praise President Clinton for his involvement. I asked the Prime Minister, "Did the President have a positive effect?" He said, "Absolutely." I then asked for him to let me know if I could ever help.

As you know, our position on any peace process, is it takes willing parties to come together, and if there is a way that I can help, I'd be more than willing to do so. I'm going to wait to be asked by the Prime Minister. He's got a better handle on it than I conceivably could as to when and if the prestige of the United States is needed to make the process work better.

But we spent a lot of time discussing the issue. The Prime Minister deserves a lot of credit, as well, for working hard to bring a peace to Northern Ireland. And progress is being made, and we will—I will be standing by, anxious to help, if I'm needed.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I was very grateful for that offer by the President. And it's difficult to perceive the exact circumstances in which I might pick up the phone and ask the President to help. But the fact that I know he is there and willing to do that is very important, because President Clinton was a great assistance during difficult parts of the Northern Ireland peace process.

And it's a very difficult process. I mean, it goes on the whole time, and we make progress, day by day, week by week, month by month, and there are still some very, very tricky issues to sort out. So I can't exactly foresee the circumstances in which the

American President can come in and be of help, but I was very grateful for the offer of that. And I think people in Northern Ireland will be, as well, because whatever the difficulties of the process there, my goodness, Northern Ireland is a different place today from what it was a few years back. And for people to know that there is that interest in the outside world, for people in Northern Ireland to know that, it gives them tremendous heart and hope.

Yes.

Bush-Blair Relationship

Q. A question for both of you. There has been a lot said about how different you are as people. Have you already in your talks found something maybe that you—some personal interest that you have in common, maybe in religion or sport or music?

President Bush. Well, we both use Colgate toothpaste. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Blair. They're going to wonder how you know that, George. [*Laughter*]

Q. I also wanted to ask you—you come up with a lot of nicknames for people. I wondered if you already had one for the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I'm getting even embarrassed about all the ones I choose in this press conference. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I'm still open for suggestions.

Well, we like sports. The Prime Minister informed me this morning that he exercised at the gym prior to meeting Vice President Cheney. I informed him after this press conference, I'm going to go exercise in the gym. We've both got great wives. I think probably the place we're going to find a lot of common ground is we're both dads, and proudly so, and recognize that as our most important responsibility—is to be loving dads.

I don't know if you found any common ground or not. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Blair. I think that's enough to be going on with.

President Bush. Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Sanctions Against Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you talked about Secretary of State Powell going to the Middle East looking for consensus on how to handle Saddam Hussein. We do know that there is a consensus that sanctions hurt the people of Iraq too much and perhaps Saddam Hussein not enough. Did the two of you discuss ways of changing the sanctions to make them tougher on him and a little less punishing for the people of Iraq? And if not, how do you hope to keep the coalition together? You already have some NATO Allies, even, who are questioning the value of the sanctions.

President Bush. Well, that's the work we've got to do. First, our beef is not with the people of Iraq; it's with Saddam Hussein. And secondly, any time anybody suffers in Iraq, we're concerned about it. And I would, however, remind you that Saddam's got a lot of oil money, and it would be helpful if he would apply it to helping his people. Having said that, to the extent that sanctions are hurting the Iraqi people, we're going to analyze that.

Colin is really going to listen. He's going to solicit opinion from our friends and folks in the Middle East. And prior to the formulation of any policy, we will have listened, and then I will, of course, consult with friends and allies such as the Prime Minister here, as we develop a policy that we hope and know will be more realistic.

The Prime Minister said something interesting, though. A change in sanctions should not in any way, shape, or form, embolden Saddam Hussein. He has got to understand that we are going to watch him carefully, and if we catch him developing weapons of mass destruction, we'll take the appropriate action. And if we catch him threatening his neighbors, we will take the appropriate action. A change in the sanction regime that is not working should not be any kind of signal whatsoever to him that he should cross any line of—and test our will, because we're absolutely determined to make that part of the world a more peaceful place by keeping this guy in check.

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. See you at the gym.

NOTE: The President's third news conference began at 4:45 p.m. in the Green Top Camp Dining Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Blair's wife, Cherie; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Joint Statement With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

February 23, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair reaffirm the uniquely close relationship that exists between the United States and the United Kingdom: a relationship rooted in common history, common values and common interests around the globe. We commit ourselves to the shared goals of a stronger Transatlantic alliance and to helping build a Europe whole, free and secure.

We affirm that NATO will remain the essential foundation of Transatlantic security. In this new century, NATO will continue to adapt itself to meet new missions and challenges by strengthening its capabilities; seeking to reinforce cooperation with Russia, Ukraine and other members of the Partnership for Peace; and continuing to admit to its ranks European democracies prepared to assume the responsibilities of membership.

We support efforts of NATO's European Members and other European nations to assume greater responsibility for crisis management in Europe by strengthening NATO's capabilities and developing the ability to manage efforts where NATO as a whole chooses not to engage. In this regard, the United States welcomes the European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), intended to make Europe a stronger, more capable partner in deterring and managing crises affecting the security of the Transatlantic community. The United Kingdom is committed to taking ESDP forward on the basis agreed by the EU at the recent Nice summit. This involves:

- Working with other EU members to establish and provide resources for an ESDP that improves Europe's capabilities and enables the EU to act where NATO as a whole is not engaged;

- Developing EU capabilities in a manner that is fully coordinated, compatible and transparent with NATO;

- Providing for the fullest possible participation of non-EU European Allies in the consideration of execution of EU-led operations, reflecting their shared interests and security commitments as NATO members.

The United States supports these efforts and welcomes the progress made toward our shared goals.

We reaffirm our commitment to promoting peace and stability in the Balkans. We declare our intent to work together and with our partners in the European Union and beyond to consolidate the peace so recently won. Our common vision is of a region, fully embedded in Europe, where commerce supplants conflict, where borders are venues for cooperation and not reasons for conflagration, and where the rule of law prevails and war criminals are brought to justice. Our two countries are committed to NATO-led military operations in the region and agree to work with allies and partners to build a region where the democratic leaders themselves take on the responsibility for implementing the peace, enabling the progressive drawdown of international military forces and in due course of the international civilian organizations.

We recognize the existence of a common threat stemming from the growing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and increasingly sophisticated missiles for their delivery. We are already working together in this area, and agree on the need for further substantive bilateral consultations, as well as close consultations with other allies. This consultation process, which will involve contacts with other interested parties, will include a review of our common strategic assumptions so that they reflect the contemporary security setting, and especially the growing threat from WMD-armed adversaries in regions of vital interest. We need to obstruct and deter these new threats with a strategy that encompasses both offensive and defensive systems, continues nuclear arms reductions where possible, and strengthens WMD and missile proliferation controls and counter-proliferation measures.

We reaffirm our determination to oppose the development or use of WMD and ballistic missiles by Saddam Hussein and the threat his regime poses to its neighbors, while seeking to protect the Iraqi people from the brutality of Saddam Hussein and his indifference to their humanitarian needs. We call on Iraq to comply with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

In the wake of the verdict issued by the Scottish High Court at Camp Zeist on January 31, we reiterate our condolences to the families of the victims of Pan Am flight 103, and call on the Libyan government to comply with the requirements of relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The President pledges the continuing support of the United States for the Northern Ireland peace process. The Prime Minister welcomes that support.

We are both committed to taking advantage of the new possibilities for democratic development and free markets in Africa in order to address the problems of insecurity and poverty on the continent. We support the idea of a new partnership with Africa to address, in a systematic way, conflict and disease—especially HIV/AIDS—and to promote economic growth and good governance. It is in all of our interests to create a more stable and peaceful world and to make available the benefits of globalization to all peoples.

We recognize the depth of our nations' economic connection and the United Kingdom acknowledges the importance to European economies of measures designed to sustain economic growth in the United States. We commit to work together and with other European states to deepen Transatlantic economic relations and to seek solutions to trade disputes. To maintain support for the WTO, we recognize that it is important that we work for solutions to trade disputes which are in accordance with its rulings. We reaffirm our commitment to the multilateral trading system and strongly support the launch of a new Round of global trade negotiations this year. It is our goal to open markets, both regionally and globally. We agree to intensify our efforts to liberalize fully our bilateral civil aviation relationship. We reaffirm our commitment to increased cooperation in the sphere of Transatlantic defense trade and the removal of unnecessary governmental barriers and impediments to such trade.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 24, 2001

Good morning. This coming week I will be making the trip up Pennsylvania Avenue to address a joint session of Congress. We have some business to attend to called the budget of the United States.

The Federal budget is a document about the size of a big city phone book and about as hard to read from cover to cover. The blueprint I submit this week contains many numbers, but there is one that probably counts more than any other—$5.6 trillion. That is the surplus the Federal Government expects to collect over the next 10 years; money left over after we have met our obligations to Social Security, Medicare, health care, education, defense, and other priorities.

The plan I submit will fund our highest national priorities. Education gets the biggest percentage increase of any Department in our Federal Government. We won't just spend more money on schools and education; we will spend it responsibly. We'll give States more freedom to decide what works. And as we give more to our schools, we're going to expect more in return by requiring States and local jurisdictions to test every year. How else can we know whether schools are teaching and children are learning?

Social Security and Medicare will get every dollar they need to meet their commitments. And every dollar of Social Security and Medicare tax revenue will be reserved for Social Security and Medicare.

My budget blueprint will restrain spending, yet meet growing needs with a reasonable 4 percent growth rate, which is a little more than inflation. After paying the bills, my plan reduces the national debt, and fast. So fast, in fact, that economists worry that

we're going to run out of debt to retire. That would be a good worry to have.

Finally, along with funding our priorities and paying down debt, my plan returns about one out of every four dollars of the surplus to the American taxpayers, who created the surplus in the first place. A surplus in tax revenue, after all, means that taxpayers have been overcharged. And usually when you've been overcharged, you expect to get something back.

Tax relief means real help for both American families and the American economy. Everybody who pays income taxes will receive a tax cut. Nobody will be targeted in, and nobody will be targeted out. The typical family will get about $1,600 in tax relief, and that's real money. And that's money that will help American families manage their own accounts, manage your own balance sheets.

My address to Congress comes on Tuesday night at 9 o'clock eastern time. I hope you'll tune in and consider what I have to say. I hope you'll agree that my plan is good for you and for your family. But even more, I hope you'll agree it's good for America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:30 a.m. on February 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks at the National Governors' Association Conference

February 26, 2001

It's good to see you all again. I hope everybody had as fun a time last night as Laura and I did. It was—I really enjoyed it, and thanks for coming.

When the history of this administration is written, it will be said the Nation's Governors had a faithful friend in the White House. I've sat where you're sitting, and I know what it's like to have a good idea and then to wait on the Federal Government to tell you whether you can try it or not.

So let me make this pledge to you all: I'm going to make respect for federalism a priority in this administration. Respect for federalism begins with an understanding of its philosophy. The Framers of the Constitution did not believe in an all-knowing, all-powerful Federal Government. They believed that our freedom is best preserved when power is dispersed. That is why they limited and enumerated the Federal Government's powers and reserved the remaining functions of government to the States.

And today I'm announcing a new federalism initiative. I will sign a directive creating an Interagency Working Group on Federalism. The Working Group will seek your opinions on the issues that Governors and other leaders in local and State government believe should be addressed. The Group will look for ways to speed up waivers and to streamline rigid rules and regulations. And it will be charged with drafting a new Executive order on federalism, which will require their departments and agencies to respect the rights of our States and territories.

We look forward to a close relationship. You've got strong advocates in my administration, starting with four former Governors: Ashcroft, Thompson, Whitman, and Bush. [*Laughter*] We'll also have an Intergovernmental Affairs Office run by Ruben Barrales of California, who will be responsive to your needs and your requests.

We've just lived through a decade of the most exciting, important things done by government have been done by Governors. In 7 years, you've reduced welfare rolls by more than half, improved millions of the lives of your fellow citizens by helping them find work. You brought new meaning to crime prevention programs. You pioneered education reforms, and many of you have shown how tax relief can reenergize State economies.

In Michigan and Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, for example, tax relief pumped adrenalin into troubled economies. I saw the same thing happen in Texas when I proposed, fought for, and signed meaningful tax relief.

More than half the States have reduced taxes in each and every one of the past 3 years. Governors deserve more credit than you get when it comes to the prosperity of our country. The surging growth we've seen in States that have reduced taxes gives an

answer to the people who say we cannot afford tax cuts. You've shown we can't afford not to cut taxes.

I look forward to this discussion today to discuss how best to devolve authority back to the States. Real change comes from the bottom up, not the top down. The genius of the American system has been to let that change flow upward, from neighborhoods to cities to States and then to the Federal Government. We need to keep that path open, to give Government a human face and bring decisionmaking closer to the people. I am going to rely upon my friends, the Governors.

I look forward to being in constant contact with you. You see, you bring common sense to the political debate. You're dedicated servants. You respect the will of the people. Our country is better off for your service.

Governor Glendening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Governors John Ashcroft of Missouri, Tommy G. Thompson of Wisconsin, and Christine T. Whitman of New Jersey, currently Attorney General, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, respectively; and Gov. Parris N. Glendening of Maryland, chair, National Governors' Association (NGA). The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Governor Glendening and Gov. John Engler of Michigan, vice chair, NGA.

Memorandum on the Interagency Working Group on Federalism

February 26, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Interagency Working Group on Federalism

It is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the Interagency Working Group on Federalism (the "Working Group").

Section 2. Membership.

(a) The Working Group shall comprise the following officials:

(1) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, who shall serve as Chairman of the Working Group;
(2) Director, Domestic Policy Council, who shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Working Group;
(3) Secretary of the Treasury, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(4) Attorney General, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(5) Secretary of the Interior, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(6) Secretary of Agriculture, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(7) Secretary of Commerce, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(8) Secretary of Labor, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(9) Secretary of Health and Human Services, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(10) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(11) Secretary of Transportation, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(12) Secretary of Energy, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(13) Secretary of Education, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(14) Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(15) Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(16) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(17) Counsel to the President;
(18) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
(19) Assistant to the President, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(20) Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President, or an appropriate designee thereof;
(21) Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs; and

(22) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Section 2. Meetings of the Working Group. The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy or the Director, Domestic Policy Council, may convene and preside over meetings of the Working Group.

Section 3. Functions. The principal functions of the Working Group are to:

(a) Identify initiatives that promote principles of Federalism, such as:

(1) Federal endeavors which may more appropriately be carried out by State or local authorities;

(2) Opportunities for flexible funding streams, regulatory waivers, and other opportunities that increase State and local flexibility, innovation, and accountability;

(3) Measures for improving Federal responsiveness to State and local concerns; and

(4) Enforcement of rules, orders, and procedures that advance Federalism.

(b) Draft a new Executive Order on Federalism, which will require departments and agencies in the executive branch to adhere to principles of Federalism;

(c) Consult, as appropriate, with State and local officials on issues pertaining to Federalism, including, but not limited to, the issuance of the new Executive Order on Federalism; and

(d) Produce a report to the President on recommendations for promoting principles of Federalism no later than 6 months after the issuance of this directive.

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

February 26, 2001

The President. I want to thank our Cabinet for coming in today. Amongst a variety of topics, one of which is going to be—we're going to talk about the budget and my speech tomorrow night to the Congress. And I want to thank all of the Cabinet officers for their hard work in helping us prepare a realistic budget that is going to enable our Nation to meet its priorities and at the same time not only set aside money for contingencies and pay down debt but to leave enough money left over so that people can get a real, substantial tax relief package that they will feel.

I would be glad to answer some questions.

Upcoming Address to Congress

Q. Mr. President, in your speech tomorrow night, what will be your message to the American people, and will you begin addressing reforms in the Social Security system?

The President. Of course, we'll be talking about Social Security. Secondly, I will be making the case as to why our budget makes sense for the country and for the people who pay the bills of our country. It is a commonsense approach to what our Nation ought to do with the tax revenues that are coming into the Treasury.

Q. Do you expect to propose Social Security reforms this year?

The President. I will see.

Miami Herald Florida Recount

Q. Mr. President, what are your thoughts about the final Florida recount that put you over from the Vice President, and what do you say to those who now have to call you the legitimate President that didn't call you that? [*Laughter*]

The President. Good. [*Laughter*] Hopefully, all the focus on the past is over with. It's time to move forward. And tomorrow night's speech is a part of moving forward. We've worked hard here in this administration to reach out to people that may not have supported me. I think we're making pretty good progress to say that the discussions that take place around this table, for example, are what's best for America, not what's best for a political party but what's best for the country.

Upcoming Address to Congress

Q. Sir, in your speech, will you have specific areas in the budget where spending will slow down, and will you specify those areas in your speech?

The President. No. In my speech I will talk about the budget. And in the budget is

where people will see all the particulars. If I tried to review every particular in the budget, I would set the all-time record for the amount of time in front of the Congress. And as you know, I'm the kind of person who likes to try to get to the point. I will spend enough time speaking so that people will understand where I'm coming from but not too long so they go to sleep.

Q. Mr. President, you've acknowledged that you're going to have to make cuts to the budget to some extent. What do you say to those who are saying that you're telling the American people, essentially, they can have their cake and eat it, too?

The President. What I'm going to say to the American people is that, had we kept spending at the rate we were spending last year, there would be no surplus, that the size of growth in the Federal budget that—and the budget we inherited was way too high, that we can meet our needs by slowing down the rate of growth in our budget. But it requires a President to set priorities. And I'm going to set clear priorities in the budget.

I readily concede some appropriators may not like the fact that we're asking for there to be fiscal sanity in the Federal budget, but that's one of the reasons I became the President, because I said, "Give us a chance, and we will have fiscal sanity in our budget." And I'll look forward to making the case.

The people are going to hear in plain spoken words why I believe, strongly believe, when we meet priorities, pay down debt, protect Social Security, and as importantly, make sure that people get some of their own money back so to make sure that the economy is strong, help people pay for high energy bills, to help people manage their own personal debt, we need to have tax relief—tax relief that the people can feel. And I will make the case tomorrow night that it's within our grasp to do so. And people will hear as plainly as I can say it what the facts are.

Q. It sounds like your speech will be shorter than ones we're used to in the last 8 years. [*Laughter*]

The President. I don't know. [*Laughter*] It depends on how loud you clap.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:07 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7408—American Red Cross Month, 2001

February 26, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, a woman selflessly devoted to the needs of humanity. Many of the Red Cross's guiding principles—compassion, courage, character, and civic duty—are timeless ideals shared by the people of the United States.

Chartered and authorized by the Congress to act in times of need, the American Red Cross serves our Nation and the world, providing compassionate assistance to people afflicted by personal, local, national, or international disasters. Every day, millions of Red Cross volunteers and employees follow in Clara Barton's footsteps by providing essential services to people in their communities.

For more than 120 years, Americans have relied on the expertise of the American Red Cross in disaster relief. Last year, the Red Cross helped people during devastating wildfires in New Mexico and Montana and in communities hit by massive ice storms in Nebraska, Arkansas, and across the Midwest. Volunteers respond to an estimated 63,000 disasters each year and help millions of people during trying times of loss. The American Red Cross also saves lives long before tragedy strikes by helping individuals and entire communities learn to prepare for disasters.

The educational information distributed by the American Red Cross helps people feel safe at home, at work, at school, and at play. Last year, the Red Cross trained nearly 12 million people in lifesaving CPR and first aid, in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDS), on HIV/AIDS education, and in lifeguarding and water safety. Many people also know about the Red Cross because of the organization's blood collection drives. In 2000, more than 6.3 million units of blood were collected from 4 million generous blood donors.

Under its charter, the American Red Cross is entrusted to deliver emergency messages and provide vital services for military members and their families. Staff members deploy with our Armed Forces to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families. Almost 40,000 Red Cross volunteers work at more than 100 military sites here and around the world.

Through the years, the American Red Cross has reached out to people worldwide, preventing and relieving the most desperate cases of human suffering caused by crises abroad. For families in need right now—in more than 50 developing nations—the American Red Cross is helping to establish sanitary and healthy living conditions by creating reliable sources of food and water. The organization's international services save the lives of people threatened by calamities such as epidemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, deadly weather, social strife, or economic collapse.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as American Red Cross Month. I request, as my predecessor Franklin Roosevelt did 58 years ago, that each American enlist in the Red Cross "army of mercy"—and give part of themselves to advance this organization's noble humanitarian mission. We have a long way yet to travel, but together, we can save lives. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we applaud and salute the selfless dedication of generations of Red Crossers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 28, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 1.

Proclamation 7409—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2001

February 26, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Beginning from the earliest years of settlement, millions of Ireland's people have emigrated to America's shores. This immigration reached a particular peak during the terrible years of the Great Famine more than 150 years ago. Irish immigrants, from professionals to laborers, made an enormous contribution to the building of our Nation.

The Irish who came to America endured many hardships but have prevailed to play vital roles in every chapter of our country's history. Nine of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin, and 19 Presidents of the United States have proudly claimed Irish heritage—including George Washington, Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan. Irish Americans have served with distinction in every war this Nation has fought, from Revolutionaries John Barry and Stephen Moylan to General Douglas MacArthur. Other influential and renowned figures of Irish descent include pioneers Buffalo Bill Cody, Daniel Boone, and Davy Crockett; authors Flannery O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, and John O'Hara; Civil War photographer Matthew Brady; and entertainers Jackie Gleason, Gene Kelly, and John Wayne. These distinguished Americans represent only a small sampling of the men and women whose legacy has forever changed our national identity and who trace their ancestry to Ireland's green shores.

Today, the more than 44 million Americans who claim Irish heritage look back with pride on the achievements and contributions of their forebears. Irish Americans have distinguished themselves in every sector of American life. We are all enriched, strengthened, and blessed by their service to our country.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United

States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 28, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 1.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

February 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I transmit herewith the 6-month report required under the heading "International Organizations and Programs" in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization. The report, which was prepared by the previous Administration, covers the period from August 13, 2000, through January 27, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Andres Pastrana of Colombia and an Exchange With Reporters

February 27, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome a friend of our country to the Oval Office, President Pastrana. We've had a very good discussion about Colombia—Plan Colombia—the renewal of a Trade Preference Act for the Andean nations to help their economies grow. President Pastrana is a courageous leader who is dealing with very difficult problems. I'm confident that with his leadership, his nation will be better off.

And Mr. President, I can't thank you enough for taking a lead in your country, for having the heart that you have and the compassion for the Colombian people, and the ability to make tough decisions.

I explained to the President that we're fully aware of the narcotics that are manufactured in his country but also told him that many of them wouldn't be manufactured if our Nation didn't use them, and we've got to work together to not only help Colombia but help our own country.

So, Mr. President, you're welcome to come—if you'd like to make a few comments, you're welcome to.

President Pastrana. Thank you, Mr. President. Once again, it is a great pleasure to be back with now-President Bush. We had the opportunity to meet in 1999 when President Bush was Governor. So once again, Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity in which we could exchange a lot of ideas of what's happening in our country, and how can we deal with a common enemy that is narcotrafficking; that in the end, that is the one that is financing the violence in my country and maybe also in part of your country; and that we are going to put all the efforts to continue our fight, as we have done in our commitment against narcotrafficking, trying to reach a peace agreement in our country and strengthening our economy, creating new jobs and better jobs for our people.

So I want to thank you publicly, also, Mr. President, for all the help that you are giving us and the U.S. to get forward in this process.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. A couple questions.

Colombia

Q. Mr. President, would you be part of the negotiation table—will the U.S. be part of the negotiation table as President Pastrana——

President Bush. No, we will not be.

Q. Why?

President Bush. This is an issue that the Colombian people and the Colombian President can deal with. We'll be glad to help Colombia in any way to make the peace. We'll be glad to help the Colombian economy through trade. But I won't be present for the discussions.

National Debt/Social Security

Q. Mr. President, on the budget, your chief economic adviser is saying that your administration will not seek to retire all of the outstanding Federal debt, which is something that President Clinton had promised. Can you explain why that is——

President Bush. Yes.

Q. ——and what you would suggest doing with the hundreds of billions of dollars that would be left over in the Social Security surplus that would have gone to retire it?

President Bush. Yes. Mr. President, I'm giving a speech tonight on the budget. I don't know if you have to give budget speeches, but sometimes it's hard to make those budget speeches very poetic. [*Laughter*]

It does not make sense to pay down debt prematurely and, therefore, have to pay a premium on the debt that you prepay. And so we've calculated the amount of debt that our Nation can pay off over the next 10 years, and that's $2 trillion, leaving about $800 billion unpaid.

The second followup question to that was Social Security. And tonight during my speech, I will lay out the part of the vision for modernizing the Social Security system.

We have an issue in this country, Mr. President, because people my age, affectionately known as baby boomers, will be retiring soon. And in my case, later rather than sooner, I hope. But anyway, we have trouble enough—there won't be enough money being put in the system to take care of the baby boomers when we retire. And therefore, the question is, how do we make the system work?

And I want to give younger workers the opportunity to manage some of their own money in the private markets. And to answer your question, some of that money could be used as part of a modernization plan.

Q. Do you and your economic advisers think that maybe some of this—[*inaudible*]—on the table—[*inaudible*]—short term or long term——

President Bush. No, we don't at all. As a matter of fact, we think it's the wise, wise thing to do. Again, American people have got to understand that we'll be paying down the debt as it comes due. But the idea of prepaying debt at a premium to the taxpayers makes no sense to do that.

Q. But no impact on interest rates because of the consequent——

President Bush. No, I don't think so. As a matter of fact, the interest rates would more likely be affected by monetary policy. The economy would be affected by good, sound fiscal policy because one of the things—I don't want to give you the whole speech, because I, of course, want you to pay attention to it. But I do believe we ought to accelerate the tax relief plan. The sooner we get money into the pockets of our taxpayers, the more likely it is our economy will even out.

We've got an economic problem, Mr. President, that is of concern. It should be a concern to our neighbors. I discussed this with President Fox. We've got a mutual friend in President Fox, the President of Mexico. And he is concerned about the nature of the U.S. economy, as well. And we're going to do everything we can to make sure our economy recovers quickly, which will be beneficial. As our trading partner, it will be very beneficial.

Si.

Temporary Protected Status

Q. Did you discuss anything about the TPS for the Colombia——

President Bush. We did. And the President made a very strong case. He was very plain spoken. He brought up the case, the concerns of over a million Colombians who live here in the United States, mainly in Queens, New York, and in the State of Florida, and I listened carefully.

[*At this point, a question to President Pastrana was asked and answered in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

Upcoming Address to Congress

Q. Do you expect Democrats to give your speech a fair chance tonight? Or do you suspect that they're just ready to pounce? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I, of course, will be giving the speech in the Chamber, and there will be Republicans and Democrats, but I'm really speaking to the American people. This is a speech—hold on a second—this is a speech that I want to make it clear to the American people that I have a reasonable plan for the budget.

I'm going to make it clear we meet priorities, and I'll explain what many of those priorities are; that we make sure that Social Security, the money aimed for Social Security goes only to Social Security; that we pay down debt and it will be the largest repayment of debt ever; that we've got money for contingencies in the budget; and that there is still money left over for the tax relief plan.

The problem we have oftentimes in America is that people will be asked the question, "Do you want tax relief, or do you want somebody not to get their Medicare check?" I'm going to be making the case that with the right leadership, the right priorities, and the right focus, that we will fund important programs and have money left over for tax relief.

And it's important—it's important for the American people to get some of their own money back. One, it will help the economy. Secondly, it will help the American taxpayers pay off their own personal debt.

One of the issues we have, Mr. President, in the United States is high energy bills. The cost of energy is going up because we haven't had enough exploration relative to demand. And this cash that people will get back through tax relief will help the American families manage their budgets.

I really am looking forward to giving this speech. I hope you're looking forward to listening to it.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—most important speech so far, sir?

President Bush. Every one of them are important.

Andean Free Trade Treaty

Q. [*Inaudible*].

President Bush. For trade? Absolutely. It's a very important treaty. She is asking about the free trade treaty of the Andean nations. Yes, sir—yes, ma'am, I'll be pushing it. I'm a free trader.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—to help the economy?

President Bush. Through trade, absolutely. And the President made a very strong case for broadening the trade agreement. I will bring up the matter with Ambassador Zoellick, who is my trade negotiator.

Adios.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Relating to Cuba and of the Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels

February 27, 2001

On March 1, 1996, by Proclamation 6867, President Clinton declared a national emergency to address the disturbance or threatened disturbance of international relations caused by the February 24, 1996, destruction by the Government of Cuba of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international air space north of Cuba. In July 1996 and on subsequent occasions, the Government of Cuba stated its intent to forcefully defend its sovereignty against any U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft that might enter Cuban territorial waters or airspace while involved in a memorial flotilla and peaceful protest. Since these events, the Government of Cuba has not demonstrated that it will refrain from the future use of reckless and excessive force against U.S. vessels or aircraft that may engage in memorial activities or peaceful protest north of Cuba. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Cuba and the emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage

and movement of vessels set out in Proclamation 6867.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 27, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:08 a.m., February 27, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Notice on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Cuba

February 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 27, 2001.

Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on Administration Goals

February 27, 2001

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress: It's a great privilege to be here to outline a new budget and a new approach for governing our great country. I thank you for your invitation to speak here tonight. I know Congress had to formally invite me, and it could have been a close vote. [*Laughter*] So, Mr. Vice President, I appreciate you being here to break the tie. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank so many of you who have accepted my invitation to come to the White House to discuss important issues. We're off to a good start. I will continue to meet with you and ask for your input. You have been kind and candid, and I thank you for making a new President feel welcome.

The last time I visited the Capitol, I came to take an oath on the steps of this building. I pledged to honor our Constitution and laws, and I asked you to join me in setting a tone of civility and respect in Washington. I hope America is noticing the difference, because we're making progress.

Together, we are changing the tone in the Nation's Capital. And this spirit of respect and cooperation is vital, because, in the end, we will be judged not only by what we say or how we say it, we will be judged by what we're able to accomplish.

America today is a nation with great challenges but greater resources. An artist using statistics as a brush could paint two very different pictures of our country. One would have warning signs: increasing layoffs, rising energy prices, too many failing schools, persistent poverty, the stubborn vestiges of racism. Another picture would be full of blessings: a balanced budget, big surpluses, a military that is second to none, a country at peace with its neighbors, technology that is revolutionizing the world, and our greatest strength, concerned citizens who care for our country and care for each other.

Neither picture is complete in and of itself. And tonight I challenge and invite Congress to work with me to use the resources of one picture to repaint the other; to direct the advantages of our time to solve the problems of our people. Some of these resources will come from Government—some but not all.

Year after year in Washington, budget debates seem to come down to an old, tired argument: on one side, those who want more Government, regardless of the cost; on the other, those who want less Government, regardless of the need. We should leave those

arguments to the last century and chart a different course.

Government has a role, and an important role. Yet, too much Government crowds out initiative and hard work, private charity and the private economy. Our new governing vision says Government should be active but limited, engaged but not overbearing. And my budget is based on that philosophy.

It is reasonable, and it is responsible. It meets our obligations and funds our growing needs. We increase spending next year for Social Security and Medicare, and other entitlement programs, by $81 billion. We've increased spending for discretionary programs by a very responsible 4 percent, above the rate of inflation. My plan pays down an unprecedented amount of our national debt. And then, when money is still left over, my plan returns it to the people who earned it in the first place.

A budget's impact is counted in dollars but measured in lives. Excellent schools, quality health care, a secure retirement, a cleaner environment, a stronger defense: These are all important needs, and we fund them. The highest percentage increase in our budget should go to our children's education. Education is not my top priority—education is my top priority, and by supporting this budget, you'll make it yours, as well.

Reading is the foundation of all learning. So during the next 5 years, we triple spending, adding $5 billion to help every child in America learn to read. Values are important, so we've tripled funding for character education to teach our children not only reading and writing but right from wrong. We've increased funding to train and recruit teachers, because we know a good education starts with a good teacher. And I have a wonderful partner in this effort. I like teachers so much, I married one. Laura has begun a new effort to recruit Americans to the profession that will shape our future—teaching. She will travel across America to promote sound teaching practices and early reading skills in our schools and in programs such as Head Start.

When it comes to our schools, dollars alone do not always make the difference. Funding is important, and so is reform. So we must tie funding to higher standards and accountability for results.

I believe in local control of schools. We should not, and we will not, run public schools from Washington, DC. Yet when the Federal Government spends tax dollars, we must insist on results. Children should be tested on basic reading and math skills every year between grades three and eight. Measuring is the only way to know whether all our children are learning. And I want to know, because I refuse to leave any child behind in America.

Critics of testing contend it distracts from learning. They talk about teaching to the test. But let's put that logic to the test. If you test a child on basic math and reading skills and you're teaching to the test, you're teaching math and reading. And that's the whole idea. As standards rise, local schools will need more flexibility to meet them, so we must streamline the dozens of Federal education programs into five and let States spend money in those categories as they see fit.

Schools will be given a reasonable chance to improve and the support to do so. Yet if they don't, if they continue to fail, we must give parents and students different options: a better public school, a private school, tutoring, or a charter school. In the end, every child in a bad situation must be given a better choice because, when it comes to our children, failure is simply not an option.

Another priority in my budget is to keep the vital promises of Medicare and Social Security, and together we will do so. To meet the health care needs of all America's seniors, we double the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. My budget dedicates $238 billion to Medicare next year alone, enough to fund all current programs and to begin a new prescription drug benefit for low income seniors. No senior in America should have to choose between buying food and buying prescriptions.

To make sure the retirement savings of America's seniors are not diverted into any other program, my budget protects all $2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and for Social Security alone.

My budget puts a priority on access to health care, without telling Americans what doctor they have to see or what coverage they

must choose. Many working Americans do not have health care coverage, so we will help them buy their own insurance with refundable tax credits. And to provide quality care in low income neighborhoods, over the next 5 years we will double the number of people served at community health care centers. And we will address the concerns of those who have health coverage, yet worry their insurance company doesn't care and won't pay.

Together this Congress and this President will find common ground to make sure doctors make medical decisions, and patients get the health care they deserve with a Patients' Bill of Rights.

When it comes to their health, people want to get the medical care they need, not be forced to go to court because they didn't get it. We will ensure access to the courts for those with legitimate claims. But first, let's put in place a strong, independent review so we promote quality health care, not frivolous lawsuits.

My budget also increases funding for medical research, which gives hope to many who struggle with serious disease. Our prayers tonight are with one of your own who is engaged in his own fight against cancer, a fine Representative, and a good man, Congressman Joe Moakley. I can think of no more appropriate tribute to Joe than to have the Congress finish the job of doubling the budget for the National Institutes of Health.

My New Freedom Initiative for Americans with disabilities funds new technologies, expands opportunities to work, and makes our society more welcoming. For the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities, we must continue to break down barriers to equality.

The budget I propose to you also supports the people who keep our country strong and free, the men and women who serve in the United States military. I'm requesting $5.7 billion in increased military pay and benefits and health care and housing. Our men and women in uniform give America their best, and we owe them our support.

America's veterans honored their commitment to our country through their military service. I will honor our commitment to them with a billion-dollar increase to ensure better access to quality care and faster decisions on benefit claims.

My budget will improve our environment by accelerating the cleanup of toxic brownfields. And I propose we make a major investment in conservation by fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Our national parks have a special place in our country's life. Our parks are places of great natural beauty and history. As good stewards, we must leave them better than we found them. So I propose providing $4.9 billion over 5 years for the upkeep of these national treasures.

And my budget adopts a hopeful new approach to help the poor and the disadvantaged. We must encourage and support the work of charities and faith-based and community groups that offer help and love, one person at a time. These groups are working in every neighborhood in America to fight homelessness and addiction and domestic violence, to provide a hot meal or a mentor or a safe haven for our children. Government should welcome these groups to apply for funds, not discriminate against them.

Government cannot be replaced by charities or volunteers. Government should not fund religious activities. But our Nation should support the good works of these good people who are helping their neighbors in need. So I propose allowing all taxpayers, whether they itemize or not, to deduct their charitable contributions. Estimates show this could encourage as much as $14 billion a year in new charitable giving, money that will save and change lives.

Our budget provides more than $700 million over the next 10 years for a Federal compassion capital fund, with a focused and noble mission, to provide a mentor to the more than one million children with a parent in prison and to support other local efforts to fight illiteracy, teen pregnancy, drug addiction, and other difficult problems.

With us tonight is the mayor of Philadelphia. Please help me welcome Mayor John Street. [*Applause*] Mayor Street has encouraged faith-based and community organizations to make a significant difference in Philadelphia. He's invited me to his city this summer to see compassionate action. I'm personally aware of just how effective the

mayor is. Mayor Street's a Democrat. Let the record show, I lost his city—big time. But some things are bigger than politics. So I look forward to coming to your city, to see your faith-based programs in action.

As Government promotes compassion, it also must promote justice. Too many of our citizens have cause to doubt our Nation's justice, when the law points a finger of suspicion at groups instead of individuals. All our citizens are created equal and must be treated equally.

Earlier today I asked John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, to develop specific recommendations to end racial profiling. It's wrong, and we will end it in America. In so doing, we will not hinder the work of our Nation's brave police officers. They protect us every day, often at great risk. But by stopping the abuses of a few, we will add to the public confidence our police officers earn and deserve.

My budget has funded a responsible increase in our ongoing operations. It has funded our Nation's important priorities. It has protected Social Security and Medicare. And our surpluses are big enough that there is still money left over.

Many of you have talked about the need to pay down our national debt. I listened, and I agree. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now, and I hope you will join me to pay down $2 trillion in debt during the next 10 years. At the end of those 10 years, we will have paid down all the debt that is available to retire. That is more debt, repaid more quickly than has ever been repaid by any nation at any time in history.

We should also prepare for the unexpected, for the uncertainties of the future. We should approach our Nation's budget as any prudent family would, with a contingency fund for emergencies or additional spending needs. For example, after a strategic review, we may need to increase defense spending; we may need to increase spending for our farmers or additional money to reform Medicare. And so, my budget sets aside almost a trillion dollars over 10 years for additional needs. That is one trillion additional reasons you can feel comfortable supporting this budget.

We have increased our budget at a responsible 4 percent. We have funded our priorities. We paid down all the available debt. We have prepared for contingencies. And we still have money left over.

Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." [*Laughter*] Now, we come to a fork in the road; we have two choices. Even though we have already met our needs, we could spend the money on more and bigger Government. That's the road our Nation has traveled in recent years.

Last year Government spending shot up 8 percent. That's far more than our economy grew, far more than personal income grew, and far more than the rate of inflation. If you continue on that road, you will spend the surplus and have to dip into Social Security to pay other bills. Unrestrained Government spending is a dangerous road to deficits, so we must take a different path.

The other choice is to let the American people spend their own money to meet their own needs. I hope you will join me in standing firmly on the side of the people. You see, the growing surplus exists because taxes are too high and Government is charging more than it needs. The people of America have been overcharged, and on their behalf, I am here asking for a refund.

Some say my tax plan is too big. Others say it's too small. I respectfully disagree. [*Laughter*] This plan is just right. I didn't throw darts at a board to come up with a number for tax relief. I didn't take a poll or develop an arbitrary formula that might sound good. I looked at problems in the Tax Code and calculated the cost to fix them.

A tax rate of 15 percent is too high for those who earn low wages, so we must lower the rate to 10 percent. No one should pay more than a third of the money they earn in Federal income taxes, so we lowered the top rate to 33 percent.

This reform will be welcome relief for America's small businesses, which often pay taxes at the highest rate. And help for small business means jobs for Americans. We simplified the Tax Code by reducing the number of tax rates from the current five rates to four lower ones, 10 percent, 15, 25, and 33 percent. In my plan, no one is targeted in or

targeted out. Everyone who pays income taxes will get relief.

Our Government should not tax and, thereby, discourage marriage, so we reduced the marriage penalty. I want to help families rear and support their children, so we doubled the child credit to $1,000 per child. It's not fair to tax the same earnings twice—once when you earn them, and again when you die—so we must repeal the death tax.

These changes add up to significant help. A typical family with two children will save $1,600 a year on their Federal income taxes. Now, $1,600 may not sound like a lot to some, but it means a lot to many families: $1,600 buys gas for two cars for an entire year; it pays tuition for a year at a community college; it pays the average family grocery bill for 3 months. That's real money.

With us tonight representing many American families are Steven and Josefina Ramos. They are from Pennsylvania, but they could be from any one of your districts. Steven is the network administrator for a school district. Josefina is a Spanish teacher at a charter school. And they have a 2-year-old daughter.

Steven and Josefina tell me they pay almost $8,000 a year in Federal income taxes. My plan will save them more than $2,000. Let me tell you what Steven says: "Two thousand dollars a year means a lot to my family. If we had this money, it would help us reach our goal of paying off our personal debt in 2 years' time." After that, Steven and Josefina want to start saving for Lianna's college education.

My attitude is, Government should never stand in the way of families achieving their dreams. And as we debate this issue, always remember, the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money.

For lower income families, my tax plan restores basic fairness. Right now, complicated tax rules punish hard work. A waitress supporting two children on $25,000 a year can lose nearly half of every additional dollar she earns above the $25,000. Her overtime, her hardest hours, are taxed at nearly 50 percent. This sends a terrible message: "You'll never get ahead."

But America's message must be different. We must honor hard work, never punish it. With tax relief, overtime will no longer be over-taxed-time for the waitress. People with the smallest incomes will get the highest percentage of reductions. And millions of additional American families will be removed from the income tax rolls entirely.

Tax relief is right, and tax relief is urgent. The long economic expansion that began almost 10 years ago is faltering. Lower interest rates will eventually help, but we cannot assume they will do the job all by themselves.

Forty years ago, and then 20 years ago, two Presidents, one Democrat, one Republican, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, advocated tax cuts to, in President Kennedy's words, "get this country moving again." They knew then what we must do now. To create economic growth and opportunity, we must put money back into the hands of the people who buy goods and create jobs.

We must act quickly. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve has testified before Congress that tax cuts often come too late to stimulate economic recovery. So I want to work with you to give our economy an important jump-start by making tax relief retroactive.

We must act now because it is the right thing to do. We must also act now because we have other things to do. We must show courage to confront and resolve tough challenges, to restructure our Nation's defenses, to meet our growing need for energy, and to reform Medicare and Social Security.

America has a window of opportunity to extend and secure our present peace by promoting a distinctly American internationalism. We will work with our allies and friends to be a force for good and a champion of freedom. We will work for free markets, free trade, and freedom from oppression. Nations making progress toward freedom will find America is their friend. We will promote our values. We will promote the peace, and we need a strong military to keep the peace.

But our military was shaped to confront the challenges of the past. So I've asked the Secretary of Defense to review America's Armed Forces and prepare to transform them to meet emerging threats. My budget makes a downpayment on the research and development that will be required. Yet, in our broader transformation effort, we must

put strategy first, then spending. Our defense vision will drive our defense budget, not the other way around.

Our Nation also needs a clear strategy to confront the threats of the 21st century, threats that are more widespread and less certain. They range from terrorists who threaten with bombs to tyrants in rogue nations intent upon developing weapons of mass destruction. To protect our own people, our allies, and friends, we must develop and we must deploy effective missile defenses.

And as we transform our military, we can discard cold war relics and reduce our own nuclear forces to reflect today's needs. A strong America is the world's best hope for peace and freedom.

Yet the cause of freedom rests on more than our ability to defend ourselves and our allies. Freedom is exported every day, as we ship goods and products that improve the lives of millions of people. Free trade brings greater political and personal freedom. Each of the previous five Presidents has had the ability to negotiate far-reaching trade agreements. Tonight I ask you to give me the strong hand of Presidential trade promotion authority and to do so quickly.

As we meet tonight, many citizens are struggling with the high cost of energy. We have a serious energy problem that demands a national energy policy. The West is confronting a major energy shortage that has resulted in high prices and uncertainty. I've asked Federal agencies to work with California officials to help speed construction of new energy sources, and I have directed Vice President Cheney, Commerce Secretary Evans, Energy Secretary Abraham, and other senior members in my administration to develop a national energy policy.

Our energy demand outstrips our supply. We can produce more energy at home while protecting our environment, and we must. We can produce more electricity to meet demand, and we must. We can promote alternative energy sources and conservation, and we must. America must become more energy independent, and we will.

Perhaps the biggest test of our foresight and courage will be reforming Medicare and Social Security. Medicare's finances are strained, and its coverage is outdated. Ninety-nine percent of employer-provided health plans offer some form of prescription drug coverage. Medicare does not. The framework for reform has been developed by Senators Frist and Breaux and Congressman Thomas, and now is the time to act.

Medicare must be modernized, and we must make sure that every senior on Medicare can choose a health care plan that offers prescription drugs.

Seven years from now, the baby boom generation will begin to claim Social Security benefits. Every one in this Chamber knows that Social Security is not prepared to fully fund their retirement. And we only have a couple of years to get prepared. Without reform, this country will one day awaken to a stark choice: Either a drastic rise in payroll taxes or a radical cut in retirement benefits. There is a better way.

This spring I will form a Presidential commission to reform Social Security. The commission will make its recommendations by next fall. Reform should be based on these principles: It must preserve the benefits of all current retirees and those nearing retirement; it must return Social Security to sound financial footing; and it must offer personal savings accounts to younger workers who want them.

Social Security now offers workers a return of less than 2 percent on the money they pay into the system. To save the system, we must increase that by allowing younger workers to make safe, sound investments that yield a higher rate of return. Ownership, access to wealth, and independence should not be the privilege of the few. They are the hope of every American, and we must make them the foundation of Social Security.

By confronting the tough challenge of reform, by being responsible with our budget, we can earn the trust of the American people. And we can add to that trust by enacting fair and balanced election and campaign reforms.

The agenda I have set before you tonight is worthy of a great nation. America is a nation at peace but not a nation at rest. Much has been given to us, and much is expected. Let us agree to bridge old divides. But let us also agree that our good will must be dedicated to great goals. Bipartisanship is more

than minding our manners; it is doing our duty.

No one can speak in this Capitol and not be awed by its history. At so many turning points, debates in these chambers have reflected the collected or divided conscience of our country. And when we walk through Statuary Hall and see those men and women of marble, we're reminded of their courage and achievement.

Yet America's purpose is never found only in statues or history. America's purpose always stands before us. Our generation must show courage in a time of blessing, as our Nation has always shown in times of crisis. And our courage, issue by issue, can gather to greatness and serve our country. This is the privilege and responsibility we share. And if we work together, we can prove that public service is noble.

We all came here for a reason. We all have things we want to accomplish and promises to keep. *Juntos podemos*—together we can.

We can make Americans proud of their Government. Together we can share in the credit of making our country more prosperous and generous and just and earn from our conscience and from our fellow citizens the highest possible praise: Well done, good and faithful servants.

Thank you all. Good night, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra.

Memorandum on Racial Profiling

February 27, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Racial Profiling

I hereby direct you to review the use by Federal law enforcement authorities of race as a factor in conducting stops, searches, and other investigative procedures. In particular, I ask that you work with the Congress to develop methods or mechanisms to collect any relevant data from Federal law enforcement agencies and work in cooperation with State and local law enforcement in order to assess the extent and nature of any such practices.

I further direct that you report back to me with your findings and recommendations for the improvement of the just and equal administration of our Nation's laws.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 28.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of Control Concepts Corporation in Beaver, Pennsylvania

February 28, 2001

National Economy/Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Chairman Greenspan this morning said that the slowdown doesn't look like it's run its course yet, and I'm wondering if you can comment on that.

The President. All the more reason to accelerate the tax cut. And I think our Nation needs to be wary of the economic times, and Congress needs to know that. Congress needs to work with me to accelerate a meaningful tax reduction package as quickly as possible.

Q. With the votes the way they are in the Senate, sir, can you get your package through in time and make a difference?

The President. I am confident we're going to get a significant tax relief package through. It's going to have enough oomph to it to help the economy. And that's one reason I'm traveling around the country, to make the case.

Q. Does that suggest, sir——

The President. ——Roberts [John Roberts, CBS News], on the other hand.

Q. Does that suggest, sir, that it may not be the package that you want?

The President. Oh, we're going to get the package out.

Address to the Congress

Q. Sir, how do you feel it went last night, Mr. President?

The President. You need to ask other people. I felt—well, I've passed the initial review. My wife thought I did all right. That was——

Q. Were you nervous?

The President. No, I wasn't nervous at all. I was pleased with the reception, and I was excited to be there. I had something to say, and I was prepared. I spent enough time on the speech to be comfortable with what I was going to say.

I was struck by how cozy the confines were in the hall. I've never really, obviously, been there in that position. It was actually the first State of the Union type of speech I'd ever seen. In this case, I actually got to—I couldn't say I exactly watched it—participated in it.

Tax Cut Legislation/National Economy

Q. How hard will be——

The President. You know, it's never easy for the President to get exactly what he wants. We're going to get a—I believe it's going to be $1.6 trillion. And people begin to realize the logic in the plan and that we can meet priorities, including debt repayment, and have a contingency fund, and that we need to pass a substantial portion of the money back to the people in order to help them help themselves, as well as provide stimulus to make sure our economy grows.

And I'm really looking forward to continuing to make the case—last night was the kickoff—today, tomorrow, and then the following week, and we'll take a grand tour of the country together. I'm speaking to people that are going to make a difference, and those are the citizens. Those are the people that will actually be writing their Congressmen and Senators, encouraging them to hopefully join with me in passing money back.

Q. Mr. President, now that you've taken off the glasses, sir, would you care to comment on Mr. Greenspan's testimony this morning?

The President. Say it again? What did you say?

Q. Mr. Greenspan offered a sober assessment of the current state of the economy through the sharp downturn that's been evident in the last few months. It seems to be far from running its course.

The President. I am concerned about the state of the economy. I recognize the economy is slowing down. And that's all the more reason for Congress to work to pass money back to the people and form the meaningful tax relief, and to do it as quickly as possible.

Q. And if you put the vote in the Senate, sir, as they are, do you believe you can get your tax package through the way you want it?

The President. I think we will get the tax package through. I believe a lot of people are going to take a hard look at reality and look at the facts and realize we've got ample money to meet needs and pay down debt and that we've got to stimulate the economy through tax relief, as well as give people more cash so that they can manage their own accounts.

There's a lot of talk in Washington about national debt, and that's a legitimate discussion. But I also want people to understand, there's a lot of people who have got consumer debt, and tax relief will help people manage their own balance sheets.

See you in Nebraska. By the way, I made you famous by calling you Stretch.

Q. My parents said that I've been called a lot worse.

The President. Particularly by them.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 9:15 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to reporter David "Stretch" Gregory, NBC News. Reporters referred to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Small Business in Beaver

February 28, 2001

[*The discussion began with Control Concepts Corp. President Geoffrey Taylor thanking the President for his visit and saying his 4-year-old daughter was curious about the names of the President's puppies.*]

The President. Let me see if I can get it right. [*Laughter*] We're the proud owner of Spot. She was born in the White House in 1989 to Millie. On November 4th, I was campaigning in New Jersey. It happened to be my wife's birthday, and the then-Governor of New Jersey said, "Well, Governor, what did you buy your wife for her birthday?" I said, "Nothing"—which wasn't the right answer—[*laughter*]—certainly not politically

correct, as they say. It then happened that Laura and Christie Todd started talking about the fact that Christie Todd raises Scottish terriers. It turns out I did buy my wife something for her birthday, a Scottish terrier named Barney, who is having a heck of a time on the carpet upstairs in the White House, by the way.

The answer is, Spot and Barney—[*laughter*]—and one cat named India.

[*Mr. Taylor described the operation of Control Concepts and stated that the President's tax plan would be of great benefit to Control Concepts and to small companies across the Nation.*]

The President. Well, thank you, sir.

I want to thank you all for having me. First, the greatness—this country's greatness is because there are a lot of entrepreneurs in America, and you are an entrepreneur. And I'm honored to be sitting next to you and your son.

I love the concept of a family-owned business, the idea of a mom and her son working together to not only produce a product but, more importantly, to employ capital so people can find work. After all, small businesses are the main creators of jobs in America. And all public policy and tax policy must work to create an environment in which entrepreneurship can flourish.

So my speech last night was speaking not only about a budget but was also talking about the entrepreneurial spirit in our country. And one of the reasons we came here is because the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well here, and I appreciate it very much.

It is important to remember the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which businesses, small and large, can flourish. That's the role of Government.

I want to thank my friend the Governor of Pennsylvania for being here. We hosted the Governors at the White House last Sunday night. It happened to be the first lady of Pennsylvania's birthday, as well. And it was good to see you, Tom. Thanks for coming.

Pennsylvania is well represented in the United States Senate by two very capable, smart, concerned Pennsylvania citizens—so concerned, we spent most of the flight from Washington to Pennsylvania talking about how to make the economy of Pennsylvania a better place. Senator Specter and Senator Santorum are not shrinking violets when it comes to making the case for the citizens of Pennsylvania and the country. I want to thank you all for traveling with me. Finally, a freshman, just like me, Melissa Hart—and Melissa is an active soul.

I appreciate you giving me the chance to explain the rationale behind my budget. It was very important for people to hear that what I think is—what I know is true, and that is we've got a lot of cash flow coming into the U.S. Treasury. And the fundamental question is what to do with it: How best can we spend the people's money?

Last night I made the case that our Nation can achieve the following priorities: One, set aside all payroll taxes that are designed for Social Security to be spent only on Social Security. That is $2.6 trillion over the next 10 years will be set aside to be spent only—only—on Social Security. I believe there's wide consensus on both sides of the aisle that that is prudent fiscal policy.

Secondly, I made the case that we can prioritize and fund Medicare for our senior citizens, that we're going to spend—we're going to double the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. And if we have the right kind of leadership in the Congress, someone willing to—people who are willing to work with the President to reform Medicare, we will not only have money to fund Medicare, we will have a Medicare system that will enable seniors to choose the health care plan that meets their needs, all of which will include prescription drugs.

I made the case that we can meet our needs by funding what's called discretionary spending at a 4 percent increase. Some says 4 percent sounds like a small number, but I want to remind you it's greater than the rate of inflation. It is less than what Congress spent during the last three sessions, I readily concede. But we've got to be careful about overspending in Washington, DC. We shouldn't have bidding contests in Washington. What we ought to have is rewards

for people who are concerned about overspending, it seems like to me. And so I propose increasing the discretionary spending at 4 percent.

It means, for example, that public schools will get a significant increase in spending out of the Federal Government. Now, having said that, I promise you I will stand tough to the principle that we ought to run our schools locally—that local control of the schools—that we've got to run our schools locally in order to achieve excellence for every single child.

We need to pay our soldiers more money. We need to make sure that they are well paid. But before we spend a lot of money on the Defense Department, it seems wise—and I think business people will agree with this—that we ought to have a strategy about what our military ought to look like in the long term. We've got to make sure we have a proper strategy on how to prioritize our military spending before we do so.

There is still money left in the budget, after growing discretionary spending by 4 percent, after funding the entitlement programs, after meeting priorities. Over the next 10 years, we set aside a trillion dollars for what I call contingencies, a trillion dollars in case we need money for additional Medicare spending or military spending or spending on the farmers in America. So there is money set aside for that, and there is still money left over.

Now, the debate always seems to come out of Washington that if you have tax relief, somebody is not going to get their Medicare check, or if you have tax relief, somebody is not going to get a Social Security check. My point to you is that we set priorities and fund them; we protect Social Security and Medicare and fund them; we spend money on the military to keep the peace; we set aside contingencies, money for contingencies, and there's still money.

And what I want to do is to remind Americans—this is why I've come to western Pennsylvania—remind Americans that the surplus is your money; it is not the Government's money, and once we fund priorities, we ought to give it to you.

One reason Dave and Janet sit here is because I think it is very important for people to know that behind every statistic there are Americans who—in whom we ought to place our trust. These good folks pay $4,400 in Federal income taxes. Under the plan I proposed last night in the Congress—which doubles the child credit from $500 to $1,000, reduces all rates for everybody who pays taxes, drops the top rate from 39 to 33, reduces the bottom rate from 15 to 10, reduces the effects of the marriage penalty, eliminates the death tax—these good folks will save $1,980.

Now, for a lot of folks, they'll yawn and say, "Gosh, that's $1,980. That's really nothing." We disagree. We disagree—$1,980 a year can make a big difference to people who are raising two lovely children, to people who want to set aside money for savings. It is so important for Members of the Congress to realize what the average citizen is going through today.

When you couple high energy prices with consumer debt, there's a lot of good folks who struggle in America. And it seems like to me that the right thing for Washington to do is, once we fund our priorities, enhance the cash flows of the people who pay the bill in the first place in America. In so doing, not only do we help working Americans but we also will add a second wind to an economy that is slowing down.

I come from the school of thought—I know many of you do, as well—that sound fiscal policy coupled with sound monetary policy is going to make a difference in this economy, that by giving people their own money back will be a part of sound fiscal policy. The more money you have to spend, the more money circulating, the more likely it is the economy will recover. And all of us in Washington must do everything we can to make sure that the economy is strong enough for people to be able to keep jobs and find work, if they're looking for work. That's the whole purpose of economic growth, is for people to be able to find work.

I'm so thankful that you gave me a chance to come to make my case. I can't think of a better place to make the case than in a business run by a family, a business run by entrepreneurs, a business who care more about their employees than they do about

themselves because they recognize if the employee is happy, an employee can work, an employee is satisfied, that the business itself will run well.

It's my honor also to be here with Dave and Janet and Erin and Jonathan, Americans who under our plan will receive real, tangible benefits. But that's not really the right way to say it, is it? It's your money to begin with, Americans, who under our plan will keep more of their own money so they can spend it where they see fit.

Thank you very much.

[*Dave Berger explained how he started working for Control Concepts.*]

The President. I'll give you a loaded question. Do you want some tax relief? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Berger. All you can give. [*Laughter*]

The President. You know, I'm constantly amazed that—first of all, one of the things that happens when you talk about tax relief, people immediately go to the class warfare argument, that "only the rich people will benefit," which obscures reality, and reality is, $1,980 is a lot of money. And I'm not going to ask you what you're going to do with it, because I trust you to do the right thing with it. Frankly, it's none of the Government's business about what you decide to do with your own money. But I bet it may have something to do with your children's future education, for example.

[*Administrative medical technician Janet Berger briefly described her work and how pleased she and her patients were that the President was discussing their health care needs.*]

The President. Yes. Well, we're concerned, all of us are concerned about making sure that Medicare fulfills the promise to our seniors. It is a solemn obligation that the Federal Government has assumed, and it's a solemn obligation that the Federal Government will keep.

And there will be a lot of discussion, a lot of argument about how to get where we're going to end up, but we're going to end up with reform that will make the system solvent and give seniors a variety of options in order to tailor a plan that meets their needs, all of which will include prescription drugs. And it's going to be a titanic struggle. But it's one that, with the right leadership and the right tone in Washington, DC, people I think are going to be able to come together on, and I think we'll get something done.

Mrs. Berger. And on a personal note, I'm glad to hear that your tax reform will refund almost $2,000 for our family for education and our needs.

The President. Well, thanks. I—let me talk about a couple of aspects of this tax relief plan that I want to explain to you.

First of all, I believe that the Government should not decide, oh, you get tax relief, and you don't get tax relief. To me, the best tax policy is to treat everybody fairly and to say if you pay taxes, you get relief.

Secondly, it is very important to understand that the Tax Code is unfair for people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're, say, a single mom struggling to get ahead in life and you're making about $22,000 a year, as she begins to earn additional money, she loses earned-income tax credit; she pays payroll taxes; and she pays income taxes, which means that every additional dollar above a level around $22,000 is taxed at nearly 50 percent. That's the way this Tax Code is structured.

It means that folks who struggle to get to the middle class pay a higher marginal rate than someone who is successful, someone who has got quite a bit of cash flow, and that's not fair.

Part of the tax relief package has got to be aimed at making the code easy to understand and fair. One thing our country is known for is being a fair country. Another thing we ought to be known for is that we want people to succeed, and the code ought to reward success.

Secondly, a lot of small businesses, as I mentioned earlier, these small businesses provide, by far, the vast majority of new jobs in America. And dropping the top rate will serve as a catalyst to attract capital to small businesses. Many small businesses are unincorporated small businesses; many are what's called Subchapter S businesses, and they pay the high rate. And by dropping the rate, it will provide capital for small business expansion. And that's very important for this country.

And I know the rhetoric will be, "Oh, he's focused on the billionaires," and all that business. That's called class warfare. The truth of the matter is, this plan is aimed at helping small businesses flourish and grow and succeed.

It is important for America that the small business person remain vital and healthy. And so this is a plan that is well-thought-out. It is—I found it interesting during the course of the speech last night, I said, "Some think it's too big"—and of course, those who thought it was too big cheered—"and some think it's too little"—and they cheered. Of course, I thought it was just right. [*Laughter*]

Let me say that part of my job as President, as well—I might as well be just very upfront—is to travel the country ginning up support for this plan. And that's why I'm here. I would hope that you would not only contact your immediate Representatives—I don't think you need to in the case of the three here—[*laughter*]—but I would hope that if you find others that may be reluctant to listen to what we have to offer—and I say "we" because this is a plan that really is aimed for people—that you would help, that you would write, that you would e-mail, that you would call folks to encourage them to be openminded and to think about you when they cast votes.

And this is a plan that will benefit hard-working Americans. I find it such an honor to be your President, and I love traveling the country, to go out and—I'm going from here to Nebraska and Iowa and Arkansas and Georgia. And it is exciting because this is a great country, made great by the fact that it's got such wonderful people. And it's so important for all of us who have the honor of representing you to have public policy in mind that makes lives easier. And this series of initiatives that we're going to be debating over the next months will be aimed, if it's done right, at easing the burden on the working people in the country. And America will be even stronger as a result.

So it's an honor to be here.

[*Mr. Taylor stated the President's tax plan would be good not only for the economy and for employees but would allow small-business owners to reinvest in their businesses, creating a cycle of economic expansion. He added that long-term debt reduction would further spur the economy.*]

The President. I appreciate you bringing that up. We have set aside $2 trillion over the next 10 years to pay down debt. Now, people say, "Well, why don't you pay all the debt off?" One reason why you don't pay all the debt off is because at the end of 10 years, a number of bonds will have not matured. It does not make economic sense to prepay American debt that will cost American taxpayers a premium to do so.

And so we pay down all available debt; all the debt that matures will be paid off. And it's going to ease the interest burden on the country. It makes fiscal sanity, sense to do so. And there's ample cash flow to be able to meet the debt requirements and put aside a contingency fee and provide tax relief.

I urge the Congress to be cautious about overspending. The rate of spending increased last year by 8 percent. That is a significant number, particularly when you're talking in terms of trillions. And there was something like over 5,000 one-time expenditures in the budget at the end of the year. And so we have to work with the appropriators to say, "Let's be reasonable about how we spend the people's money."

A sure way to make sure this economy gets drug down is to overspend. A bloated Federal Government will affect economic vitality. And so it's going to require a lot of us working together to say, "Well, wait a minute. It's important to set priorities." One thing business owners learn how to do is how to prioritize and then have the discipline necessary to meet priorities.

So I appreciate you bringing up the debt retirement, and it's an issue that I'm confident we can work together on. It's just important for people to know that it's only wise to pay down a certain portion of the debt before it costs taxpayers an additional premium. And that doesn't make any sense. It doesn't make any sense to do that.

[*Mr. Berger said he was interested in education reform and impressed that the President would increase spending for reading.*]

The President. I am. You all know I used to be a Governor, and therefore, I'm a little suspect about Federal involvement in any

way, shape, or form in education. I do, however, think that it is appropriate for the Federal Government to spend money, so long as it's spent wisely. I can't think of anything more important than to increase the amount of money available at the Federal level for reading programs, so long as the strategy makes sense.

And there has been a lot of thought and a lot of research about what works. A lot of programs in States, you know, abandoned the concept of phonics, and as a result, many children weren't learning to read. The reason I bring that up is I want to reinvigorate the curriculum debate, all based upon—the conclusion of which we based upon a simple concept: If it works, use it. So part of the reading initiative is to encourage people to analyze the facts about reading.

Secondly, I strongly believe in diagnosis. And I believe we've got to measure children. And I believe we've got to measure children to make sure that not any children get left behind. And that includes K-through-two little children. We ought to develop a reading diagnostic tool that can be easy to administer but will point up where there are some reading deficiencies that need to be corrected early, before it's too late. That is a very feasible and logical approach to reading.

Finally, I know we need to retrain teachers. Part of the failures in our society thus far have been that some teacher colleges—I'm certainly not accusing any here in the State of Pennsylvania, Governor—that have not taught teachers how to teach reading. And if that be the case, we need to retrain teachers in the science of reading, so they can teach reading. So I believe this makes sense, the initiative.

I used to be a business person. As a matter of fact, I was in a business where the results were posted every day. It's called baseball. Generally, the results weren't all that good. [*Laughter*]

So I understand when the president of a company says, "What is the bottom line?" It is a philosophy to which I adhere. I ask the question, are the children learning? And if we spend Federal money, particularly on disadvantaged children, the debate ought to be not whether or not we ought to spend money on disadvantaged children; the debate ought to be, are we getting our money's worth?

I believe every child can learn. I refuse to accept excuses that there are certain children who can't learn; therefore, let's don't measure, or let's just move them through the system.

And so therefore, I'm asking Congress to say—to enact this reform. If you receive Federal money, you the State of Pennsylvania, or the State of Texas or any other State, must devise and implement an accountability system that determines whether or not children are learning basic English skills and math skills. That's what we want to know. Accountability becomes the whole cornerstone for reform.

Without measurement, we're just guessing. With measurement, it would enable policymakers and educators to devise programs that will meet needs. You don't know if you don't measure.

And so the crux of the reform is that we do spend some more money, and that's fine. But money alone is simply not the answer. There must be reform. There must be a system in place that creates the incentive for people to change when there's failure and to address problems early before it's too late. It's the whole cornerstone of what we're trying to do.

The State of Pennsylvania can design the remedies. They can design what remedies will ultimately make a difference in terms of creating educational excellence. The Federal Government ought to be focused on some targeted spending but also understanding that systemic reform will yield positive results for children from all walks of life. It is an incredibly important debate that is taking place in Washington.

You will hear much of the dialog that will be all focused on dollars, and that's an important part of the debate. But the truth of the matter is that Federal Government only funds about 7 percent of the education budgets in aggregate across the Nation. Most funding, as you well know, in Pennsylvania comes from either State Government or local property taxes. And that's where the power ought to be. It ought to be closest to the people who are paying the bills in order to

make sure that schools chart the path to excellence necessary so every child learns.

But at the Federal level, we can institute structural reform or insist upon changes that will eventually yield to structural reform, and that's what the whole educational debate is about. And it's an important debate in America, and I'm really glad we've engaged early on that subject in the Senate and the House. You got more than you wanted.

Mr. Taylor. Education is also very important to me. As I had mentioned earlier, I have two small children. And as they grow up, we need to have some type of accountability so that they are learning the reading and writing skills necessary.

The President. It starts with you, however, as you know.

[*The discussion continued to its conclusion.*]

NOTE: The roundtable began at 9:35 a.m. at Control Concepts Corp., a manufacturer of industrial switch devices. In his remarks, the President referred to former New Jersey Gov. Christine T. Whitman, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Mr. Taylor's mother, Carolyn Taylor Renninger, chief executive officer, Control Concepts Corp.; and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania.

Remarks in Omaha, Nebraska

February 28, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. I'm glad I came. I'm not saying I don't like my new address, I do. But it's good to get out in the countryside, too. It's good to get out so I can shake hands with the folks that make America work. It's good to get to the heartland, where people proudly stand on values of faith and family.

I'm honored you'd invite me. I'm glad I came. Mr. Mayor, thank you for your friendship. It's great to be here with the Governor and first lady of the State of Nebraska, two fine people and two good friends of Laura and mine.

It's also a thrill to travel from Washington with two fine United States Senators, Senator Hagel and Senator Nelson. The good thing about these two Senators is this: I know I'm going to be able to count on them in the pinch. I know when it comes to doing the right thing, they'll listen to the people of Nebraska.

I'm also honored to be traveling with the Congressman, Lee Terry. He's a good, solid man. I'm proud to be on the stage with three Iowa Congressmen. And I appreciate you relaxing your border standards to let them in. [*Laughter*] The Lieutenant Governor is here.

My fellow citizens, it is an honor to be your President. I'm proud to call 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue home, and so is the First Lady. And I was proud to stand up in front of the United States Congress last night to bring a message of the American people, a commonsense message, a message of budgets and priorities. I truly felt like I was representing you when I talked about fiscal sanity and talked about the need for our Government to set clear priorities.

One of our priorities in the budget and one of our national priorities must be to make sure that every child—I mean every child—gets educated in the great land called America. Even though I have a Washington, DC, temporary address, I want you to know I strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe the people who care more about the children of Nebraska are the citizens of Nebraska and we must work together, the Congress and the executive branch must work together to pass power out of Washington to provide flexibility at the local level. One size does not fit all when it comes to educating the children of our country.

I want to insist that we spend more money on programs like reading initiatives—an initiative that will help all children learn to read, an initiative that will be based upon the fact that reading is a science—and we must use curriculum that will work. Phonics needs to be an integral part of the curriculum.

We're going to raise the standards. You see, what we believe is that every child in America can learn. We're going to reject the thought that certain children can't learn, so we'll just move them through the system. That's got to end—it's got to end. And what we stand for, what the people know makes sense is that in order to determine whether or not all children are learning, it's essential that we measure. It's essential that local folks develop strong accountability systems. So we ask the question, do you know how to read?

And if you do, we'll praise the teachers. And we always have got to praise the teachers. But if our accountability system shows that children are not learning to read, instead of sitting by and saying, "Oh, maybe something positive will happen," it will serve as a go-by; it will serve as an opportunity for us to say, "Let's solve the problems early before it's too late." There are no second-rate children in America, and there are no second-rate dreams. So our budget prioritizes education with the understanding, however, that the schools will be run at the local level.

I set another priority, and that's to pay the men and women who wear our uniform better wages. I am proud to be the Commander in Chief. The mission of the United States military will be to train our troops to be prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A priority in the budget is to make sure that people who don't have health care insurance who work have health care insurance. A priority in the budget is to fulfill our promise to the seniors by funding Medicare. I want you to know you can hear all the rhetoric about the apologists for bigger Government in Washington, but with the right priorities and the right focus, we will double the Medicare budget over the next 10 years to make sure our seniors have got a Medicare system that we can be proud of, one that, by the way, includes prescription drugs.

Oh, I know you'll hear a lot of talk about Social Security, and we should talk about Social Security. But under our vision of what we ought to do with the budget, we set aside all $2.6 trillion of the payroll taxes that are heading into Social Security and spend them only on Social Security.

Now, some of the people in Washington aren't going to like my budget because we don't grow the budget quite as fast as they would like. The budget increased last year by 8 percent. That's significantly higher than the rate of inflation. That was higher than real income grew. I mean, they were growing that budget—it was like a bidding contest to see who could spend the most money got out of town first. Those days must end. The budget I submitted to the Congress is one that said we could meet our needs and grow our discretionary spending at a realistic and reasonable 4 percent.

There's a lot of talk in Washington about debt, and like you, I'm concerned about debt. I want to remind you there's two types of debt: one is at the Government level; and one is at the individual level. First let me talk about Government debt. With the right kind of leadership and the right kind of focus and working with members of both parties, we can pay down $2 trillion of national debt over the next decade.

Somebody said, "Well, why don't you pay down more than that." Well, first of all, a lot of the bonds don't retire, aren't to be retired—they don't expire during the 10-year period. It makes absolutely no sense to prepay debt which will cost the taxpayers more money. That doesn't make any sense. We ought to pay debt as it comes due. And the only debt that comes due is $2 trillion over the next 10 years, and that's the debt we'll repay.

We paid down debt; we've met our priorities; there's still money left over. And like any wise, any wise person who cares about budgets, we ought to set some aside for contingencies. So we set aside a trillion dollars over the next 10 years for contingencies. And what might some of those contingencies be?

Well, making sure we take care of the seniors. As you know, one of the things I'm going to do is have a full review of our military's capabilities and how we ought to restructure our forces to meet the future. And perhaps we'll need more money to fund those priorities.

I can assure you, we're going to worry about the agricultural sector here in the United States. And perhaps—and perhaps we'll need to spend some of that contingency money on the ag sector as we transform our agricultural sector to one that is going to be able to trade freely around the world.

Let me say as an aside, I strongly support ethanol. Let me say as an aside, we should not use food as a diplomatic weapon from this point forward. We shouldn't view agriculture as a stepchild when it comes to international trade negotiations.

So we've set priorities. We've paid down $2 trillion of debt. We've got a trillion dollars of contingency set aside over the next 10

years, and there's still money left over—there's still money left over—and there's a fundamental choice: Do we spend it?

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. Or do we remember whose money it is in the first place?

The surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money, and I'm here to ask you to join me in making that case to any Federal official you can find. I think we're in pretty good shape with the Nebraska delegation. I certainly hope so. I certainly hope so.

But this is a plan that hears the voices of thousands of working Americans, people who are struggling to get ahead. I'm keenly aware the energy bills are going up all across the country. We need an energy policy. We also must have a tax relief policy that understands working Americans are paying higher energy costs than ever before.

I'm keenly aware that many of our citizens have got a lot of consumer debt. There's a lot of talk about debt at the national level, and I'm worried about it. I'm also worried about consumer debt on individual families. I'm aware that this economy is beginning to sputter a little bit, and it makes sense to combine good monetary policy with good fiscal policy. I believe by giving people some of your own money back it will help kick-start this economy so people will be able to find work who's looking for a job.

In case anybody asks you, here's the plan. We're going to drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. We increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000. We drop all rates and simplify the code. We drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, and there's two primary reasons, two reasons I want to share with you. One is there ought to be some principle involved in the Tax Code, and one of the principles is, the Federal Government should take no more than a third of anybody's check.

But there is a second principle. We must understand that there are thousands of unincorporated small businesses in America and thousands of Sub S corporations that pay the highest income tax rate. And in order to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of America, in order to encourage capital formation in small businesses, it makes sense to drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent.

I know the advocates—I can already hear some of the voices of the advocates for big Government, the folks that want to keep your money in Washington to expand the size of the Government. They're going to say, "Oh, this is only for the rich." Well, first of all, we're going to reject class warfare. Secondly, we don't believe in targeting some people in or some people out. We believe everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief. Thirdly, ours is a philosophy that says we know Government's role is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which entrepreneurs and small businesses can realize their dreams in America. Fifthly, we understand the marriage penalty is unfair, and we better do something about it. And those of us who have spent some time in the agricultural sector and in the heartland understand how unfair the death penalty is—the death tax is, and we need to get rid of it.

I don't want to get rid of the death penalty—[*laughter*]—just the death tax.

There is a lot of talk about how this plan, it really isn't going to affect people. Today the Ojedas are with us, Tony and Cynthia, and I want to thank you all for coming. And I appreciate the patience of your children. [*Laughter*] As you can see, they are proud parents of three children. Right now, last year, they paid $3,170 in Federal income taxes. Under our plan, a plan that benefits everybody who pays taxes, a plan where the greatest percentage of tax relief goes to the people at the bottom end of the economic ladder, a plan that is eminently fair, a plan that doesn't affect the size of the Federal Government in a negative way, a plan that helps meet priorities—these folks will save $2,120.

Oh, I know that doesn't sound like a lot of money to folks that are rolling in dough. But $2,120 means a lot to the Ojeda family. It means a lot when you're paying high energy bills. It means a lot when you are worried about the education of your three children. It means a lot when you want to save. It means a lot when you want to do your duty as a mom and a dad to prepare for your children's future. No, $2,120 is a significant

amount of money. It's the right thing to do for America.

Now, we've submitted the people's budget to Congress. It's a budget that sets priorities, a budget that pays down debt, a budget that worries about the future, but a budget that keeps in mind the fact that our people are overtaxed. And I am here asking Congress to give you a refund.

Audience members. Refund! Refund!

The President. I want to thank you all for coming out. It is so refreshing to travel the—to travel your streets and to see people come out. I know there is an overflow room here of a thousand people, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I want to tell you there is something bigger, though, than just a legislative agenda at hand. It is truly the greatness of the country. My job is to remind all of us that responsibility begins at home, that the biggest job, if you happen to be fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, your biggest job is not your day job; your biggest job is your 24-hour job of loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. That's the best thing all of us can do.

The best thing all of us can do in this Nation, whether our job is President or Boy Scout leader or Sunday school teacher or teacher, is to teach our youngsters the difference between right and wrong, is to encourage them to be responsible for the decisions they make in life, is to make sure that every child, regardless of how he or she are born, knows somebody cares for them, somebody loves them.

No, the great strength of this country, the great strength of this country can be found in the heartland of America, where neighbor turns to neighbor and says, "What can I do to help you, neighbor," if you've got a problem, where there are thousands of people saying, "I want to help somebody in need," coming out of our churches and synagogues and mosques.

My job—my job is not only to argue and work to get a legislative agenda passed that will help Americans help themselves. My job is also to remind America how great we are, that we're a blessed nation, a nation indivisible under God, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Together—together we can help this Nation fulfill its greatest promise, where every child realizes the American experience is meant for them, where every child can learn to read, where moms and dads understand the top priority is to love their children.

No, the greatness of this country is ahead of us. We've been great in the past, but the future has never been brighter. And the future has never been brighter—the future has never been brighter because the people of this country have never been greater. It is my honor to be your President.

Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. in Mancuso Hall at the Omaha Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Hal J. Daub of Omaha; Gov. Mike Johanns and Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad of Nebraska; and Governor Johanns' wife, Stephanie.

Exchange With Reporters in Council Bluffs, Iowa

February 28, 2001

Seattle Earthquake

Q. Mr. President, any reaction to the earthquake news?

The President. I talked to the FEMA Director. He is on top of it. He is gathering all the information. He is in touch with the officials in the State of Washington. I think the Governor is on an airplane now, but as soon as he lands, we'll be in touch. Then we will assess whatever damage, and we will provide whatever resources are necessary to help the people.

Q. When were you told?

The President. I was told in Omaha.

Q. Do you have a message for the people of Washington?

The President. Well, God bless, obviously. Anything we can do to help, we will do so.

Q. Can you talk about your contingency plan as part of your budget outline and how this——

The President. Well, we've got money set aside for emergencies such as these.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 2:35 p.m. at the Old Carnegie Library. In his remarks,

the President referred to Gov. Gary Locke of Washington. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at a Leadership Forum in Council Bluffs

February 28, 2001

The President. Well, thank you, Bill, very much. I want to thank our panelists. It's kind of family day here. [*Laughter*] Speaker, it's good to see you, sir. I've enjoyed campaigning with you here. I've spent a lot of quality time here in the great State of Iowa, and I'm glad to be back.

I will say one thing as an aside, that I never met a more kind group of people than the good people of Iowa. Even if they weren't for you, they were kind. But I really—I have fond memories of traveling to your great State, and I want to thank the good citizens of Council Bluffs for welcoming me back here again.

Let me talk a little bit about the budget. Because in order to get a budget passed, the President must count on the people. My speech last night was really not to Members of the House and the Senate; my speech last night was to the people of America. It was a great opportunity for me to go around, or through the process, however you want to look at it, and go directly to people who had an interest in their Government.

Before I begin, though, I'm also mindful that I'll get nothing done unless I get something through the House and the Senate. And we've got three House Members traveling with us today, people who I respect a lot: one, your current Congressman Greg Ganske, Tom Latham, and Jim Leach. They all flew down.

They flew down and reminded me the entire way down how important the issues are to Iowa, issues like ethanol—[*laughter*]—I said it—when I told them on the way down, when I said I support ethanol, I meant it. I supported it in the caucuses; I supported it in the general election; and I support the use of ethanol as the President of the United States. Now that we've gotten the ethanol issue straight, let me talk about the budget.

There's a lot of myths about the budget. One myth is, you can't have tax relief because somebody's not going to get their Social Security check, or you can't have tax relief because we'll never pay down debt. The facts are that if we have a fiscally sound approach to spending your money, we can meet priorities; we can pay down debt; we can set aside contingency funds for the unknown; and we can have tax relief. Those are the facts.

It starts with slowing down the rate of discretionary spending. In our budget, there are entitlement programs that are going to trigger spending, whether or not we—the Congress has no say, because people are entitled to money, they'll get the money.

Social Security, for example, it set aside all the payroll tax for Social Security. Medicare is taken care of in the budget. We double the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. Discretionary spending like education, it will go up under my plans. And it's right, it does go up. I'm glad to know there's a groundswell for support. [*Laughter*]

I want to tell you, though, even though I have a Washington address, I strongly believe in local control of schools. Of all States that understands local control of schools, Iowa is such a State. I believe we ought to pay our folks who wear the uniform in the military more money, and my budget does that. We've set aside priorities.

But instead of increasing the rate of growth in the budget, discretionary part of the budget, like they did in the last Congress, we slow it down to 4 percent, a rate greater than the rate of inflation, however. And as a result of being fiscally sound with money, it is amazing what we can do beyond just spending.

We can pay down $2 trillion of debt over the next 10 years. My budget does so; I'm confident the Congress will support me to do so. People say, "Why don't you pay down more?" Because that's all the debt that's available to pay down in a 10-year period of time unless you want to prepay debt, which will cost taxpayers money. That's the debt that becomes due in a 10-year period of time. And so we set aside money for discretionary spending and priorities. We save and strengthen Social Security. We've got money for Medicare. We pay down debt, and we set aside $1 trillion over 10 years for contingencies.

People say, "What do you mean by that?" Well, there's emergencies. Right now, for example, there is an earthquake in the State of Washington that may require emergency spending, and let us hope that it doesn't create much damage nor take anybody's life. But it's a serious earthquake. I just called the FEMA Director to stay in touch with the emergency office to make sure that we're on top of it, and we are.

The agricultural sector may need emergency spending or contingency spending. As we transition to a free market world, there are some transition costs, costs that we've been paying in the past. We may have to pay it again this year. As we reconfigure our military, we may require more spending.

Medicare may require more spending to make sure it fully works properly. But there's a contingency of a trillion dollars set aside. And there's still money left over. That's the thing a lot of the proponents for big Government don't want you to hear—that if we're wise and pay down debt and have a contingency, there's still money.

And the big debate is going to be what to do with it. I believe that once we set priorities and fund them, we ought to remember who pays the bills in the first place. This surplus is not the Government's money. It's not, we're going to spend money as if it's the Government's money—it's the people's money. And I believe we ought to listen to the people of America and share that money with the people who pay the bills.

And there's compelling reasons to do so at this point in our history. One, energy bills are high, and it's beginning to affect the pocketbooks of a lot of working people. Two, there's a lot of talk about national debt, and that's fine, but there's a lot of consumer debt in America. And we've got to worry about people being able to handle their own consumer debt. The energy crisis, coupled with consumer debt, may make it hard for a lot of the working people to meet their needs. And I'm worried about that.

I'm worried about Government debt. But I think it makes sense to worry about the debt on the people of America, as well. I'm worried about the fact that our economy is sputtering. Today, evidently, Alan Greenspan testified that the warning clouds on the horizon are getting darker and darker. I think what we need to have is good monetary policy coupled with good fiscal policy in order to make sure we recover. And part of good fiscal policy says, let's give people money back so they can spend it. They can manage their own budgets to help kick-start the economy.

So there's a compelling reason for tax relief at this point in our Nation's history. Not only can we afford it, it makes good policy sense to do so.

And finally, it gives us a chance to reform the Tax Code. The death tax is unfair. It's unfair to farmers; it is unfair to small-business people; it's unfair to people of accumulated assets, and we ought to eliminate the death tax.

The marriage penalty is unfair—the marriage penalty is unfair. I think we ought to reduce all rates. There's a lot of talk in Washington, "Well, we will decide who gets tax relief"—it's called targeted tax cuts. My view is, Government ought not to try to target anybody in or target anybody out. The only fair thing to do is, to say if you pay taxes, you get relief.

We dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, which makes the code more fair, particularly when you couple it with the fact that we're going to double the child credit from $500 to $1,000. It makes it easier for people who work hard to access the middle class. And that's important. The Tax Code should not penalize hard work. It ought to reward hard work, particularly for people who are struggling to get ahead.

It also drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, which ignites the great outcry of class warfare. One of the things I've worked hard to do is to try to change the tone in Washington, to change an attitude that tends to pit groups of people against each other. That's not the way to have a debate. The truth of the matter is, by dropping the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, we understand this fact: The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur or the small-business person can flourish.

Many small-business people are unincorporated. Many small-business people are

Subchapter S type corporations and, therefore, pay the higher rate. And by dropping the top rate from 39 percent to 33 percent, we provide an environment for capital accumulation, particularly in the small-business sector of the United States. It makes sense.

And so, given the opportunity to make a case for the tax relief plan, as you can see, I'm going to grab it at every possible moment. It is important for me to travel the country, which I'm going to do, and make the case. I made it last night in the Congress. I'm going to make the case all across America. I did so today in Nebraska and Pennsylvania. I'm obviously doing so here in Iowa. I'm off to Arkansas after this, and then I'll be in Georgia tomorrow, because—and the reason I'm doing so is because this is the people's business. It's the people's business.

And if you are interested in helping effect change, then e-mail your Senators and Congressmen. [*Laughter*] I'm sure Ganske doesn't need to hear from me. I'm positive he'll be with me all the way. [*Laughter*] But just in case—and so I'm not talking about you, Congressman Ganske, but somebody might get a little nervous out there—[*laughter*]—because they're listening too much to the people who want to grow the Federal Government.

And therefore, if you agree, and I hope you do, I would like your help. So Bill, thank you very much for giving me a chance to come and make my case to the good folks of Council Bluffs, and I would be glad to hear from you.

[*At this point, moderator Bill Ballenger began the forum.*]

Jeff Ballenger. Mr. President, there also seems to be a public perception that the tax cuts that we're leaning towards will just benefit the wealthy. And this is a big-time, as you would say, serious misperception. [*Laughter*]

The President. It was actually my Vice President who said that. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Ballenger. Okay. My apologies.

The President. I said something worse. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Ballenger. Well, I'm sure this is one that you and the staff will have to work on to overcome, based on some of the pundits, what they're saying. But from a third-generation businessman who would like to continue on the family legacy, I would like to say—I would like to express my support for you with your debt reduction, your elimination of the death tax, and also your reduction of income tax.

The President. Well, I appreciate you saying that. I think that the class warfare debate has kind of worn itself out. I believe that. I think the American people are going to reject that debate, pitting so-called rich against poor. I hope so. We can have a much more constructive debate without trying to pit groups of people against each other. And so I hope that the dialog won't be—the truth of the matter is, the debate is bigger Government versus smaller Government, efficient Government versus big Government.

I want to tell you all something as people who have to run budgets in your business. At the end of the last session, there was over 5,000 one-time expenditures in the budget. It was like a bidding contest to see how you get out of town. The more money was spent, the earlier you got to leave, it seemed like. And it's going to require a different mentality to say, let's set priorities.

Small-business people, any type of businessperson understands the need to set priorities. And let's fund the priorities. And I know there's a lot of politics in the budget sometimes, but it's going to be important to me to keep the politics out of it and insert the people. And we're going to get it done, too, by the way.

Moderator. Donna, would you be willing to kind of enter into this discussion?

Donna Grote. Mr. President, approximately 14 years ago I had the privilege of having lunch with your mother when she was here in Council Bluffs.

The President. You had lunch with the A-team. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Grote. I very much admired her, and she was largely responsible for my votes for your father and for you.

[*The forum continued.*]

Ms. Grote. Mr. President, I have had a lot of children and grandchildren go through my house, and I know that if there are cookies left on the table, they will be eaten.

[*Laughter*] If we leave any extra money in Washington, don't you think it will be spent? [*Laughter*]

The President. That's right. I appreciate that. I think I might start using that. [*Laughter*] Thank you very much.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Let me—a couple of points. One, the surest way to frighten people in any kind of budget debate is to say you're not going to get your Social Security check. Sometimes, that happens to creep into the language of a political campaign, if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*] The facts are that both Republicans and Democrats agree that we're not going to touch the Social Security money for anything other than Social Security.

Now, as I mentioned last night, a very important part of the Social Security dialog is to be to figure out how to make sure it works in the future. People who have retired or near retirement are going to be in fine shape in the Social Security system. There's a lot of money in the Social Security Trust. The fundamental question is, what happens to younger workers, younger workers who have to pay enough in the system to take care of baby boomers like me and you?

And one of the things I proposed last night was to put a commission together to study alternatives. And one of the alternatives has got to be to allow younger workers, at their choice—at their choice—to take some of their own money through the payroll taxes and put it into safe investment vehicles that will earn a better rate of return than the current paltry 2 percent that the Social Security system earns today.

So I appreciate so very much your concern about making sure your mom and dad have got a safe retirement system. The fundamental question, however, is not your mom and dad; it is your sons and daughters, whether or not there will be a system available for them.

In terms of Medicare, that is a legitimate question for your mom and dad, and it's one that I ask, as well. And we double the Medicare budget over a 10-year period of time. But—or, and—we better make sure the system is responsive to the needs of Medicare recipients.

The old system, the system was designed for an old way of medicine, where people—where prescription drugs, for example, wasn't that important a part of the medical profession. Prescription drugs were around, but they weren't the—didn't replace health care given by doctors, for example. Prescription drugs are an incredibly important part of satisfying seniors' needs today.

But the system hasn't changed, and therefore, what we need to do is modernize the system. And by that, I mean we've got to give seniors a variety of options from which to choose, all of which include prescription drugs.

And that's going to be an important part of the Medicare debate. So it's one thing to make sure there's money in the budget to take care of Medicare. The other question, though, is, are we going to have the will necessary to change the system to take care of seniors? And the fundamental choice is going to be, do we trust seniors to make decisions for themselves? Do we trust them to be able to go into the marketplace, if they so choose, and pick out a plan that meets their needs?

So those are two incredibly important debates. The opponents of any tax relief—responsible tax relief—are going to argue that somebody is going to suffer—a Medicare recipient will suffer, a Social Security recipient will suffer. It's just not the case.

And that's why I'm going to continue traveling the country making sure everybody hears that. And I appreciate you all giving me a chance to do so today.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Thank you all for coming. I look forward to thanking you in person.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:04 p.m. at the Old Carnegie Library. In his remarks, he referred to Speaker of the House Brent Siegrist, Iowa General Assembly. Participants included moderator Ballenger's son, Jeff Ballenger, local automotive dealer, and Donna Grote, homemaker and small-business owner.

Remarks on the Earthquake in Washington State in Little Rock, Arkansas

February 28, 2001

I want to say something about what's taken place in Seattle today. I send my prayers and express our country's concern for our fellow citizens in Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia—areas of the State of Washington. Those folks were affected by a major earthquake today. Our prayers are with those who were injured and their families, and with the many thousands of people whose lives have been disrupted.

Thousands of people in Washington are without power or phone service. Airports are closed, and many buildings have sustained structural damage. My administration stands ready to help in any way we can. I've asked the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Joe Allbaugh, to travel to Seattle to offer our assistance. He is on his way in a couple of hours, and he'll be traveling with members of the—Washington State's congressional delegation.

I've talked to Director Allbaugh. He told me he felt like Senator Murray would be going. And they're reaching out to other members of the congressional delegation to travel with him. We will work with State and local officials to provide whatever help we can to the people of the State of Washington.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. at Adams Field airport.

Proclamation 7410—Fortieth Anniversary of the Peace Corps

February 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The generous spirit of the American people has given this country a great and long-standing tradition of voluntary service. During the past four decades, the members of the Peace Corps have carried on that tradition with dramatic and far-reaching effect.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps has brought a wealth of practical assistance to individuals and communities through out the world. Since its inception, more than 161,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 134 countries. Peace Corps volunteers have not only helped to fill immediate and dire human needs, but also have helped promote sustainable, long-term development in agriculture, business, education, urban development, health care, and the environment.

In many countries of the world, there exists an intense hunger for peace, hope, and opportunity—for genuine social and economic development that is rooted in respect for human rights and a belief in human potential. Recognizing the dignity and worth of all peoples and determined to help individuals help themselves, Peace Corps volunteers have served as our Nation's emissaries of hope and goodwill. Accordingly, their generous efforts have helped to foster mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and citizens of other countries.

Respected for its work around the world, the Peace Corps also conducts a number of valuable programs here at home. For example, through programs such as the Paul Coverdell World Wise Schools and Peace Corps Fellows/USA, Peace Corps volunteers are helping children in every State of our Nation to learn more about the world in which we live.

I am pleased to note that the current volunteer corps is the most ethnically diverse in Peace Corps history and that more and more Americans are joining in the work of the Peace Corps through its growing partnerships with the public and private sectors. These trends are a tribute to the many past achievements of the Peace Corps, and they are a promising sign of more to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby urge all Americans to observe March 1, 2001—the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps—with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities designed to honor Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, for their many contributions to our

country and to the universal cause of peace and human progress.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:47 a.m., March 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Question-and-Answer Session at Lakewood Elementary School in North Little Rock, Arkansas

March 1, 2001

The President. Anybody got any questions for me?

President's Goals

Student. When our kids grow up and read about your Presidency in history books, what do you hope they'll read?

The President. Well, I hope they read that our country, our politicians are able to discuss differences in a civil way; that there's not a lot of anger in the political process; that you and I might disagree, but we can respect each other when we disagree. So I hope I've been able to help change the tone in Washington so people respect each other. I hope the reading test scores are the best in the world. I hope the world is at peace. I hope that boys and girls who dreamed about owning their own business will be able to do so in America, continue to do so. I hope that our Nation is one in which people who have dreams—regardless of where you're raised, whether you can speak English, whether your parents speak English as a first language or not, no matter what neighborhood you're from—will realize those dreams are possible if you make the right choices in life. So that's my ambitions for the country.

Decision To Run for President

Student. What made you run for President?

The President. Well, I thought I could do a better job than anybody else that was running for President. I was concerned about a country that was becoming too bitter at times. I'm concerned that the American Dream, the idea that you can be—have a dream and work hard to achieve it might not have—is bright for everybody in America, as I hoped. I'm worried that the education system in some places isn't working, concerned about a military that—the morale in the military wasn't high enough. I think we need to have a strong military to keep the peace. So I had some reasons for running, and now I'm working to achieve them.

One of the reasons I've come to your school is to be able to talk about education. I'm also talking about a budget plan. One of the things a President does is submit a budget to Congress—"here's where we ought to spend money, here's where we ought to"—and if you have any money left over, I'm arguing we ought to give it back to the people who pay taxes, like the teacher right here.

Now, one other thing my wife is going to do, by the way, is she's going to go around the country encouraging people such as yourself to think about being a teacher when you get older. There's nothing more important than being a teacher. So as you start to think about your ambitions and your possible careers when you get out of college, think about being a teacher. It's a very important profession.

The White House

Student. What is it like being President and living in the White House?

The President. It's a big honor. It's a big honor, as I'm sure you can imagine. It's a very exciting job. The White House is a majestic place. It's like a museum in many ways, and we're, of course, now turning parts of the White House into our home. And Laura and I are the proud parents of 19-year-old twin daughters, but they go to college so we don't see much of them anymore. But we do have two dogs and a cat living with us.

And so all five of us are adjusting to our new home. But it's an honor.

And I hope some day you'll come up to Washington and tour the White House, and you'll get to see where we live. It's a big honor.

Sam Houston Elementary School

Student. What school did you go to when you were our age?

The President. Sam Houston Elementary School in Midland, Texas. I was raised—you know where Texas is, of course. Most people in Arkansas know where Texas is, and all the people in Texas know where Arkansas is. Anyway, it's the State right south of here. But I lived in the western part of the State. Many people in Arkansas have got kinfolks generally in east Texas, and I lived out in west Texas, that's where I lived. And so I went to a place called Sam Houston Elementary School.

And I had no idea when I was your age that I would run for President of the United States. I, frankly, thought that what I wanted to be at the time is, I wanted to be a baseball player just like a guy named Willie Mays. He was my favorite player growing up. Then I realized I wasn't a very good hitter, so I wasn't going to be like Willie Mays.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:58 a.m. in classroom 15. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Leadership Forum in North Little Rock

March 1, 2001

The President. Well, thank you very much, Kaye. First, a good school depends upon the leadership of a good principal, and it didn't take me long to recognize, one, this is a good school, and two, Kaye Lowe is a good principal.

I want to thank our panelists for coming. It's—I really love going to schools and see the enthusiasm of the teachers and the bright eyes of the students. That certainly was the case here today. Before I begin, I want to thank the leadership of the State of Arkansas for coming, two fine United States Senators: Senator Hutchinson and Senator Lincoln. I want to thank Vic Snyder for being here, as well.

Governor, I've got a message for you. And Lieutenant Governor, you requested that the FEMA look at the ability—possibility of the Government funding 100 percent of the costs of the debris cleanup here, as a result of those ice storms that hit Arkansas. Today, sir, I've got a letter for you—funding to provide 100 percent funding from the Federal Government for the State of Arkansas.

I've got also a—well, a very positive budget message, too, for the people of Arkansas. First, it starts with setting priorities. I want to spend a little time, and then I promise to let other people talk. But it's important for America to hear that the budget I submitted is one that is a realistic and reasonable budget, one that sets priorities.

One thing that our governments must do is set priorities. Without priorities, there is haphazard spending. The job of a President is to set clear priorities. A priority of mine is public education. It was a priority of mine as the government of the State of Texas. It is a priority of mine as the President. I understand, however, that even though it is a priority, that does not mean Washington, DC, should run public schools. And so I look forward to working with Members of the Congress to pass power out of Washington to provide flexibility so local jurisdictions can help design the strategies necessary to make sure that every child in America gets educated.

Secondly, we are spending more money, and that's important. However, there needs to be a results-oriented approach to the expenditure of money, whether it be Federal money, State money, or local money. The cornerstone for reform, the whole concept of making sure no child gets left behind, rests upon strong accountability systems.

One reason we came to this school is because this is a school that's not afraid to measure. It's a school, by the way, that not only measures but does not view a measurement system as a way to punish somebody. They view a measurement system as a way to diagnose problems early and correct them early, so that no child is left behind.

And so we'll have a wide-ranging discussion here about education. And it's an important discussion to have. But I want to put it in the context of an overall budget.

Part of the priorities of a budget is to make sure we can keep the peace. So I have prioritized paying our soldiers more money in order to boost morale. I have prioritized setting aside all the money designed for Social Security to only be spent on Social Security. I'm confident that both Republicans and Democrats will hear that cry, that the days of using Social Security monies to pay other programs has ended.

The Medicare budget doubles. And that's important, but we also have got to have Medicare reform so that seniors have got options from which to choose. All options will include prescription drugs. So the budget sets priories. Medicare is a priority. Social Security is a priority. Education is a priority. The defense of our people are priorities. Everybody else is going to have different priorities, trust me. I heard some last night from the able Senator. But that's how the system works. My job is to set clear priorities, and I have done so.

A second priority is to pay down debt. There's a lot of discussion about debt at the national level, and we ought to pay down debt. This budget pays down $2 trillion of debt. Now people say, "Why don't you pay down more?" Well, it doesn't make any sense to pay off bonds before they retire, before they come due. It's a reasonable approach; it makes eminent sense to do it this way.

We also have got money set aside for contingencies. There's a trillion dollars over 10 years for contingencies. That's a smart thing to do, and we've done that. A contingency—somebody says, "What do you mean by contingencies?" Well, emergencies are contingencies. We may have another bad situation for our agricultural sector, in which case we need contingency money. And so there's a trillion set aside for contingencies.

And so we've set priorities. And we'll argue about whether or not the priorities are the right priorities. Some of them are going to say up there, "Well, you know, he didn't put enough in for education," or "He didn't put enough in for the military, didn't put enough in for here or there." Those are sometimes—are the people who aren't responsible for viewing the budget in it's entirety. And that's okay. Everybody's entitled to an opinion. And there's a lot of them in Washington.

But I just want to assure you that the budget I submit, it sets priorities, pays down debt, has a contingency fund, and there is still money left over. And I'm going to argue vociferously, any time anybody will listen, that at this point in our Nation's history, the wise thing to do with that money is to remember who paid it in the first place, and let the payers keep the money.

I believe that tax relief ought to go to everybody who pays taxes. I don't like the idea of the Federal Government saying, "Well, we're going to pick and choose who the winners are. You're targeted in, and you're targeted out." To me that is not fair, and that's not the right way to approach tax relief. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. I do agree with the critics who believe that the people at the bottom end of the economic ladder ought to get the highest percentage of relief. And my plan does that. It cuts all taxes for everybody.

We drop all rates, including the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. We lessen the harsh effects of the marriage penalty, and we eliminate the death tax. That's the basic plan. Stephen Benson is here, a parent of two and proud husband of Shelia, for a reason, because he's a taxpayer. He pays $4,620 in Federal income taxes. Under this plan, in which everybody who pays taxes will get relief, he saves $1,710. That's above the national average for a family of four, which is $1,600.

Now you will hear people say, "Well, that's not much money." Well, that's a lot of money if you're paying higher energy bills, and folks who work across America are paying higher energy bills. It's a lot of money if you've got consumer debt. And there's a lot of discussion about national debt, and there should be. And as I mentioned, we're doing the best we can to pay $2 trillion of national debt.

But Washington, DC, folks need to understand, there's a lot of people who have got consumer debt, as well. And the idea of substantial tax relief after we meet priorities will help people like the Bensons manage their

own debt. It's one thing to be focused on the national balance sheet. The President and the Congress need to pay attention to the people's individual balance sheets, and that's exactly what this tax relief plan does.

So I appreciate so very much the opportunity to not only make the case for—education reform. And this school gets it. And evidently you get it, too, Governor, because the idea of insisting upon accountability as the cornerstone for reform makes eminent sense. We'll argue about the remedies for failure, we'll argue about what the consequences for failure are, but the truth of the matter is, the whole reform system begins by measuring, by holding people accountable, by holding up success so that we know whether or not the reading curriculum that has been put in place here works. The principal assures me it does. And the reason she's able to say so with certainty is because you measure. And therefore, another school that may have trouble cheating—treating their children how to read will be able to say, "Well, let's see how they do it here." We can prove that it works.

And so thanks for giving me a chance to come and also talk about the budget. It's going to be on people's minds for a while, until it gets passed. I will assure you, I'm going to try and keep it on people's minds.

[*At this point, the forum began.*]

The President. I appreciate that. There's a woman—a reading czarina in Houston, named Phyllis Hunter. She said one of the most profound thoughts of anybody in recent history, I think. She said, "Reading is the new civil right." That's a pretty powerful statement. And it sounds like you all are right on track here. I want to thank you very much for what you're doing.

I also want a—another piece of public policy I'm going to work with the Congress on is to make sure that Head Start is—incorporates a reading curriculum that will do precisely what you said. It will teach—give children the necessary tools to become good readers when they make it into K or first grade.

Thank you very much for what you're doing here.

[*The forum continued.*]

Raymond Simon. Mr. President, one thing that I worry about on your program is the fact that it's based on common sense. [*Laughter*] So I think you're in for a hard road.

The President. You may be right. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Simon. But that having been said, the commonsense approach, we believe, mirrors exactly what we're about in Arkansas, flexibility at the local level. We've insisted in our State, through an initiative called Smart Start, which you may have heard of——

The President. I have heard of that.

Mr. Simon. Our K-four initiative and Smart Step that we've advanced in the fifth through the eighth grade, we've made standards and accountability non-negotiable. But we have made negotiable how the schools get there.

Your program does exactly that. I credit you, and I applaud you for your interest in parents and strengthening the family, in character education. Our teachers oftentimes feel unsupported at that level, and your programs are going to help them get that support they need.

The President. Thank you.

Mr. Simon. We do believe that flexibility in spending is almost as important as more money. Certainly, we can use additional funds, but more important to us is flexibility. We've been able to do much with Smart Start in our State, not with huge amounts of money but with refocusing on what's important.

The President. You bet. Well, I appreciate that. I want you all to know that when we talk about accountability in Washington, at least when I do, the Federal Government will not design and administer a national test. The people of Arkansas are plenty capable about designing your own test and your own accountability system.

We'll hear the debates, and I can already hear them already, starting on the floor of the House and the Senate about how Washington, DC, insisting that schools measure in return for money will mean that it's going to undermine local control of schools. As they say in Arkansas, that is hogwash. [*Laughter*] That's not reality—that's not reality. It's just

like saying, "Accountability systems are racist." What's racist is not to have an accountability system, because what generally happens is, inner-city kids just get moved through. It's so much easier to quit on a child, so much easier.

And what an accountability system do, designed at the local level, they say, "We're not going to leave any child behind, because we're going to measure early. And when we find failure, we're going to do something about it. We're not going to accept failure in American schools." And so thank you very much for your comments. And guess what, common sense will prevail. [*Laughter*]

Principal Kaye Lowe. Mr. Benson, we'd like to hear from you as a parent.

Stephen Benson. Well, I was really excited about the tax cut.

The President. Say that again, Mr. Benson, as loud as you can. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Benson. Well, that money that I save—my priority is education for my children. I was going to put that money toward education, but I could put it towards something else because I know here at Lakewood Elementary, Ms. Lowe and her staff are doing great things to make sure my son has a quality education. And with the spending that you are proposing for the school, I'm just excited to see what Ms. Lowe and her staff has in store for my son for a quality education.

And as far as testing and standards, I have to agree with you wholeheartedly on that. My daughter and I have a conference once a week to measure her standard at her school in North Little Rock High School.

The President. Oh really? I was there.

Mr. Benson. So we emphasize standards, making sure we stay on the right level in our household.

The President. Well, that's great.

Mr. Benson. I'm really excited about all that you're doing.

The President. Thank you, sir. One thing about measuring—what you said just triggered me. You have meetings with the school officials, based upon accountability. It is so important for us to not only measure but, to use a fancy word, disaggregate results, so that we're able to begin to individualize the systems around the country.

And that's going to be an incredibly important component of the reform, that we say each child matters, and therefore, the accountability systems must reflect the performance of each child, not kind of groups, collections of children. And the systems will then begin to emerge, to individualize education.

Today we went to a computer lab, where the reading programs were constantly adjusting based upon the skill level of the participant on the computer. It's the forerunner of the individualization of education, the likes of which a lot of us have not imagined here before. It begins with an accountability system that measures on a per-child basis, so when we get up to Washington, we cannot let the whole concept of accountability be undermined by not—by a system that does not measure on an individual child basis. And that's exactly what I'm going to insist happens.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. You know, there's a lot of debate about English as a second language programs. And my attitude—obviously in the State of Texas we have a lot of people whose parents don't speak English as a first language. And my attitude was this. First of all, in our Nation, we must support what's called English Plus. English is the language of the country, plus we respect other languages. Secondly, that the best way to determine whether bilingual programs or English second language programs are working, is to measure.

There's a huge debate about immersion versus programs as *Puentas para Ingles*—Bridges to English. And the best way to determine what works is to say, "Here is the goal," which is English proficiency. And let's measure the systems that work. That helps take the politics out of the debate about teaching children English. The goal is English. That's how people are going to get ahead in America, and the best way to approach the subject is to say, "Let's measure." Let's be rational about how we approach these programs. And I appreciate you're—where were you raised in Texas?

Teacher Maria Touchstone. I was raised in Galena Park, right outside of Houston.

The President. Yes, the Fighting Yellow Jackets.

Ms. Touchstone. Yes. [*Laughter*]

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate that. The superintendent's right, that the reading initiative ought to help and make sure kids get to the appropriate level early in their careers. I will urge Congress to provide flexibility to States to be able to use some of the prescriptive Federal dollars to apply to IDEA, if that's what the State chooses to do.

There's $1.6 billion of so-called construction money, the rules of which have not been written. I think one of the things that would make sense is to increase the amount of that money from 25 percent to 100 percent, to allow the States to use the IDEA—that money for IDEA, if that is what's best in the interest of the budget of the State.

I know the Congress sometimes doesn't like to provide flexibility for folks at the State level. But here is a good way—now, it's going to be hard to achieve huge funding for IDEA. But I—and one way to do so is to take some of the prescriptive programs and allow flexibility at the State level. And I'm going to work with Congress, hopefully that they'll see the wisdom of that way, and hear—and by the way, the more money that goes into IDEA, the more local property tax money is freed up to meet specific construction needs, if need be.

And so I think one of the ways to try to get the number up toward the 40 percent that was promised by the Federal Government years ago, is to be—is to have a commonsense approach, Raymond, and to give flexibility—well, I appreciate that, Jim. The reading program will help. It will help make sure the children get a good start on their education early. And so will the Head Start Program, and the Head Start initiative.

Principal Lowe. Mr. President, I'm sad to say that we're out of time. But again, I want to thank you so much for coming to Lakewood Elementary, and discussing——

The President. It's a huge honor to be here. Thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. in the cafetorium at Lakewood Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Vic Snyder; Gov. Mike Huckabee and Lt. Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas; and James Smith, school superintendent, North Little Rock School District. The President also referred to IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, Georgia

March 1, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. I'm glad I came to Georgia.

Thanks so much for that warm welcome, Vernon. It's great to be here in DeKalb County. It is great to be introduced by one of the rising stars in DeKalb County, one of the rising stars in the State of Georgia. Vernon Jones is a good man—he's a good man. And I'm proud—I'm proud to have been introduced by him.

I'm also proud to share the stage with both Republican and Democrat elected officials here from Georgia, who are sending an interesting message—an interesting message, when the Georgia State Senate voted overwhelmingly to urge all the Federal elected officials from the State of Georgia to support the tax relief package that I introduced yesterday.

I'm honored that Senators Starr, Dean, and Johnson would be here with me today. Both Republicans and Democrats took a look at what I proposed and realized it's fair. And I'm honored that members of the General Assembly, Westmoreland and Buck, have joined as well, one Republican and one Democrat.

See, this is not a—the budget I submitted wasn't a Republican budget; it wasn't a Democrat budget; it was the people's budget. Maybe one reason why the good folks of Georgia understand that it's a reasonable budget is because it's a common—it's a budget based on good, sound common sense. There are not a lot of things fancy about it. Maybe it's because I was raised in west Texas, and I was taught some good common sense.

I'm so proud of members of the Georgia delegation who are here, from the Federal delegation: Kingston, Deal, and Norwood, Members of the United States Congress. One member of your delegation wasn't able to be here, but I would like to read a letter from him, if you don't mind:

> Dear Mr. President,
>
> Welcome back to Georgia. I regret that I could not be with you today. I had to be in Washington for a meeting with the Department of Justice officials that was scheduled long ago, but I wanted you and my fellow Georgians to know that I am with you in spirit. I support your Tax Code proposal strongly, without any reservations. This is an overpayment of taxes, and you are correct that those who paid it know better how to spend it than the Congress. As the old Elvis Presley song goes, we should "Return to Sender."
>
> Zell Miller

I can't tell you how much I appreciate Senator Zell Miller standing up side by side with the President. Oh, I know he's a Democrat, and of course, I'm a Republican, but both of us put America first. And this budget is an American budget, because it sets priorities. It is a budget that sets important priorities, starting with the education of our children.

The largest increase of any Department in my budget goes to the Department of Education. But lest you become too concerned, I want you to hear, loud and clear, the best schools are those that are run by the local people. We strongly believe in local control of schools.

We will spend more money, but we will also insist upon reform. And the catalyst for reform, the agent for change, is to insist that States and local jurisdictions develop strong accountability systems so that we know—we know—when children are learning. If you don't measure, how do you know? If you don't measure, how can you correct problems early, before it's too late? The cornerstone of reform is local control of schools and strong accountability systems at the local level, so we can diagnose problems early, solve them early so that not one single child in America is ever left behind.

Another priority in my budget is to pay the men and women who wear the uniform more money. It is to make sure there is a high morale in the military by having better pay, better housing. But also it's important to have a Commander in Chief who will clarify the mission of the military. And the mission is to be well-prepared to fight and win war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A priority in the budget—a priority in the budget is to take all the payroll taxes that are supposed to go to Social Security and make sure they only go to Social Security. Oh, I know you've heard the talk—I certainly have heard it—about how any kind of tax relief that has got any meaning to it will mean somebody is not going to get their Social Security check. That's Washington talk for "We want more of your money to stay in Washington." That's what that is. Republicans and Democrats agree that we're going to set aside all the payroll taxes for Social Security, and that's what's going to happen.

Another line you'll hear is that the elderly will suffer. Well, my budget doubles Medicare spending over 10 years. We're setting aside money to make sure we fulfill the promise to the elderly. And we've got to not only set aside money for Medicare, we must reform the system so that our seniors have got more choices, more options, all of which will include prescription drug benefits.

No, we set aside money for priorities, and we fund them. The thing that's got some people concerned, though, is we're not exploding the budget like has happened in the past. The budget was skyrocketing at the end of last year. It was much higher than the rate of inflation and higher than disposable income. Had we kept spending at that rate, we would have not only spent all the surplus, we would have had to have dipped into Social Security to meet the programs.

What this Government needs is a fiscal, responsible approach to the budgeting, the kind of budgeting that you, yourselves, do with your families. That's what the Government needs, and I'm willing to provide that kind of leadership.

So we meet priorities. We make sure Social Security is safe and secure, and we also pay down debt.

There's a lot of discussion about debt at the national level, and there should be. So part of the budget that I've sent to the Congress sets aside $2 trillion to pay down debt over the next 10 years. People say, "Why don't you pay it all off, all the national debt off?" Well, that doesn't make any sense, because not all the debt retires—comes due at the end of 10 years. We shouldn't prepay debt at a premium that will cost the taxpayers more money. Let's just retire the debt as it comes due. That's $2 trillion worth of debt.

And it also makes sense to set aside money for contingencies, which we have done. We've set aside a trillion dollars for contingencies. People say, "What kind of contingencies are you talking about?" Well, we may need some contingencies for America's farmers. Or after we end up reviewing the military—and remember in my speech, if you paid attention, or at least listened—[*laughter*]—I said we're going to have our defense vision drive the budgeting, and not the other way around. And we've got to make sure that we've got a plan. And we've got to figure out what systems make sense, as we head into the 21st century. Instead of having military budget spending be based upon politics, let's have it based upon a strategic vision of how best to keep the peace, not only today but down the road. We may need money for that. And so we've got a trillion dollars set aside in contingencies.

As I tried to explain to the Congress, we increase spending, not nearly as much as they did the last time, but we increase it. We set aside money for Social Security and Medicare. We pay down debt, and we set aside contingency money. And you know what? There's still money left over. And the fundamental question is, what do we do with it—what do we do with it?

That's what's going to happen. When you have more money than you need, it seems like somebody is getting overtaxed and overcharged. And what I am going to do is remind the Congress that if we've overcharged somebody, it's time for a refund. It's time to remind people on a regular basis in Washington, the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money. And now is the time. Before this money gets all spent, now is the time to send some of it back.

But it's also the time to send it back because our economy is beginning to sputter. And one of the things we can do to make sure the economy gets a second wind is to let people have money in their pockets so they can spend it. One way to make sure that people can find work who want to find work is to set priorities, set contingencies, pay down debt, and give people some of their own money back. Or how about not taking it in the first place? So we reduce the rates on everybody who pays taxes.

There are some in Washington who say, "Well, some people need to be targeted in and some people need to be targeted out of tax relief."

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. Now, the fairest tax relief is to say, if you pay taxes, you get relief. That's the fairest way to do something. We drop all rates. We drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. We drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. And one of the reasons why it is important to drop the top rate is to recognize the contributions that small businesses play in America. Small business—small businesses are really the backbone of the capitalist system. The entrepreneur is a soul who dreams big and works hard to realize a dream and therefore ends up employing people. That's what the small business is all about.

What I hope Congress recognizes is that many small-business folks are unincorporated, and many of them are Subchapter S, which means they pay the highest rate. And by dropping the rate, we increase the ability of small businesses to grow and to employ more Americans.

Our current Tax Code is unfair. It is unfair for folks who live on the outskirts of poverty, who are struggling to get ahead. It's unfair. It's unfair that if you're a single mother, working hard, and you're in the $22,000 range, for every additional dollar she earns—what's unfair is that's taxed at a higher rate than someone who is very successful.

I used to try to paint the picture during the campaign about the tollbooth in the road to the middle class. It meant people on one side of the tollbooth paid a lower marginal

rate than those trying to get through. That's not what America's about, as far as I'm concerned, and I know it's not about what—as far as you're concerned.

This is a country that says, the harder you work, the more you struggle, the more likely it should be you're able to realize your dreams. No, we need to drop the bottom rate, and we need to make sure that that hard-working waitress is more likely to be able to save and dream and build.

We penalize marriage in the Tax Code, and that's not right. And the death tax is wrong. It taxes people's assets twice. Now, this is a tax plan that is well thought out, and it's fair. As I said in my speech, some folks will say it's too big; some folks will say it's too small. We need to send the message to Republican and Democrat legislators and Senators that it is just right.

And so I'm here to ask for your help—I'm here to ask for your help. You don't have to worry about Zell Miller. You don't have to worry about these three U.S. Congressmen who are here. But there may be some other folks from the State of Georgia who might be a little nervous about the plan. I certainly hope not. We're not going to take anything for granted, though.

So if you find a Member that you may have some influence with, or know an e-mail address or can figure out where to write a letter, and find out somebody isn't listening to you, to do what's right for the country, just drop them a line. I could use your help.

And if somebody argues with you, just remind them of these facts, that the average family will receive $1,600 in tax relief. That doesn't seem like a lot to some of the folks who may be doing all right, but it's a lot to a lot of people. It's a lot to people whose energy bills have gone up because we don't have an energy policy in America. There's a lot of talk about national debt, and that's important. But there's a lot of credit card debt that are burdening people; $1,600 can help a lot; $1,600 can help set money aside for a child; $1,600 is real money. And I'm going to remind those folks again whose money it is: It's the people's money, your money.

I haven't been your President for a long period of time, but I can report that it is a fantastic experience. I can't tell you what an honor it is. I can't tell you what a high honor it is to represent the American people in Washington. That's why it's important to come out and get my batteries charged in places like DeKalb County, Georgia; to be able to look my fellow citizens in the eye and say, "I know you're counting on me, but I'm counting on you, as well."

I'm counting on you, when you find a neighbor in need, to reach out a hand, and say, "What can I do, brother or sister, to help you?" I'm counting on you to run a Boy Scout troop and to teach our children right from wrong. Our Nation counts on people who have got good heart and good will to say, "What can I do to make my neighborhood a better place," instead of hoping that the Federal Government, in its infinite wisdom, waves a magic wand and there's educational excellence in every school in Georgia. We need the good citizens of these communities to get involved with public education, to make sure our teachers are supported, excellence is demanded, accountability is in place so no children are left behind. No, I'm counting on you.

The reason I'm so optimistic about America, though, is that our land is full of loving people. The great strength of the country doesn't lie in the halls of our governments; it lies in the homes of our people. The great strength of America is the fact that America is full of caring and loving, God-fearing and decent souls. And I am proud to be your President.

Thank you all for coming. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the atrium at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. In his remarks, he referred to Vernon Jones, chief executive officer, DeKalb County; Georgia State Senators Terrell Starr, Nathan Dean, and Eric Johnson; and Georgia State Representatives Lynn Westmoreland and Thomas Buck III.

Remarks at a Leadership Forum in Atlanta

March 1, 2001

The President. Bill, thank you very much. And Lydia, thank you for the tour. This is

a hospital, but it's also—it's a place full of love. And I was most touched by meeting the parents and the kids and the nurses and the docs, all of whom are working hard to save lives. I want to thank the moms who are here. Jim, thank you very much for your hospitality. And Tommy, I'll get to you in a minute. [*Laughter*]

There's a lot of talk about budgets right now, and I'm here to talk about the budget. My job as the President is to submit a budget to the Congress and to set priorities, and one of the priorities that we've talked about is making sure the health care systems are funded. And Dr. Woods talked about our commitment—and it's a joint commitment—it's a commitment I'm confident the Congress will make with me to double the NIH funding by the year 2003. That's an important commitment of the Federal Government.

You know more than me about how effective those dollars can be, and it's a wise use of Federal taxpayers' money. It means that the budget will be increased to 28 billion a year by the year 2003.

Secondly, I want to talk about two other aspects of health care before I get into how this all works. One is, we're going to double Medicare over the next 10 years from $216 billion to $549 billion. It's a significant increase of expenditures. It's $159 billion in new Medicare spending above and beyond that which was projected. It means that our country is going to make a firm commitment to those who rely upon Medicare dollars—the elderly, the teaching hospitals. It is an important Federal commitment.

By the way, with the expenditure of Medicare money, we also have got to have the courage to reform Medicare to make it a program where seniors have got more choices and more options from which to choose to match their particular needs. And all the reforms must insist that prescription drug coverage becomes an integral part of the Medicare package.

And finally, an interesting opportunity we have in the country as far as I'm concerned is to increase funding for community health centers. I'd like to increase the number of community health centers from 3,000 to 4,200 over the next 5 years, doubling the number of people who will be served.

Community health centers are good opportunities to take pressure off of hospital emergency rooms, for starters. They're opportunities for people to get primary care who are indigent poor, maybe newly arrived to America. It is a wise expenditure of taxpayers' money.

A point I'm trying to make to the people of Georgia and will make around the country is, the first job of a President is to set priorities. Not only are these, the items I just talked about, priorities, so is public schools. It's a priority. As a matter of fact, the largest increase in my budget is for public education.

However, I'm mindful of the fact that the Federal Government is only a partial provider of funds and should never run the schools. I strongly advocate and strongly will fight for local control of schools. One size does not fit all when it comes to the education of children.

As an aside, one of the interesting reforms that I hope we get through the Congress says two things: One, we're going to provide flexibility to local folks to run the schools; and secondly, if you receive Federal money, you must measure. You must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract and, if not, correct.

This is an interesting place to talk about diagnosing problems, right here in a hospital. Well, we need to do the same thing in education, particularly in the early years. We must diagnose whether or not a child has deficiencies in reading, for example, and solve them early—and solve them early. And that's the whole spirit of reform that we're proposing.

I want to pay the military more, folks. In my budget, we increase military pay by a billion dollars over the current pay. But having met all these—and set aside all the payroll taxes for Social Security—that's what we do, 2.6 trillion over 10 years will only be spent on Social Security. Now, that sounds like a lot of money, and it is. Except, we've got much more money than that available to figure out what to do with. And so $2 trillion will be spent to pay down debt over the next 10 years.

And people say, "Well, you need—why not more? Why not 800 billion more, or maybe a trillion more?" And the reason why is, because the debt doesn't come due over—the amount of debt that comes due in a 10-year period is 2 trillion. There is no need to pay a premium to retire debt early. It would cost taxpayers more money, and that doesn't make any sense.

We still have money left. We've got pretty good cash flows at the Federal level. And what I want to do is set aside a trillion dollars for contingencies and with the remaining money, which amounts to 1.6 trillion over 10 years, remember who paid the money in the first place.

The point I want to make in this haven of love, a place of deep concern about children's health, is that we can fund priorities. If we're wise about how we budget money, we can set aside important priorities, and we can give people some money back, and I think that's really important. I know it's important at this moment in today's—in history, because, one, our economy is sputtering. And the money—if we can accelerate a tax relief plan to people like Tommy and Cynthia and everybody else up here, it will put more money in people's pockets, which will cause them to spend, which will cause the economy to get a second wind, we hope.

Secondly, there are a lot of people paying higher energy bills than they paid in the past. It's like a tax. And I think it's wise—if we're able to prioritize and realize we have more money—to help people manage their own personal accounts, their own balance sheets. A lot of people have got consumer debt that they're worried about. And there's a lot of focus on national debt; I focus on the people's balance sheets, as well.

And so I'm confident that not only can we meet our priorities but make sure a guy like Tommy Winfield and his family, who pay $1,380 of Federal income taxes, gets relief. In his case, he will end up paying no Federal income taxes under this plan. His tax burden will go from $1,380 to zero. Now, there are some sophisticates who will say that's not very much money, but it's plenty for him.

Tommy Winfield. Mr. President, let them ask me.

The President. Let the record note, this was not rehearsed. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, I appreciate the chance to come and make my case for the budget, for the budget. And we had a great rally in DeKalb County, and it gave me an opportunity to remind people that if you're concerned about the budget and you want there to be fiscal sanity in Washington with priorities set and funded, write your Senators and your Congressmen.

I have great faith in the people of America. And coming to this hospital and seeing and feeling the love on the floor we were on, knowing there's dedicated doctors, loving nurses, spending a lot of time trying to help kids, renews my faith in the greatness of America.

I told the people earlier, the great strength of this country is not because of our Government; it is because of our people. And this hospital is a living example of what I'm talking about.

So Dr. Woods, thank you for giving me a chance to come, and I'm looking forward to hearing from our other panelists.

[*At this point, the forum began.*]

The President. Thanks, Tommy, I appreciate you saying that.

You triggered something in my mind when you said that. Again, I want everybody to understand we've set priorities and funded them. There's a fundamental issue at stake here. And that is, do you trust Tommy to spend his own money? That's really one of the issues, if you think about it.

And I want the people of Georgia to hear loud and clear my plan trusts the Tommys of the world to make the decisions. You see, I think he—you can best decide what's best for your family better than I can decide what's best for your family.

And I shouldn't be trying to decide what's best for your family, after we meet some common needs in the country. Defense is a common need; health care, health research is a common need. Education is a common need.

Again, I just want to repeat, please don't hope that the Federal Government is going to wave a magic wand and there will be educational excellence. As a matter of fact, it's

less likely there will be educational excellence if there's power in Washington, DC, because the schools in Georgia are different in many ways from the issues that face Texas schools. And so we should not try to federalize education, but there are some things we can do by spending money wisely and insisting upon local control of schools and accountability.

After those needs are met, you're the person I want spending your own money. As a matter of fact, it's not the Government's money; it's yours to begin with. And that's kind of what I'm trying to get changed, the whole attitude about the people's money.

As a matter of fact, we're not giving you any money back. As a matter of fact, I am trying to advocate that we're not going to take it in the first place, so you get to keep it. You know, we're spending on tax cuts. Well, that's kind of contradictory language because it's your money. And anyway, it's a mindset that I'm trying to get—trying to impress upon the people.

And the best way to get this done, in my opinion, is to rally the will of the people. I've got great faith in the American people, and that's what this is all about. And so I'm so honored that you all are giving me a chance. It's an educational experience for me. It's a heartening experience for me, and it's a chance for me to move around the country, to get outside of Washington and sit face to face with real Americans who are working hard for their families, love their kids, love their country.

And so it's an honor to be here, Bill. And thank you all very much, Lydia. Thanks to the moms. I thank you for your courage and your love, and God bless you all.

Participant. Thank you, Mr. President. God bless America.

The President. Thank you. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the auditorium of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Woods, chief medical officer, Lydia Gonzalez Ryan, clinical director, and Tommy Winfield, staff member, AFLAC Cancer and Blood Disorders Program, and Jim Tally, president and chief executive officer, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; and Cynthia DeWild, whose son Joseph is a patient in the AFLAC Cancer and Blood Disorders Program, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Memorandum on Certification for Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug Transit Countries

March 1, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification for Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug Transit Countries

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby determine and certify that the following major illicit drug producing and/or major illicit drug transit countries have cooperated fully with the United States, or have taken adequate steps on their own, to achieve full compliance with the goals and objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances:

The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(B) of the Act, I hereby determine and certify that, for the following major illicit drug producing and/or major illicit drug transit countries that do not qualify for certification under section 490(b)(1)(A), the vital national interests of the United States require that assistance not be withheld and that the United States not vote against multilateral development bank assistance:

Cambodia and Haiti

Analysis of the relevant U.S. vital national interests and risks posed thereto, as required under section 490(b)(3) of the Act, is attached for these countries.

I have determined that the following major illicit drug producing and/or major illicit drug transit countries do not meet the standards for certification set forth in section 490(b):

Afghanistan and Burma

In making these determinations, I have considered the factors set forth in section 490 of the Act, based on the information contained in the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of 2001. Given that the performance of each of these countries has differed, I have attached an explanatory statement for each of the countries subject to this determination.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Critical Infrastructure Protection

March 1, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 1053 of the Defense Authorization Act of 2001 (Public Law 106–398), enclosed is a comprehensive report detailing the specific steps taken by the Federal Government to develop critical infrastructure assurance strategies as outlined by Presidential Decision Directive No. 63 (PDD–63).

This report was drafted by the previous Administration and is a summary of their efforts as of January 15. However, since this requirement conveys to my Administration, I am forwarding the report.

Critical infrastructure protection is an issue of importance to U.S. economic and national security, and it will be a priority in my Administration. We intend to examine the attached report and other relevant materials in our review of the Federal Government's critical infrastructure protection efforts.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 1, 2001.

Proclamation 7411—Women's History Month, 2001

March 1, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 1845, journalist and author Margaret Fuller laid out her hope for the future of this Nation's women: "We would have every arbitrary barrier thrown down. We would have every path laid open to women as freely as to men. If you ask me what offices they may fill, I reply—any, I do not care what case you put; let them be sea captains, if you will."

More than 150 years later, we are closer than ever to realizing Margaret Fuller's dream. Women account for nearly half of all workers. Today, women are "captains" of their own destinies, and they will continue to help shape our Nation's future. Women hold 74 seats in the United States Congress, more than at any time in our country's history, and women own more than 9 million businesses employing more than 27.5 million workers. Through their tireless service on a daily basis, the women of our Nation have woven the fabric of families and communities. They contribute immeasurably through faith-based and community organizations.

Our Nation's women could not be where they are—nor could our country be where it is—without the strength and courage, wisdom and persistence of those who preceded them. America has been blessed with women like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony, and Jane Addams, all of whom refused to accept oppression as inevitable. Female political leaders including Margaret Chase Smith and Eleanor Roosevelt forever changed the face of American government. Women have played a vital role in educating our Nation: Mary Lyon, Dorothea Dix, Elizabeth Blackwell, and Mary McLeod Bethune all fought history and stereotypes to become scholars in their own right and pass their knowledge to subsequent generations. Similarly, female authors such as Anne Bradstreet, Emily Dickinson, Pearl Buck, and Zora Neale Hurston represent only a small

sample of the many women who have contributed to the American literary canon.

Our Nation boasts a rich history of women whose heroic achievements speak to the sense of excellence, potential, and patriotism shared by all Americans. Anna Warner Bailey's and Clara Barton's courage in war has inspired generations of men and women called upon to fight for America. The fortitude of spirit displayed by Helen Keller, Amelia Earhart, and Wilma Rudolph has made them role models both here and abroad. Finally, from the sacrifice of mothers and grandmothers to the dedication of successful women in business, government, and charitable work, the legacy of women in America gives all young people in this country the impetus to dream without limits.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as "Women's History Month." I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to remember their contributions throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:47 a.m., March 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 2, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Remarks to the National Conference of State Legislatures

March 2, 2001

Mr. Secretary, thank you for the three introductions. [*Laughter*] When I was looking for people to serve in the Cabinet, one of the places I looked was for fellow Governors, because I strongly believe that there needs to be appropriate balance between the Federal Government and the State governments. And I found a good one in Tommy Thompson. He's going to do a great job, and I'm so honored that you're here. I appreciate you all having me. I see some familiar faces—Mr. Speaker. I'm glad you all are here. I want to thank Senator Costa and Senator Saland for inviting me. I've got something to say about the budget, and this is a pretty darn good forum to do so.

Before I begin, though, I want to thank the folks from Quebec who are here. And where are you? There you are, sir. Thank you for being here. I'm looking forward to coming to Quebec City in April. I had a good visit with the Prime Minister of Canada the other day, and I'm confident our nations will continue our long friendship together and work together for the good of our two countries and our hemisphere. I understand we've got some folks from South Africa as well.

Well, thank you all for coming. Welcome. I'm sure glad you're here. Any Texans here, speaking about foreign countries? [*Laughter*] Darn it. [*Laughter*] One of the things that I talked about with the Governors, all of whom were here the other day, was a new federalism initiative. And my administration is going to listen to people at the State and local level to make sure we clearly define the role of Federal Government and State Governments and then have a—by Executive order, put a group together to make sure it actually happens.

A lot of times in Washington, as you know, we tend to talk, and sometimes the talk isn't backed up by action. And so we're going to work hard to make sure that the new federalism becomes reality.

And it's important. Take a matter like education. One of my priorities as the Governor of Texas was education; one of my priorities as the President is to make sure every child gets educated. But I can assure you, this administration understands the importance of local control of schools. And we don't believe in the federalization of the public school system, that one size does not fit all when it comes to education.

And of course, ours is an administration that doesn't care whether your Governor or your speaker or your leader of the senate is

a Republican or a Democrat, if you believe in local control of schools, you do so in a nonpartisan way. So we look forward to working with the Congress to pass power out of Washington, to make those Federal programs that are prescriptive in nature become supportive of local efforts to meet—so that each local State and district can chart their own path to excellence for children.

One of the reforms that I think that is going to be crucial is to work with States and local jurisdictions to develop strong accountability systems, that in return for Federal money that you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

We will not have a national test. A test devised at the national level will undermine local control of schools. But I think it's a perfectly appropriate question to say, for example, with disadvantaged students, those with Title I money, that—measure—measure on an annual basis. You develop the standards, you develop the test, but show not only the President but show everybody else whether or not the schools are meeting the objectives. And if they are, we'll praise teachers like we should, all across the country. But if not, instead of just accepting the status quo, if it's okay to shuffle kids through the system who can't read, it will serve as a catalyst to change.

And this is a substantial reform. On one side, you'll have people say, "Well this is not the proper role of the Federal Government, to insist that local jurisdictions show us whether or not children are learning." I reject that argument. We're a results-oriented nation. And there's no better—no important place to find positive results than in our public schools and no important place to find negative results and correct them early than in our public schools.

And they're going to hear people say, "Well, it's racist to test." Listen, I went through this argument in the State of Texas. It is racist not to test. It is important to test, because we believe all children can learn, and therefore, when we find certain children not learning, let's correct it. See, the attitude is, "If certain kids can't learn, let's just not hold people accountable; let's just quit and move them through the system." That's unacceptable to me. I know it's unacceptable to you. I believe it's going to be unacceptable to both Republicans and Democrats in the Congress. The cornerstone of reform is flexibility at the local level, coupled with strong accountability measures.

Many of you all know the debates, oftentimes, on important matters like education, revolve around who spends the most money. And the truth of the matter is, the Federal Government's got a limited role when it comes to the expenditure of taxpayer's money in public schools. I mean, we fund about 7 percent of the total budgets across the Nation.

But there is an important role for the Federal Government, particularly for disadvantaged children. And so we've increased our education budget by more than any other Department in the Federal Government. The debate here of course will be, "Well, it's not enough." But for those who argue that, sometimes they're not—they don't have to do what the executive branch does, which is to present an overall budget, to make it work. And that's what I want to explain to you all, how our overall budget works.

First, there was a contest at the end of the last session to figure out who could spend the most money. It didn't matter what your party was, it looked like. The budget grew by 8 percent. That's a substantial growth in Federal expenditures. My budget slows discretionary spending down to 4 percent. That's more than the rate of inflation. It's a pretty high increase in the expenditures, but it's nothing close to what was happening over the last 3 years, on average, and at the end of last year.

That's caused some consternation because in Washington, the definition of a cut is that you haven't increased the budget as much as anticipated. You may be actually increasing spending, but that's called a cut up here. I've had to learn new accounting. [*Laughter*] But we grow the discretionary spending by 4 percent.

We protect entitlements. All of the payroll taxes will be set aside for Social Security and only Social Security. We double the Medicare budget over a 10-year period of time. We increase Medicare in the first year, to

meet all needs, and including having a prescription drug program for poor seniors to be administered by the States.

It is a budget that meets needs. And by the way, we pay our soldiers more money. We've got an increase in pay for the men and women who wear the uniform. As an aside, I think it's very important for my administration to send this message to Congress and to the country, that we'll first develop a strategic vision of military spending, a strategic vision of the military, and then we'll figure out how to spend the money, as opposed to let's spend the money first and then maybe develop a strategic vision afterwards. It's called planning. And one of the things that executive branch folks must do is to help plan the proper expenditure of money, and that's what we're going to do. But we do increase the military budget, starting with the personnel, to make sure folks are better housed, better paid, and better trained.

And as an aside—a second aside—the Commander in Chief must set a clear mission for all Departments, particularly the Department of Defense. And the mission is to be prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place. It's a clear mission and a clear statement of purpose.

There is a lot of discussion about paying down debt. And it's a healthy discussion. We pay down $2 trillion debt over a 10-year period of time in our budget. That's the largest amount of debt ever paid by a country in history. I think that's an accurate statement. There is also debt at the local level. It's called consumer debt. And so, while a lot of us up here talk about Federal debt, one of my jobs is to make sure the Nation stays focused on the debt that burdens the working folks in America. People have got a lot of credit card debt. And when you couple that with high energy prices, some of the people that you know are in a pinch. And we'd better do something about it. It's important for our economy to do something about that. It's important for the lives of people who struggle to get ahead to do something about it. And that's part of the basis for the tax relief package.

But before I talk about the tax relief, I also want to tell you, we've set aside $1 trillion over 10 years for contingencies. That can mean a lot of things. Contingencies can mean, "Well, maybe the numbers weren't as good," or "I think they're going to be better than they anticipate," by the way. It could be that we need money for emergencies, which we probably will, maybe need a little more money for some of the agricultural sector around the country. There are contingencies set aside.

And finally, that leaves money left over. And the big debate here—and you go through the debate every single budget session—is what to do with it. And I am going to make the case, not only here in Washington but traveling around the country, that we need to remember who paid the bills in the first place.

I'm trying to be as—to bring as much common sense to Washington as I can. And the speech I gave the other night was an attempt to say, here's the priorities; there's money left over. Here's the debt repayment; there's money left over. There's a commonsensical way to budget by setting aside contingencies, and there's still money left over. And by the way, these numbers are based upon conservative assumptions.

The first year, the budget is based upon a 2.4 percent growth. It averages a little more than a 3 percent growth over the next 10 years. We can do better than that in America. America can grow our economy. We're too strong a nation. We're an entrepreneurial nation. We've just got some unbelievable productivity gains to be achieved in our economy.

People take a pessimistic view about how to project revenues, and that's fine. But I just want you to know I'm much more optimistic than the point of view here in Washington. People say, well, what happens if—you know, gosh, what happens—maybe we need a trigger mechanism, that's kind of the discussion. So, therefore, if the surpluses don't materialize—well, there's two reasons why surpluses won't materialize. One is that the revenues aren't quite as expected because the economy has slowed down, in which case we need to accelerate tax cuts. You see, tax relief will put money in people's pockets, which will help give the economy a second wind. Or, a reason the surplus may not materialize

is because Congress has overspent. So it seems like to me we need to be careful about any trigger mechanism that ought to be on spending to make sure that we don't overspend surpluses.

The tax relief package is well thought out and well designed. Of course, I would say that. [*Laughter*] But we've spent a lot of time on it. As opposed to trying to figure out what number sounded like it made sense, we actually calculated the cost of fixing parts of the Tax Code that are unfair. For example, the death tax is unfair. Many of you come from agricultural States; you know exactly what I'm talking about.

The marriage penalty is unfair. The Tax Code itself is unfair, because it's like we erect, as I said in the campaign, a tollbooth right in the middle of the road to the middle class. One on one side, people struggling to get to the tollbooth pay a higher marginal rate on additional dollars earned than people who are successful. If you're a single mom, like I said in my speech, and you're trying to get ahead and you're making in the low $20,000 salary range, as you lose earned-income tax credit, as you start paying the 15 percent bracket, as you pay payroll taxes, your marginal rate is nearly 50 percent on additional dollars earned, and that is not right. And that's not the America that we all want our country to be. It sends the wrong message.

And therefore, we dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and doubled the child credit, which will make the marginal rates on people starting to get ahead less, and that's important. Access to the middle class is a fundamental part of the American experience.

We also drop all rates. The temptation, of course, as you know, in tax policy is for people to say, "Well, I'll get to decide who gets the tax breaks. Let me make those decisions." It's called targeting. I don't think we ought to try to figure out who is targeted in and targeted out. I think if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief.

Finally, there will be a lot of discussion about whether or not we ought to drop the top rate. Well, first of all, if everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief, then you ought to—need to drop all rates. But secondly, I want to remind you all that when you drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, it enables small businesses and entrepreneurs to more likely be able to expand their businesses. Because if you inquire, you'll find a lot of the small businesses in your districts and in your States are unincorporated small businesses and/or sub-Chapter S businesses. And the top rate reduction I view as a way to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can continue to move in America.

One of the most hopeful statistics I heard was in the great State of California, where there are over 700,000 Latino-owned small businesses in that State. That's a fantastic statistic about the American Dream and the American experience and the whole concept of owning something. One of the things that distinguishes our great land is people can own their own business or own their own home. And the idea of encouraging the entrepreneurial experience to flourish, particularly in the small business sector, is what I think good public policy is all about.

So tax relief is not only to—as a way to kick-start the economy that is in fact slowing down, but tax relief is also an opportunity to achieve certain objectives, to make the code more fair, and to make the small business person more likely to employ additional folks. And that's my case. I think we're going to get it done.

And I'd like your help. I'm going to travel the country a lot, which I'm finding to me is important, not only to make the case, but it's important to remember where I came from. And I came from many of the neighborhoods that you all represent, just good, honorable, hard-working people. I cannot tell you what an honor it is to be the President and to drive in those cars with the American flag flying and to see people lining the roads, waving to the office. It reminds me of the greatness of the country. And it's the people of America. You know that just as well as I do. The people of this great country is what makes this place so special, this land so special. And all public policy must recognize that, and work to empower people, so they can help themselves. My budget does so. That's what the budget is all about. And I

want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and make my case.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to California State Senator Jim Costa, president, and New York State Senator Steven M. Saland, president-elect, National Conference of State Legislatures; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Anthony J. Principi as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

March 2, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. Liz, thank you for being here, and family members who are here, Mom. We are honored you are here, and thank you so much for witnessing the swearing-in of a good man.

Today we honor a man and swear in a man who has served his country in many ways. Tony Principi came to understand the military in war time as a decorated soldier in Vietnam. As a veteran, he came to understand the Department of Veterans Affairs by serving there. To fill this position, I looked carefully, and I chose well.

America has 25 million veterans. They ask that their Government honor its commitments as they honored theirs. They ask that their interests be protected, as they protected their country's interests in the line of duty. Secretary Principi is prepared not only to lead this Department but to modernize it.

Veterans' claims are often poorly handled, and many veterans are not treated as well as they should be by the health care bureaucracy. Tony and his Department will set new goals for better service. More importantly, we both expect the Department to meet the goals.

As I said to Congress on Tuesday night, we must honor our commitment to veterans by ensuring access to the finest health care. This is a basic obligation of our country. In last year's campaign, I promised American veterans they'd have an advocate in the White House. In Secretary Principi, they now have a strong and faithful friend at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for your service. Congratulations.

[*At this point, Secretary Principi made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:28 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Principi's wife, Elizabeth, and his mother, Theresa. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Principi.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Ann M. Veneman as Secretary of Agriculture

March 2, 2001

The President. Well, it's my honor, along with the Vice President, to welcome Secretary Veneman and her sister, Jane, who did a fine job of holding the Bible, and Veneman family members. Welcome to the Oval Office, and thank you all for coming.

Ann is new to the Cabinet but not to the Department she leads, nor the issues that her Department will face. Having served as California's highest agricultural official and in prominent posts here in Washington, she comes to the job very well prepared.

Agriculture represents 13 percent of our Nation's economy and remains central to prosperity at home and competitiveness abroad. In many ways, it is the most crucial of all industries and, yet, the most easily taken for granted. American farmers are without rival in their ability to produce and compete. But they face every kind of challenge, from bad weather to closed markets.

This administration is going to be a friend to the American farmer. In times of emergency, they will get the assistance they need, when they need it. We will support tax-deferred savings accounts, to help farm families guard against downturns. And to keep family farms in the family, we're going to get rid of the death tax.

For many farmers, the greatest challenge today is finding markets for their products. Americans represent just 4 percent of the

world's population. But our farmers have the technology and the skill to feed much of the world beyond.

Ann and I will carry out this equivocal message to the world: Markets must be open. The United States will not tolerate favoritism and unfair subsidies. We want to compete, and we want our farmers to compete on level ground. And agriculture will no longer be traded away or ignored when we sit down at international negotiating tables. It will be a top priority of ours.

America's farmers will have a strong advocate in the new Secretary. Today, the number of women-owned farms is the highest ever, and Ann Veneman is the first woman ever to hold this position. I'm confident she'll be one of the most successful leaders that this Department has ever had.

Madame Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Veneman. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Spencer Abraham as Secretary of Energy and an Exchange With Reporters

March 2, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome the Secretary and his family. I forgot that he and I were members of the fathers of twins club. [*Laughter*] Jane, it's good to see you. I want to welcome you all here. We look forward to having a picture-taking session next door after our brief remarks.

Two months ago, in Austin, I announced my intention to nominate Senator Spence Abraham as the Energy Secretary. He's obviously since then been confirmed by the Senate. His performance in office has already confirmed that I chose the right man for the job.

Secretary Abraham knows energy policy. He understands the many challenges and opportunities before us. Today, we are seeing the consequences of going too long without an energy policy. Many Americans are struggling with the high cost of energy. People who live in the West face a major energy shortage, which has caused rising prices and growing uncertainty.

I have asked Federal agencies to work with California officials to bring more energy to the people of that State, as quickly as possible. Also I've asked Secretary Abraham to work with Vice President Cheney and Secretary of Commerce Evans and other senior officials to develop a comprehensive energy policy for the United States.

Our objective should not only be to manage the current situation but to avoid any crisis in the first instance. This requires a four-part strategy: first, to make energy security a priority of our foreign policy, by restoring American credibility with overseas suppliers and building strong relationships with energy-producing nations in our hemisphere; second, to encourage environmentally friendly exploration and production of domestic energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal; third, to promote the production of electricity to keep pace with America's growing demands; fourth, to support the development of cost-effective alternative energy sources.

The goals of this strategy are clear: to ensure a steady supply of affordable energy for America's homes and businesses and industries, and to work toward the day when America achieves energy independence.

It was in the State of Michigan that I first pledged a comprehensive energy policy for our country. This afternoon I welcome to the Cabinet a proud son of Michigan, a grandson of immigrants, and a good man.

Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, Secretary Abraham made brief remarks.*]

Q. Mr. President, do you have time for questions, sir?

The President. No. [*Laughter*]

Camp David

Q. You're going to Camp David a lot. Can you tell us why you like going there, what you do when you're up there?

The President. I guess I do. He's asking—I'm going to Camp David, and I like to spend time with my family. And my brother Marvin and my sister, Dorothy, will join us up there.

It's a good place to relax, and it's also a good place to catch up on my work. I'm a little bit behind on my mail right now. But I intend, every chance I get, to go. If I'm not going to Crawford and I don't have to give a speech here on the weekend, I'm going to go to Camp David.

Federal Spending Limits

Q. Mr. President, some members of your own party are chafing at the idea of holding Federal spending increases for——

The President. Yes.

Q. What argument can you make——

The President. Well, I know there's a lot of folks that are used to big spending. After all, the spending increases were very dramatic at the end of the last session. And my answer is, let's—why don't we have some fiscal sanity in Washington. My budget increases the rate of growth in discretionary spending by 4 percent. And surely, Congress will be willing to work with the administration to bring—to control the appetite by 4 percent.

And I believe when people are willing to take a hard look at setting priorities in different spending programs, we'll be able to meet that target and thereby be able to send some of the surplus back to the people, which is an important part about making sure our economy gets a second wind. And it's an important part—and this country has got to remember, the people up here in this—have got to remember that this country, in this country, a lot of folks are paying high energy bills, and a lot of folks have got a lot of debt, personal debt. And if we're wise about how we spend money in Washington, we will enable people to have more money in their own pocket, and that would be wise economic policy.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Abraham's wife, Jane. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Abraham.

Statement on Relief and Reconstruction Assistance for El Salvador

March 2, 2001

I had a good meeting today with El Salvador's President Francisco Flores. I commended him for the strong leadership he and his government have shown in the aftermath of two recent earthquakes that killed and injured thousands of people and left many more homeless.

The United States responded to these earthquakes by quickly sending rescue workers and over $16 million in relief assistance to the people of El Salvador. Today I told President Flores that the United States has pledged $52 million in reconstruction assistance to El Salvador this fiscal year, and I will seek to match or increase that amount for next year.

In addition, I informed him of the Attorney General's decision to grant temporary relief from deportation for a period of 18 months for Salvadoran citizens living in the United States. This will allow them to continue to work here and to remit some of their wages back home to support El Salvador's recovery efforts.

The recent earthquake in Washington State brings home to the citizens of our Nation how natural disaster can strike any of us. And it reminds us of our obligation to reach out to help those in other nations struggling in the wake of disaster to rebuild their homes and lives.

Proclamation 7412—National Poison Prevention Week, 2001

March 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Poison Prevention Week alerts Americans to the dangers of accidental childhood poisonings and to the measures that help prevent poisonings. During the 40 years since the Congress authorized the annual proclamation of National Poison Prevention

Week, our Nation has seen a dramatic decrease in deaths from childhood poisoning. In 1962, nearly 450 children died from poisoning after they accidentally swallowed medicines or household chemicals. From 1993 through 1997, an average of 36 children died each year from poisoning. This dramatic reduction in poisoning fatalities is a significant public health success.

However, the death of even one child from poisoning should be prevented. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, more than 1 million children each year are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. The first line of defense is child-resistant packaging required by the Consumer Product Safety Commission for many medicines and household chemicals. But this special packaging is "child-resistant," not "child-proof." Therefore, potential poisons must be locked up away from children. And if a poisoning occurs, local poison control centers should be called immediately.

The Poison Prevention Week Council brings together 35 national organizations to distribute poison prevention information to pharmacies, public health departments, and safety organizations nationwide. National Poison Prevention Week has been very effective, but there is more to do. We all should use and properly re-close child-resistant packaging, keep poisonous substances locked up away from children, and keep available poison control center phone numbers next to the telephone. These measures can help prevent tragedies.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 18, 2001, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent accidental poisonings among children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:47 a.m., March 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on International Agreements

March 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Continued Deployment of United States Forces to East Timor

March 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On August 25, 2000, President Clinton provided a report to the Congress regarding the continued deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in support of East Timor's transition to independence. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed regarding U.S. Armed Forces in East Timor.

As you are aware, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1272 established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on October 25, 1999. The UNTAET's mandate includes providing security and maintaining law and order throughout East Timor, establishing an effective administration, ensuring the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting capacity-building for self-government. The United States currently contributes three military observers to UNTAET. These personnel are assigned to the United Nations pursuant to the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79–264), and operate under U.N. operational control.

The United States also maintains a military presence in East Timor that is separate from UNTAET. This includes the U.S. Support Group East Timor (USGET), comprised of approximately 12 U.S. personnel, including a security detachment, which facilitates and coordinates U.S. military activities in East Timor, and a rotational presence of U.S. forces through temporary deployments to East Timor. These rotational presence operations include monthly Navy ship visits and deployments of military medical and engineering teams that conduct humanitarian and civic assistance activities in areas critical to East Timor's citizens. United States forces assigned to USGET and those conducting rotational presence operations operate under U.S. command and control and U.S. rules of engagement. The United Nations has indicated that East Timor has benefited greatly from U.S. military deployments and engagement activities in East Timor and strongly supports the continued U.S. presence there.

At this point, our rotational presence operations are envisioned to continue through December 2001. The duration of our support depends upon the course of events in East Timor. It is, however, our objective to reduce the rotational presence operations, as well as to redeploy USGET, as soon as circumstances permit.

I have authorized the continuation of this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 25

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

February 26

The President announced his intention to nominate Hector V. Barretto to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mel Sembler to be President of the Export-Import Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Glenn Hubbard to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisors. Upon confirmation, Mr. Hubbard will serve as the Chairman of the Council.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Francisco Flores of El Salvador at the White House on March 2.

The White House announced that the President invited Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to the White House for a working visit on March 29.

The White House announced that the President invited President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to the White House for a working visit on April 2.

The White House announced that the President invited King Abdullah II of Jordan

to the White House for a working visit on April 10.

February 27

The White House announced that the President will meet with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson on March 8.

February 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Beaver, PA, where he met with Rev. Donald W. Wuerl, bishop of Pittsburgh.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Omaha, NE, and later, he traveled to Little Rock and North Little Rock, AR.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wade F. Horn to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Keane to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lee Sarah Liberman Otis to be General Counsel at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter S. Watson to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

March 1

In the morning, the President toured Lakewood Elementary School where he answered questions from first graders in classroom 6, and later, he traveled to Atlanta, GA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lincoln P. Bloomfield to be Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Viet Dinh to be Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy.

The President declared a disaster in Washington State and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on February 28 and continuing.

The White House announced that the President ordered an increase in the Federal funding to Arkansas for debris removal in ice storm recovery efforts.

March 2

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Costas Simitis of Greece.

The President announced his intention to nominate Chris Spear to be Assistant to the Secretary of Labor on Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John B. Taylor to be Under Secretary for the Treasury for International Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland at the White House on March 16.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 26

Mark A. Weinberger,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Jonathan Talisman, resigned.

Submitted February 28

David Aufhauser,
of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, vice Neal S. Wolin, resigned.

John M. Duncan,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Ruth Martha Thomas.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: German Chancellor To Visit Washington

Statement by Press Secretary: Egyptian President To Visit Washington

Statement by Press Secretary: Jordanian King To Visit Washington

Statement by Press Secretary: Meeting With President Flores of El Salvador

Released February 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Meet With NATO Secretary General

Released February 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mitch Daniels, and National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey on the President's economic blueprint

Released March 1

Statement by the Press Secretary: Annual Presidential Determinations for Major Drug Producing and Drug Transit Countries

Released March 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Irish Prime Minister

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Peter F. Allgeier as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economic Affairs, National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of John B. Bellinger III as Senior Associate Counsel to the President and Legal Adviser to the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Torkel L. Patterson as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, March 9, 2001

The President's Radio Address

March 3, 2001

Good morning. As I begin, I want to say a few words about the people of Washington State. Earlier this week, that State was rocked by a powerful earthquake, which affected countless lives and caused billion dollars of damage. The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Association, Joe Allbaugh, went immediately to Seattle, and my administration is providing help. Our prayers are with the people of Washington State.

A few days ago, I had the honor of addressing a joint session of Congress. I hope you had a chance to tune in and hear my plans for the Federal budget and my priorities for the country. After making my case to Congress, I headed out early the next morning on a swing through five States to bring my case directly to you, the American people.

I approach our budget as American families do. First, we set priorities and funded them. My top priority is education reform. And I have asked that the Department of Education receive the largest percentage increase of any Federal agency. We increase funding for our reading programs and character education and recruiting good teachers. This time around, however, we won't be just spending more money; we will be setting higher standards and expecting real results for all our children.

We're going to keep the promise of Social Security and keep the Government from raiding the Social Security surplus. And to safeguard the system against long-term threats, I will form a Presidential commission to reform Social Security and place it on firm financial ground. We will spend more on Medicare, as well, nearly doubling its budget in 10 years. But just as important, we will modernize Medicare to provide a prescription drug benefit for senior citizens. We will also support and strengthen America's military, starting with a pay increase and better housing for our troops.

After meeting these national priorities, my budget pays down a record amount of national debt. We will pay off $2 trillion of debt over the next decade. That will be the largest debt reduction of any country, ever. Future generations shouldn't be forced to pay back money that we have borrowed. We owe this kind of responsibility to our children and grandchildren.

And in addition to funding our priorities and reducing debt by a record amount, we set up a contingency fund of nearly $1 trillion, and we still have money left over. The surplus money that remains will be used for a broad, fair tax relief. A surplus, after all, is an overcharge of American taxpayers. And on your behalf, I am asking for a refund.

My tax plan reduces income tax rates across the board, giving the largest percentage reductions to working families who need the most help. My plan reduces the marriage penalty and gets rid of the death tax. It will boost the economy and help create new businesses, new jobs, and new growth at a time when we need all three.

When the tax cut takes effect, the typical family of four will save $1,600 every year. Some say that's not much. But they ought to talk to people like Steven and Josefina Aramos, young parents trying to build a better life for their family. Right now they pay about $8,000 a year in Federal income taxes. My plan will save this hardworking family more than $2,000. Steven says, and I quote, "Two thousand dollars is a lot to my family. If we had this money, it would help us reach our goal of paying off our personal debt in 2 years time."

Well, I want the Aramos family and millions of others like them to meet their goals, and to live out their best hopes for themselves and their children. Our Federal budget must be good for the family budget.

That was my message to Congress on Tuesday. And now, I hope you'll send a message in favor of tax relief to your Congressman or your Senator. After all, the surplus is your money.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on March 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the National Guard Aircraft Tragedy in Georgia

March 3, 2001

I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of 21 members of the Florida and Virginia National Guard aboard a C–23 transport plane that crashed this morning outside Macon, Georgia. This tragic loss on a routine training mission reminds us of the sacrifices made each and every day by all of our men and women in uniform. The price of freedom is never free. Today's events remind us that it is sometimes unspeakably high. On behalf of the entire Bush family, I extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all members of the 171st Aviation Battalion of the Florida Army National Guard and the 203d Red Horse Flight of the Virginia Air National Guard. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time.

Remarks on Arrival in Hampton, Virginia

March 4, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. And thank you for your service to this great land of ours. Laura and I are thrilled to be here. I'm traveling today with members of my Cabinet: the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and Alma—she is the true general in that family—[*laughter*]—the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Rumsfeld, and his bride; the Secretary of Energy, Secretary Abraham, and his bride.

We've assembled the finest national security team of any administration. We understand our job is to keep the peace. But we also understand in order to do so, our military must be well prepared, well trained, well housed, and well paid.

One of the first policy speeches I gave was to send the message, loud and clear, to the U.S. Congress that we expect there to be a pay raise for those who wear the uniform. But what you can expect from us is a clear mission, a clear, focused mission that says our military will be trained and ready to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

We're honored to be here. Thank you for your service to America. Our country and the world is better off for it.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1 p.m. at Langley Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Powell's wife, Alma; Secretary Rumsfeld's wife, Joyce; and Secretary Abraham's wife, Jane. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Christening Ceremony for the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* in Newport News, Virginia

March 4, 2001

Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary, thank you for those kind words. I picked the right man to be the Secretary of Defense at this time in history.

Mrs. Reagan, it is an honor to be with you. Reagan family members, friends of the great President, Laura and I are honored to be here.

We join with the Governor and Senator of this State in asking for God's blessings on those who lost their lives yesterday and for their families.

Bill, thank you very much for your hospitality. Secretary Powell and Secretary Abraham, Leader Lott, Chairman Warner—I can't tell if you're trying to retire me early—[*laughter*]—or influence my behavior.

Senator Allen, Governor Gilmore, Representative Scott, and Members of Congress, Justice Kennedy, Admiral Clark, welcome. But most of all, I want to welcome the men

and women of the United States Navy, including the officers and crew who will soon be on the *Ronald Reagan.*

Looking at the bow of this great ship, we think of those who will sail it and of those who built it, and to this ship, 6 years in the making, we have put the finest of American workmanship. On board this ship we'll put the finest sailors in the world, and upon this ship we have put the finest of American names.

Forty-nine years ago, another outstanding American took that name herself. Mrs. Reagan, I know today is your 49th anniversary, wedding anniversary. Since your wedding day, you've seen the name Reagan written large in many places, from theater marquees to the archways of great buildings, but there is something especially fitting in the place it holds today, on the newest ship in the greatest Navy in the world. When we send her off to sea, it is certain that the *Ronald Reagan* will meet with rough waters as well as smooth and headwinds as well as fair. But she will sail tall and strong, like the man we have known.

A man cannot be strong forever, but if he is very fortunate, life will send him a partner to be strong when he is not. In a life of honors, Ronald Reagan has always valued one honor above all, the love of Nancy. It is a love that believes all, hopes all, and endures all. Mrs. Reagan, anyone who has seen you together knows how much you mean to him. I want you to know how much your care and love for him means to America.

It was said of a great architect centuries ago, "If you want to seek his monument, look around you." That is true of Ronald Reagan. We live in a world shaped in so many ways by his will and heart. As President, Ronald Reagan believed without question that tyranny is temporary, and the hope of freedom is universal and permanent; that our Nation has a unique goodness and must remain uniquely strong; that God takes the side of justice, because all our rights are His own gifts. The strength of these beliefs gave strength to our allies and hope to political prisoners and courage to average citizens in oppressed nations and leadership to our military and to our country.

Some achievements fade with the years. Ronald Reagan's achievements grow larger with the passing of time. He had a profound vision of America's role in the world as one of peace through strength. And because of Ronald Reagan, the world saw America as a strong and peaceful nation.

Today's world is different from the one he faced and changed. We are no longer divided into armed camps, locked in a careful balance of terror. Yet, freedom still has enemies. Our present dangers are less concentrated and more varied. They come from rogue nations, from terrorism, from missiles that threaten our forces, our friends, our allies, and our homeland. Our times call for new thinking. But the values Ronald Reagan brought to America's conduct in the world will not change.

So as we dedicate this ship, I want to rededicate American policy to Ronald Reagan's vision of optimism, modesty, and resolve. Ronald Reagan's optimism defined his character, and it defined his Presidency. More than a habit of mind, this optimism sprang from deep confidence in the power and future of American ideals. Great democracies, he believed, are built on the strong foundation of consent and human dignity; any Government built on oppression is built on sand. The future, he proclaimed, belongs to the free.

That belief has lost none of its power to inspire hope and change. Around the world today, the expectation of freedom is fed by free markets and expanded by free trade and carried across borders by the Internet. And nations that try to restrict these freedoms are in a losing battle with liberty.

America, by nature, stands for freedom. And we must always remember, we benefit when it expands. So we will stand by those nations moving towards freedom. We'll stand up to those nations who deny freedom and threaten our neighbors or our vital interests, and we will assert emphatically that the future will belong to the free.

At the same time President Reagan understood that this confidence should never be arrogance. No one was better at using the bully pulpit of the Presidency, but under his leadership America was never a bully.

One of the ways we show the world we take our values seriously is to live by them, ourselves. Our Nation cherishes freedom, but we do not own it. While it is the birthright of every American, it is also the equal promise of the religious believer in southern Sudan or an Iraqi farmer in the Tigress Valley or of a child born in China today. We help fulfill that promise not by lecturing the world but by leading it.

Precisely because America is powerful, we must be sensitive about expressing our power and influence. Our goal is to patiently build the momentum of freedom, not create resentment for America itself. We pursue our goals; we will listen to others; we want strong friends to join us, not weak neighbors to dominate. In all our dealings with other nations, we will display the modesty of true confidence and strength.

Finally, Ronald Reagan understood that the advance of freedom depends on American strength. We must have a military that is second to none and that includes a Navy that is second to none.

As has been mentioned, for the last 60 years, every President has had to ask, "Where are the carriers?" None has ever been disappointed by the Navy's response. Just a few weeks ago, I asked the same question and called upon the *Harry S. Truman* in the Persian Gulf. Ronald Reagan built the military of today, the military that keeps our peace, but we cannot live forever on that legacy. Our challenge is to build a military that will deter and win the wars of the future.

Almost 20 years ago, President Reagan made his first visit to an aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. *Constellation.* He told the sailors how grateful America was that they were there as a powerful force in an uncertain world. One hundred thousand tons of American power, you see over here, will carry forward this proud tradition. In fact, in 2 years, the *Reagan* will actually replace U.S.S. *Constellation.*

What you don't see is what's different between those two magnificent vessels. The island on the *Reagan*'s main deck is almost the same height as that of its predecessors, but it has one less level. The empty space will be filled with cables that will tie the ship into a vast network that connects information and weapons in new ways. This will revolutionize the Navy's ability to project American power over land and sea, assuring access for all our forces wherever our vital interests are threatened.

These new capabilities are the future of our military, not just the Navy but of all our services. It is a future where a revolution in technology will change the face of war, itself. We'll keep the peace by redefining the terms of war. We'll change our military, yet we will never forget that America's strength ultimately depends on the courage and spirit of the men and women who wear the uniform.

Nearly half our ships are at sea right now. One-third are forward-deployed overseas, taking their crew away from family and the comforts of home. In our sleep we don't think about the enemies that the men and women who wear the uniform deter, the friends they reassure, the freedom in trade they guarantee. Yet, we rest at night protected by the security they provide.

As President, Ronald Reagan understood our duty to these brave Americans, and so do I. Our men and women in uniform give America their best, and we owe them our support in return. These are the defining qualities of Ronald Reagan: optimism, modesty, and strength. They're also the qualities that will guide America in a new century.

So, today, the *Ronald Reagan* begins its journey into the bright and peaceful dawn that President Reagan helped to bring. All of us here wish the ship *Ronald Reagan* Godspeed, and we wish Ronald Reagan God's blessings.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. at Newport News Shipbuilding. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia; William P. Fricks, chairman and chief executive officer, Newport News Shipbuilding; and Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

Statement on the Death of James Rhodes

March 4, 2001

America and Ohio lost a great man today, Governor Jim Rhodes. Laura and I share in

this time of mourning with the people of Ohio. Jim was a dedicated, honorable public servant. His distinguished career included representing Ohio and its people longer than any other Governor in the State's history. Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughters, Suzanne and Sharon, and his entire family.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Joe M. Allbaugh as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

March 5, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's an honor to be here to swear in my friend. I first want to say it's a treat to see Mr. and Mrs. Allbaugh from the great State of Oklahoma, and his brother, most importantly, Diane and Taylor. Thank you all for being here. Of course, you wouldn't have missed it. [*Laughter*]

When I was a Governor, Joe and I used to travel a lot together, and a lot of times people would come up and say, "Is he your bodyguard?" [*Laughter*] He wasn't, but I always felt a little safer when he was around. And that's the kind of man he is, and that's the kind of man I wanted to run FEMA.

When the worst happens anywhere in America, I can assure you folks will be confident when Joe Allbaugh arrives on the scene. He's not just a commanding presence, or his stylish hair cut—[*laughter*]—it's his confidence, his character, and his calm when trouble comes. This isn't mere speculation.

Last Wednesday at 10:54 in the morning, an earthquake rocked the State of Washington, injuring hundreds of people and causing billion dollars of property damage. By 11:30 that night, Joe Allbaugh was on the scene ready to assist people in need. That's the kind of man he is.

I couldn't have made it to Washington without him. And I can't tell you how honored I am that he has come to Washington to serve his country.

We never know where FEMA will be needed next, but we do know what makes this Agency so effective: more than 2,000 dedicated employees all across America; 4,000 standby employees, ready if needed; an ethic of professionalism and a willingness to work with State and local officials to help people in need.

As Governor I worked with FEMA officials. Joe and I have great respect for the outgoing Director, James Lee Witt, and for the acting Director, John Magaw. A lot of change is needed in Washington, but in this Agency the standards are already high. Every year, many thousands of Americans live through floods and hurricanes and fires. They know from personal experience that FEMA is an example of the Federal Government at its best. And I'll tell you from personal experience that FEMA has a new Director that speaks to America at its best.

When he acts, he'll have my full confidence. When he speaks, it will inspire confidence in others. This Agency is in strong and steady hands. Joe will be at the White House many times in the next few years. In the nature of his job, they won't always be the happiest of times. But Joe will help Americans deal with the worst in the best, most compassionate way possible.

Thank you for accepting this responsibility.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Columbia Room at the Holiday Inn Capitol At The Smithsonian. In his remarks, he referred to Director Allbaugh's parents, Marvin and Peggy, his brother, Jay, wife, Diane, and daughter, Taylor. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Allbaugh.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

March 5, 2001

Santana High School Shootings

The President. Before I talk about the business at hand here, I want to say how saddened we all are to know that two students lost their lives in southern California, others have been injured, in a disgraceful act of cowardice.

When America teaches their children right from wrong and teaches values to respect life and the values that respect life in our country, our country will be better off.

Our hearts go out and our prayers go out to the parents and the teachers and the children whose lives have been completely turned upside down right now.

Q. What can the President do to stop, if anything, to stop children from shooting children?

The President. All of us, all adults in society can teach children right from wrong, can explain there is a—that life is precious. All of us must be mindful of the fact that some people may decide to act out their aggressions or their pain and hurt on somebody else, and be diligent.

We don't know enough of the facts right now, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], as to what took place. But I do know that first things are first, and that is, our prayers go with the families who lost a child today.

Legislative Agenda

On another matter, I'm honored that Members of the House and the Senate came up to discuss a couple of issues—the budget, Medicare, Medicare funding, Medicare restructuring, and tax relief. We've had a good discussion.

I didn't mention many names of Members during my speech to the Congress nearly a week ago, but most of the names I mentioned are here. And the reason why I talked about Breaux, Frist, and Thomas—and I would have worked in you, Mr. Chairman, but—was because there had been a lot of work done on discussing Medicare modernization in the past. And I believe the framework for a bipartisan consensus about how to make sure the Medicare system fulfills its promise is at hand, and we've got a lot of work to do.

But I assured these Members—two chairmen, as well as the Members I just named—that this administration is here to work with them to do what's right for our seniors.

I also appreciate the progress being made on the tax relief package. It will give me a chance to thank the chairman for moving the bill to the floor of the House. The sooner we can get that done, the more likely it is that we'll provide relief for people and provide a second wind for our economy, and then we'll be able to deal with issues such as Medicare.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, is your tax bill in trouble? Is that why you're traveling so much this week? Some Democrats think that might be the case.

The President. Oh, I'm—first of all, I like to get out of Washington, Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News]. [*Laughter*] Secondly, I'm pleased with the progress that we're making. We're going to get a good bill out of both the House and the Senate. I look forward to signing it, and the sooner, the better. But we're making very good progress.

Secondly, I think it's important for the President to get out amongst the people. I'm not only going to be going to North Dakota and South Dakota and Illinois this week; I'm coming down to Louisiana. And I've got a lot of friends in Louisiana, and I'm looking forward to seeing them and talking to them and explaining what's going on in Washington. The American people want to hear from the President, and this will give me a chance to talk about the progress that we're all making together. And we're making good progress.

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes, Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]?

President's Upcoming Visits to North Dakota and Louisiana

Q. Kent Conrad is one of the opponents of the tax cut plan. You're going to his State; you're also going to Louisiana, where Mary Landrieu—everyone knows is going to be under pressure to support the bill. Is it a coincidence that you're going to be going there, or is this trip part of the intention to send them a message?

The President. I think there's some methodology in my travels. Not only—you mentioned two fine Senators, and I'm confident we'll be able to work with them as time goes on. Those also happen to be States where the majority of the folks there saw it my way when I was running for President.

I'll be going to States where we've got a good chance of convincing Members in States where maybe there's some obstinance. But nevertheless, I need to get out, and with the people, and talk about the plans and why this plan is fair and why it makes sense and

why it's important for the economic vitality of the country. We're making good progress. We'll get a good bill, and I look forward to signing it.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, are you going to apologize to the Russians for digging under their Embassy?

The President. You need to talk to the appropriate folks involved with that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Football and Women's Softball Champion Oklahoma Sooners

March 5, 2001

The President. Sit down. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be here. This is the first championship teams that I've had a chance to honor since I've been the President. And it's a big deal for a boy from Texas to welcome the folks from Oklahoma here. [*Laughter*] I was going to say, "my fellow Texans."

I am so proud of you all. Thank you for coming. Senator, thank you for being here. Congressman, I appreciate you being here. President Boren, you had quite a year—you had quite a year.

First, let me say to the unsinkable bunch of upstarts, the ladies softball team: Congratulations. Coach Patricia Gasso has done a fabulous job, and I'm honored that you all have come. I am fully aware of the dominance of California teams in ladies softball, and you proved that those of us who live in the middle part of the country can win, as well.

And to the football team. Congratulations, coach, I know you're proud of these people. We share a lot in common. We both started our respective campaigns as underdogs. [*Laughter*] We both won our championships in the State of Florida. [*Laughter*] There's a big difference though: It took you all 60 minutes. [*Laughter*] It took me 36 days. [*Laughter*]

But it's my honor to welcome you all here. I like to remind those who are champions on the field that it's important to be a champion off the field, too; that there's a lot of young men and women who look at you all as champs. And that adds an added burden, an added sense of responsibility; that if part of our role as role models is to set the—is to explain the difference between right and wrong to people looking at us, then we've got to live that way.

Being the champ, the national champ, is an awesome responsibility. It means not only do you get to carry a trophy, it means you have the burden of setting the example, of saying to young kids, somebody cares about you enough so that we'll help you make the right choices in life, so they get to be a champion, not only on the football fields or on the softball diamonds but in life—in life. And so, I am so honored you're here. I really appreciate you coming.

I'm proud of your victory. It's a big deal to be the national champs. But it's also going to be a big deal to set the right example for some young lady or some young man who wonders whether or not life's worth it all, as you've proven it is. You've proven that if you set a goal and work hard, you can achieve it. And so congratulations to the great University of Oklahoma teams. I'm proud to welcome you. I'm proud you're here in the people's house. It is an honor to be your President—more than you can possibly imagine. And it's an honor to welcome you here.

God bless.

[*At this point, University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren, head softball coach Patty Gasso, Director of Athletics Joe Castiglione, and head football coach Bob Stoops each made brief remarks and presented the President with gifts.*]

The President. Well, thank you all for coming. I look forward to shaking everybody's hand. And I guess it's time to get a few pictures.

But again, I want to welcome you all here. This is a majestic place, as you can see. It is a magnificent home, and it's the people's house. That's what we like to call it. We're just temporary residents. But it's an honor to have you all here. I hope you get a good

tour and realize this country is a fantastic place. It's based upon the greatest principle of all: We're all free, and we're all equal under the eyes of God.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7413—Save Your Vision Week, 2001

March 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As part of our regular health routine, we often overlook vision. Good vision affects how we work, communicate, and learn. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, about 80 million Americans suffer from potentially blinding eye diseases, 3 million have low vision, and 200,000 more are severely visually impaired.

Visual impairment can strike at any time. Some eye diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy, can develop and damage the eye without warning. Also, visual impairment can develop more often in certain groups. For example, some groups of Americans have a higher risk for glaucoma, including those over the age of 60, African Americans over the age of 40, and people who have a family history of the disease.

Visual impairment can also strike the future of this country: our children. Infants and young children are not immune to eye disorders. Amblyopia, poor vision in an eye that did not develop normal sight during early childhood, causes problems in very early life. Early vision screening is important for our young people to ensure that their eyes receive immediate treatment if problems are found. Also, myopia, or nearsightedness, affects 15 percent of those entering high school.

Many occupations and forms of recreation can present dangers to the eye. Eye protection is a necessity when jobs create the possibility of eye injury. Wearing protective eyewear when playing sports can cut down on eye injury by as much as 90 percent, and wearing eye protection when working in the yard can also reduce the number of serious eye injuries.

The best way to detect eye diseases and disorders is through a dilated eye exam. Many eye problems can be prevented or reversed with early detection and appropriate intervention.

There are many other ways we can help reduce vision disorders. We can make healthy lifestyle choices for ourselves and our families, clinicians can emphasize prevention in their practices, and scientists can pursue new treatments and prevention strategies through research. Using both traditional and innovative approaches, we can all work to make better vision and vision protection an important part of our Nation's public health agenda.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 138), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 4 through March 10, 2001, as "Save Your Vision Week." I urge all Americans to participate by making eye care and eye safety an important part of their lives and to ensure that dilated eye examinations are included in their regular health maintenance programs. I invite eye care professionals, the media, and all public and private organizations dedicated to preserving eyesight to join in activities that will raise awareness of the measures we can take to protect and sustain our vision.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Proclamation 7414—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2001

March 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our democratic system of government traces its earliest roots back to ancient Greece. The leaders of the Revolution and the Framers of the Constitution often drew inspiration from Athenian lawgivers and philosophers and called the Greek example to mind as they sought to build the new nation on the foundations of representative government and free political discourse. The Greeks of 1821 drew inspiration, in turn, from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States as they waged their own struggle for liberty. In 2001, a vibrant Greek democracy serves once again as an inspiration to its neighbors and the world.

Our two countries have stood together as friends and allies from the time America embraced modern Greece's struggle for independence 180 years ago. We fought together in every major war of the last century: World War I through the Persian Gulf. For more than 50 years, we have worked together in NATO: first to keep the peace in Europe and now to build peace and stability in the Balkans. We look forward to continued cooperation as we celebrate the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad together in Athens in 2004. Our alliance with Greece remains strong, and its future is promising.

Greeks and Americans share a love of freedom, liberty, and individual rights. The friendship between our two Nations is based on mutual respect, a commitment to common goals, and the sharing of fundamental values. Ties of blood and kinship also unite us: the modern community of approximately 3 million Greek Americans has established a natural and enduring bridge between our nations. Today, we take special note of those citizens and thank them for their innumerable contributions to our Nation's cultural, economic, and political heritage.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2001, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority

March 5, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Section 1307 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the authority vested in me under section 1307 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106–398).

The authority delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated not lower than the Assistant Secretary level.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:46 a.m., March 9, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12.

Exchange With Reporters Following a Meeting With Mayor Richard M. Daley in Chicago, Illinois

March 6, 2001

President's Visit to Chicago

Q. Why don't you tell us what's on the conversation table?

Mayor Daley. [*Inaudible*]—a wonderful book on Chicago, the great past, present, and future of this city. So I'm very honored and pleased to be here at luncheon with the President.

The President. I just got a lesson in Chicago politics. [*Laughter*]

Q. What is that lesson, Mr. President?

The President. [*Inaudible*]—for the second time in 6 months. [*Laughter*]

Mayor Daley. I told him we both have great brothers. [*Laughter*]

The President. That if you run for President, make sure you get the mayor on your side. [*Laughter*]

I respect Mayor Daley. I don't know if you remember, but every time I came to Illinois I always made a point of saying that I wish the mayor were on my side, because he'll make a huge difference for people he backs. More importantly, he's made a huge difference for the people of this city. He's one of the Nation's really good mayors.

We had a long-ranging discussion, and I came just to introduce myself so he got to know me. And he now knows he can pick up the phone and call the White House anytime he needs to.

Q. Can you give us a bit of insight into what you all talked about?

The President. We talked about just about everything. We talked politics, of course, and we talked about issues that face Chicago. He gave me a lot of good advice—want to pay attention to the big-city mayors. And I told him we've got a lot in common; we're both problem solvers, the kind of people that when we identify a problem, we try to work hard to solve it. And that's what the mayor's reputation has been. I also thanked him for the good work he's done on education reform here in Chicago.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. How about selling him on the budget and tax cuts?

The President. We didn't spend a lot of time on the budget. I'm going to spend a little more time downstairs on the budget. The mayor gave me some interesting advice on tax relief that—as you know, he made—well, he can speak for himself, but he talked about the earned-income tax credit and the need for the good citizens of this city who are eligible for the EITC to go out and find it.

Vice President Dick Cheney

Q. How's the Vice President?

The President. I haven't talked to him. I talked to him late yesterday afternoon. He sounded great. He told me he'd be back to work soon.

Q. Should he cut back on workload?

The President. No, he shouldn't.

Q. Why not? Is the job——

The President. Well, because he's needed. This country needs his wisdom and judgment. And he's the kind of man who listens carefully to his body, and he is not going to put himself in a position where he gets very sick. Anytime there's any doubt as to whether or not he needs to see a doctor, he'll see a doctor. And he's plenty strong and plenty capable of carrying the workload that he's been working in the past.

Keep in mind, I'm not his doctor. It's going to be up to his doctor and his wife and his family to make the decision. But I don't think he needs to cut back on his work.

Q. What advice did you offer—[*inaudible*]?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—job of Vice President, with all it currently entails, too stressful for him?

The President. Not at all.

Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News], good to see you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:45 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in Chicago

March 6, 2001

Well, thank you all. Thank you very much. Scott, thank you very much. I thought I had seen just about everything in life, until I came here. [*Laughter*] It is an honor to be in entrepreneurial heaven. What an exciting place. Thanks for having me. I appreciate the hospitality, and I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and talk a little tax policy with you.

I've had quite a day here in Chicago. I got a Chicago political lesson for lunch. [*Laughter*] I dined with the mayor. It's the second political lesson I've had in recent weeks. [*Laughter*] The first lesson I got was in early November—[*laughter*]—if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*] I told the people of Illinois every time I came here, I said, "I wish the mayor were on my side, because he's good." But more importantly, he's a really good mayor. He's a good mayor of a big city. We've had our time for politics; now it's time to do what's right for our country and for the cities.

The mayor and I share something in common. We're both problem solvers. We try to have a clear-eyed view and a commonsense approach to solving problems. And so we're going to have a good relationship. And I'm so honored the mayor was gracious in dining with me.

I'm also honored to be here with the Speaker of the House—just happens to be from the State of Illinois. I like to describe the Speaker as a trustworthy man. He's the kind of fellow who says when he gives you his word, he means it. Sometimes that doesn't happen all the time in the political process. Sometimes they'll look you in the eye and not mean it. [*Laughter*] The Speaker means it when he tells you something. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm honored to be traveling with your United States Senator Fitzgerald. We flew down on Air Force One today. He's a good young leader. Congressman Lipinski is with us. We're going to fly back from here to Washington. He and I will have a little quality time together. [*Laughter*] I'm looking forward to it, because he's a quality person. I appreciate the Lieutenant Governor coming, as well, and thank you very much for your hospitality.

There's a lot of people here reminding me that they're from Texas, and I appreciate my fellow Texans who are here—a lot of Chicago folks thanking me for the Sammy Sosa trade. [*Laughter*] I'm reminded about the truth when I come to a place like this—the entrepreneurial spirit is what America is all about. That's what this country is about.

The job of Government is not to try to create wealth. That's not the role of our Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can realize his or her dreams, which the small business person can start a company and make it grow. So my job is not only to deal with problems; my job is to understand the philosophy that has made the country great—and never forget it, never forget it—and that is that we're going to have dreamers in America.

We're facing a problem, and the problem is our economy's slowing down. You all know that as well as anybody does. This kind of great boom is beginning to sputter a little bit. And the question you need to be asking the President is, "What do you intend to do about it, Mr. President?" And here it is.

One, have sound budgeting in the Federal Government. It's to say to the spenders in Washington, DC, "Here are the priorities for our country." A priority is educating children. And let me—as an aside, as I continue to praise the mayor—he has done a good job of setting high standards, strong accountability in the schools of Chicago. So a priority of mine is public education. I believe every child—every child—ought to be educated and not one child left behind.

A priority is to make sure we keep the peace by having a strong military. We need to pay the men and women who wear the uniform more money, to keep morale high. A priority is Social Security, to make sure the moms and dads of the World War II generation get the promises made. But it's also to be bold enough to reform the system, to let younger workers take some of your own payroll taxes and manage it for your own account. That's a priority of mine. Medicare and health care is a priority. And we double

the Medicare budget over 10 years. We pay down $2 trillion of debt. But guess what? There's still money left over. If you don't spend like they spent the last couple of years, if you're wise and set priorities, there's still money. And the fundamental question is, do we grow the Government, or do we trust people with their own money? That's the fundamental question facing the United States Congress.

I had the honor of speaking to the Congress. I reminded them that when the Government has a surplus, somebody is getting overcharged. And I'm here asking for a refund, I said. I want to reduce those taxes.

I think it is particularly appropriate to not only cut taxes to make sure there's fiscal discipline in Washington, but it's necessary to make sure this economy doesn't continue to sputter. When you give people some of their own money back, or don't take it in the first place, they will have money in their pockets to spend.

There's some debt, all right, at the national level, and there's plenty of debt on the consumers of America. I bet you've got friends, and maybe yourself, understand what it means to have credit card debt. And when you couple that with high energy bills, there are some people beginning to feel pinched.

It makes sense to take some of your money and pass it back to the people who pay the bills. And that's exactly what my tax relief plan does. It drops all rates. It dropped all rates on all payers. Sometimes in Washington, you hear the talk, we'll have targeted tax cuts. That means the elected officials get to decide who's targeted in and who's targeted out. That's not fair, and that's not the right way to do it. If you're going to have tax relief, everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief.

So we drop all the rates and simplify the code. We drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 to make the code more fair. The Tax Code's unfair for people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. The harder you struggle, the more—higher marginal rate you pay in America, and that's not right. So we make the code more fair.

But we also drop that top rate, from 39.6 to 33 percent. And we do so for this reason: Much of the capital that accumulates in the private sector ends up being managed by small-business owners. Small business is the backbone of the country. Many of you all are small-business owners. Ninety-five percent of small-business owners pay the highest marginal rate in our Tax Code. They're unincorporated businesses. They're what we call sole proprietors.

When we cut that top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, we're saying a loud and clear message that the entrepreneurial spirit will be reinvigorated as we head into the 21st century. It's a way to pass capital formation in the small-business sector in America. And it's the right thing to do.

It's the right thing to set priorities. It's the right thing to pay down $2 trillion of debt over 10 years, and it is the right thing not to grow the Federal Government bigger than it needs to be, and trust people with your own money. I like to tell people in Washington, the surplus isn't the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money, and we need to share it with the people.

I like to move around the country. I like to get out of Washington, because you see a lot of interesting things and you hear a lot of wisdom from people who are just average, everyday people. And I want to tell you what a grandmother told the other day, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She said, "I have a lot of children and grandchildren go through my house." She said, "and I know if there are cookies left on the table, they will be eaten." She said that in the context of your taxpayers—of tax dollars. That's what she was talking about. And her point is this: If we leave the money up in Washington and don't send it back to the people, it's, sure enough, going to be spent.

Now is the time—now is the time for meaningful, real tax relief. And as we're changing the Tax Code, by the way, we need to eliminate the death tax, too. We need to allow it so that you don't get taxed twice for your assets. And we need to do something about the marriage penalty. It doesn't make sense to tax marriage. And so I'm here to ask for your help.

See, I believe in the power of the people. I truly do. I do. I believe that when you e-mail a Congressman or a Senator, it makes

a difference. It makes a difference. And so that's why I'm traveling the country, and that's why I came here. I'd like for you to contact your Congressman and contact your Senator and tell them to come on the side of the people, when it comes to what to do with your money. We have a fundamental choice, and the right choice is to stand on the side of the people.

And let me conclude by telling you, the tax policy's important, and there will be a lot of tax policy. And of course, good health policy's important, and keeping the peace is important. But there's nothing more important than remembering that the most important job you'll ever have, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

I was reminded of that when I walked through and saw the pictures that many of the entrepreneurs here in the Merc had of their children—it's such a refreshing sight to know that priorities are kept all across America.

This is a fabulous nation we live in. It's a nation based upon great values. It's a nation based upon the principle that if you work hard, anybody, regardless of where you're from, can get ahead. But it's going to be made better when all of us understand that there are certain responsibilities in life. I have a responsibility as your President. And when I put my hand on the Bible, I swore to uphold that responsibility, and I will. And you have the responsibility to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. But it all starts with loving your children.

Thank you for letting me come by. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Scott Gordon, chairman, Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL; and Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood of Illinois.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha

March 6, 2001

Warm greetings to Muslims across the United States as you celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday and join in spirit with the millions gathered in Mecca to uphold the traditions of one of your most sacred feasts.

America was built on a strong spiritual foundation, and the celebration of faith is central to our lives. As you celebrate the annual Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, you honor the great sacrifice and devotion of Abraham as recognized by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. By educating others about your religious traditions, you enrich the lives of others in your local communities.

The variety of nations and cultures represented by those who travel to Mecca each year, and the varied ways in which Muslims contribute to American life across the United States, are powerful reminders that ethnic and racial differences need not divide us when we share common values and purposes. By building strong foundations of mutual respect, we can achieve peace and reconciliation in our world.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous holiday celebration.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

March 6, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2000–January 31, 2001. The previous submission covered events during October and November 2000.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

March 6, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104–114, 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 6, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Trade Policy Agenda and a Report on the Trade Agreements Program

March 6, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 2001 Trade Policy Agenda and 2000 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 6, 2001.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and an Exchange With Reporters

March 7, 2001

President Bush. Everybody in? It's been my honor to welcome President Kim here to the Oval Office. We had a very good discussion. We confirmed the close relationship between our two countries. We talked about a lot of subjects, and we'll be glad to answer questions on some of those subjects. But first let me say how much I appreciate this man's leadership in terms of reaching out to the North Koreans.

He is leading; he is a leader. He is—and we've had a very frank discussion about his vision for peace on the Peninsula. It's a goal we share. After all, we've got vested interests there, and we had a very good discussion. I made it clear to the President, we look forward to working toward peace on the Peninsula, that we'll consult closely, that we'll stay in touch, that I do have some skepticism about the leader of North Korea, but that's not going to preclude us from trying to achieve the common objectives.

So, Mr. President, welcome. Thank you for being here.

President Kim. First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to President Bush for inviting me to visit Washington and have this meeting with him, despite his very busy schedule, I'm sure, in these early weeks after inauguration.

I'm delighted to have had this opportunity to start building friendship and close cooperative working relationship with President Bush on a variety of issues. I thank the President for sharing his insight and wisdom with me concerning the situation in northeast Asia and the world, in general. And while discussing things with him, I could feel that I was sitting next to a leader who would take the world to greater peace and prosperity in the 21st century.

President Bush and I covered the whole variety of issues in ROK–U.S. relations. It has been a most useful exchange of views. We have agreed to work together towards the further strengthening of the ROK–U.S. alliance, and our close policy coordination in dealing with North Korea towards the goal of ending the cold war and strengthening peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

And taking this opportunity, I would like to invite you, Mr. President, to come and visit us in Seoul, as early as you can, so that we will have another opportunity to further strengthen the close cooperative working relationship between our two allies.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

I'm going to take a couple of questions from the American press. I would hope that the South Korean press would be willing—we'll alternate.

Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, the Secretary of State just told us that you made it clear you would not be fooled by the North Korean regime. Can you expand on that? And are you afraid that the South Koreans, in their haste, their energy to make peace, might be not forcing North Korea to make certain concessions that need to be made?

President Bush. First, we had a very frank discussion about North Korea. There's no question in my mind that the President of the Republic of Korea is a realist. He knows exactly with whom we're dealing. He's under no illusions. I also told the President that we look forward to, at some point in the future, having a dialog with the North Koreans, but that any negotiation would require complete verification of the terms of a potential agreement.

And so I look forward to strengthening our relationship, first and foremost. And we will have a constant dialog as to the progress that is being made on the Peninsula, and our foreign policy will respond in a way that will reinforce the efforts of the President but at the same time—and at the same time, make it clear to all parties concerned that any agreement must make the Peninsula more peaceful, and we must be able to verify that it is more peaceful.

I am concerned about the fact that the North Koreans are shipping weapons around the world. And any agreement that would convince them not to do so would be beneficial, but we want to make sure that their ability to develop and spread weapons of mass destruction was, in fact, stopped—they're willing to stop it—and that we can verify that, in fact, they had stopped it.

But Ron, there's no question that this President takes a realistic view of the man with whom we're dealing.

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that North Korea is living up to its other agreements with the United States, Japan, South Korea?

President Bush. South Korean press. I'll get you in a minute, Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

U.S. Presidential Transition/Korean Peninsula

Q. A question to President Kim of South Korea. Mr. President, you say that you've had sufficient, fruitful exchange of views with President Bush. This is a transitional period in which you have to deal with a new administration, a change from the Clinton administration now to the Bush administration. You say that you do not expect any major changes in the work that you do together. But President Bush has greatly emphasized the pragmatic and realistic approaches in dealing with North Korea. In that regard, do you detect any change, and what do you think is the greatest outcome of this summit meeting today?

President Kim. The greatest outcome today has to be that through a frank and honest exchange of views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula, we have increased the mutual understanding.

On North Korea, yes, there are many problems that remain, but President Bush has clearly expressed his strong support for our efforts to further the dialog with North Korea. On my part, I have assured him that as we try to advance the dialog with North Korea, we will consult with the United States every step of the way, so that the progress in South-North Korean relations serves the interest of our two countries and that it serves to strengthen peace on the Korean Peninsula.

President Bush was very frank and honest in sharing with me his perceptions about the nature of North Korea and the North Korean leader, and this is very important for me to take back home and to consider.

President Bush. Jim.

Q. Yes, sir. Sorry to go out of order, sir.

President Bush. Do you remember the question?

North Korea/National Missile Defense

Q. I believe I do, sir. There are some other agreements that the U.S., Japan, and South

Korea are party to with North Korea. Do you believe that they are living up to the agreements they have made?

And if I could, sir, a question for President Kim, as well. You had said last week with Mr. Putin that the 1972 ABM Treaty was the foundation of stability in the world. Do you still believe that, and were you quoted accurately, sir?

President Kim. On the controversy surrounding that inclusion of that reference to the ABM in the South Korea-Russia joint statement recently, our foreign ministry negotiated that statement with the Russians, and that phrase—in coming up with that phrase we've taken into consideration the documents that came out of the G–8 Okinawa Summit and various other international consultations that the United States was part of.

This in no way reflects our position on the NMD issues. This is not an indication of our opposition to the NMD. The Russian side, in fact, initially very strongly wished to include such a phrase that would indicate an opposition, and we resisted to the very end.

And so when we saw this controversy unexpectedly arising after the joint statement came out, I regretted the misunderstanding. And so I ordered my foreign ministry to come out with an immediate clarification of our position.

President Bush. Part of the problem in dealing with North Korea, there's not very much transparency. We're not certain as to whether or not they're keeping all terms of all agreements. And that's part of the issue that the President and I discussed, is when you make an agreement with a country that is secretive, how do you—how are you aware as to whether or not they're keeping the terms of the agreement?

The President was very forthright in describing his vision, and I was forthright in describing my support for his vision, as well as my skepticism about whether or not we can verify an agreement in a country that doesn't enjoy the freedoms that our two countries understand—don't have the free press like we have here in America.

North Korean-U.S. Negotiations

Q. President Kim, do you believe that it would strengthen South Korea's security for the United States to immediately resume the negotiations that President Clinton's administration had taken with North Korea regarding its missile program? And if so, did you make that case to President Bush today?

President Kim. First of all, we sincerely hope that the North Korean missile issue will be resolved with transparency. But of course, the United States is the counterpart dealing with North Korea in the negotiations over the missile issue. We have not made any suggestion whether the negotiations should be resumed now, or whatever. This is an issue for the United States to make.

President Bush. Let's make sure we get the members of the South Korean press—get to ask some questions, too. I'm not saying you're being overly aggressive or anything. Any further questions? Did you get to ask all the questions?

Q. Mr. President, one more. Was there any discussion concerning the agreed framework, the Geneva agreed framework, at the summit today?

President Bush. Anybody else?

South Korean Sunshine Policy

Q. Mr. President, what is your general view about President Kim's Sunshine Policy? Do you think that that contributes to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula?

President Bush. Yes, I do. I do. I think that the idea of trade, flows of capital, will lead to a more peaceful Peninsula. I think open dialog, I think reunification of families will lead to a more peaceful Peninsula. Hopefully, the efforts that the President makes will convince the North Koreans that we are peaceful people and that they need not be fearful about the intentions of America and of the Republic of Korea, that we want the peace. But we must be wise and strong and consistent about making sure that peace happens.

But I believe the President is on a policy that has got peace as its goal and peace as its intentions, and with the right alliance and the right formulation of policy, hopefully, it will achieve the peace that we all want.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea. A reporter referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea

March 7, 2001

President George W. Bush and President Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea today reaffirmed the fundamental importance and strength of the U.S.-ROK security alliance, which has prevented war and promoted stability, prosperity, and democracy on the Korean Peninsula for over five decades. The two Presidents pledged to deepen further the comprehensive partnership shared by the United States and the Republic of Korea through enhanced security, political, economic and cultural cooperation.

The two Presidents agreed that reconciliation and cooperation between South and North Korea contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula and lasting stability in Northeast Asia. President Bush expressed support for the Republic of Korea Government's policy of engagement with North Korea and President Kim's leading role in resolving inter-Korean issues. The two leaders shared the hope that a second inter-Korean summit will make a positive contribution to inter-Korean relations and Northeast Asian security.

Both Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to continue the 1994 Agreed Framework and called on North Korea to join in taking the needed steps for its successful implementation. They agreed to encourage North Korea to take actions to address the concerns of the international community. The Presidents agreed on the importance of maintaining close consultations and coordination on policy toward North Korea, both bilaterally and trilaterally with Japan.

President Bush and President Kim agreed that the global security environment is fundamentally different than during the Cold War. New types of threats, including from weapons of mass destruction and missiles as a means of delivery, have emerged that require new approaches to deterrence and defense. The two leaders shared the view that countering these threats requires a broad strategy involving a variety of measures, including active non-proliferation diplomacy, defensive systems, and other pertinent measures. They concurred on the importance of consultations among allies and other interested parties on these measures, including missile defenses, with a view to strengthening global peace and security.

President Bush and President Kim noted that the United States and the Republic of Korea are developing more mature and mutually beneficial bilateral economic and trade relations. Both sides agreed to work together closely to support Korea's economic reform efforts and to address bilateral trade issues. The two leaders endorsed the early launch of a new round of trade negotiations in the WTO.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill and an Exchange With Reporters

March 7, 2001

The President. Maybe everybody ought to try to move over.

Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe. You all heard the President—scoot over. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I'm trying to get you in the picture.

I'm pleased to be here with Secretary O'Neill and the OMB Director Mitch Daniels, who are reviewing the cash flow numbers of our country. I think the American people will be interested to know that in the first quarter of the fiscal year, we received $74 billion more than we spent. In spite of the fact that the economy is slowing down, our cash flow coming into the Treasury is significant, which means our taxpayers are being overcharged. That's what that means. And if somebody is overcharged, they

ought to get a refund. And I'm calling upon the Congress to give the taxpayers a refund.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for letting me be here. I appreciate you reviewing the numbers with me. You might want to review them with the people here.

Secretary Paul H. O'Neill. Mr. President, it's a wonderful pleasure to have you in the Treasury Department. The numbers so far this year compare to last year, when we had $42 billion worth of surplus at this point in the annual cycle. Today we have $74 billion, as the President said. So we've basically got $32 billion more cash surplus this year than we did last year at this same time.

And I think it clearly makes the case that we've got a structural tax system that is producing these enormous surpluses now that the President has talked about. And I'm very hopeful tomorrow the House of Representatives is going to deal squarely with the first set of issues of marginal rate returns—marginal tax rates, and we'll be well on our way to getting the Senate to accomplish the same purpose.

The President. I think the point of the meeting and the point the American people need to know is that we've set priorities and funded the priorities, and there's ample cash to not only fund Government, pay down debt, set aside money for contingencies, but there's ample cash to let people have their own money so that they can spend it and they can decide what to do with it.

It's a fundamental debate taking place here in Washington, DC, is whether or not we increase the size of the Federal Government beyond the basic priorities or whether we trust people with their own money.

I'm hopeful and confident that the House will do the right thing tomorrow, Mr. Secretary. I look forward to taking our message to the people. The people need to hear that we've got a commonsense approach to the budget. And the people need to hear these kind of numbers, Mr. Secretary, that you're talking about—that their hard work is producing more cash for Government than Government needs.

We'll be glad to answer a few questions.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, does this suggest that the economy is not slowing down? Why is the surplus larger than at this time last year?

The President. It suggests that—first of all, the data shows the economy is sputtering. Secondly, it suggests strongly that the taxpayer is being overcharged. And one of the things this administration is going to do is going to go to the Congress and say, "Here are the priorities: Our priorities are public education, the military, Social Security and Medicare, health care for the working uninsured." But by having commonsense budgeting, we're going to also show the people that there is ample money for them to be able to spend. And that's going to be very important to make sure the sputtering economy recovers.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, how many Democrats are in your pocket?

The President. What?

Q. How many Democrats do you have with you right now?

The President. He's a Republican. [*Laughter*] As many as we can get. This is a long process. And what I look for is the final result. That's what we're focused on. We're focused on this marginal rate cut package that's now in front of the House of Representatives. We feel good about our chances of passing this bill. It would be viewed as a major step toward tax relief and tax reform.

We'll worry about the next package when it comes out of the House, which may be the elimination of the death tax or the marriage penalty. But it's a long process. We've got to get it over to the Senate and get to conference. And we'll be working Members all the way through the process.

Tomorrow I'll be traveling to North Dakota and South Dakota and Louisiana. I'm looking forward to taking this message to the people. The people have got to hear what the Secretary just briefed me on—is that there's cash flow coming into our Treasury, enough cash flow to meet priorities and to fund crucial parts of Government, and at the same time, have meaningful, real tax relief.

Bipartisanship/Vice President Cheney

Q. Are you comfortable, sir, the process is going on in the bipartisan spirit that you called for? And as a second question, did you talk to the Vice President today, and how is he doing? I know he was at the meeting earlier.

The President. He was doing jumping jacks today. [*Laughter*] No, he's doing great. He is feeling healthy. I talked to him on the way back from—right after I got on the ground from Chicago last night. He felt great. He told me he'd see me first thing in the morning for our national security briefing, and he was there. He looks good, feels good, and that's good news.

Secondly, I am comfortable that we're making good progress on tax relief. Those of you who covered my campaign might remember there was a period of time in which members of the media were saying, "Well, are you ready to abandon your plan?" And I said, "No, I don't think so. I think this is the right thing for America." And all of a sudden, now it's exciting for this administration to know that the Congress will be voting on a crucial element, a meaningful tax relief.

As I understand, there's going to be a—people will have a chance to vote for another version of it, as well, on the floor of the House. And that's fine. That's good and dandy. We're confident and feel good about the chances of our view of how tax relief ought to take place. And we're confident that will be positively received.

I know it's going to be positively received by the American people when they hear that we've got ample cash flow coming into our Treasury to meet important priorities and, at the same time, with fiscal discipline, with setting priorities and funding them, and not letting the size of Government grow like it has in the past, that we can make the case that someone's mom is going to get their Medicare check, someone is going to get their Social Security check, and at the same time, people are going to get their own money back so they can make the decisions on how to spend—what's best for their families, how to spend their own money.

And that's the fundamental crux of this debate. The crux of this debate is, do we want to explode the size of the Federal Government, do we want to increase these baselines of the Federal Government, or do we want to have fiscal responsibility, commonsense approach to the budgeting, and trust people with their own money? And tomorrow is going to be an important step toward trusting people with their own money.

Q. Thank you.

The President. See you in Fargo.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:53 p.m. in Secretary O'Neill's office at the Department of the Treasury. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees at the Department of the Treasury

March 7, 2001

Thank you. I'm glad the Secretary invited me back. It's always nice to call on your neighbors. And as you know, we're neighbors. I get to look at this majestic building every day, and I was looking forward to the opportunity to come over and thank all the folks who work here.

We're in this deal together. Our job is to make sure that this great country fulfills its promise for everybody. And I know a lot of times people don't give you the proper—your proper due, your proper thanks for working on behalf of the American people. So from the 43d President, thank you for what you do for America. I appreciate your hard work.

I hope you're as excited about your job as I am—[*laughter*]—about mine. [*Laughter*] It's a huge honor to be your President. It really is. And it's a huge honor to be the President of the people. As you know, I'm taking to the road on occasion. Tomorrow I'm going to Fargo, North Dakota, and South Dakota and Louisiana. I decided to drop in on my own home State of Texas for the weekend. But it is so refreshing to be able to take a message to the people that in Washington we listen to you, that we understand we're the servants of the people.

So I look forward to going to work every morning here, but I also look forward to taking the message that I'm—the particular message that I'm dealing with at the moment to the people. Right now we're talking about

tax relief and tax reform. I've got a good partner in this effort in your Secretary.

By the way, you'll find him to be a pretty darn unusual man. [*Laughter*] He is successful. He thinks outside the box in a positive way. When given a task, he's performance oriented. He's going to expect the same of you all, but he'll be eminently fair. He will listen. He will work to build a team. That's the kind of man he is. But first things first—I got to see this first hand when I swore him in—he's got his priorities straight. He loves his family. His wife and children and grandchildren are his priority. And that's important—that's important.

We'll spend a lot of time talking about taxes right now, and by the way, I feel like we're going to have a pretty good day in the House of Representatives tomorrow. The message is slowly but surely getting out that we've got enough money coming into the Treasury to meet important obligations, but we've also got enough money to remember who paid the bills in the first place, and those are the working folks, the people who pay the taxes.

And I think we're going to have a good day tomorrow. And there will be other issues we'll be talking about: of course, the Treasury Department, and many of you work on issues relating to trade and collection; law enforcement. There's a lot of issues that take place here. But there's no bigger issue than to remember priorities in life. There's no bigger issue—the way I like to put it is this: There's no bigger issue for the President to remind the moms and dads of America, if you happen to have a child, be fortunate to have a child, your biggest priority is going to be to love your children. There's no bigger responsibility.

Some might say, "Well, that message just doesn't seem to fit in the Treasury Department." [*Laughter*] No, it fits everywhere. It fits all departments, because our jobs are to not only represent the people, but our job is to work on the collective will of the country, to uplift this country, to make sure the best is available for all who are willing to work for it. And it starts with teaching our children right from wrong.

If you find a neighbor in need, I know inside the walls here, people go out of their way to mentor. And I want to thank you for that. If you're in your neighborhood, in your community, and you find a neighbor in need and you turn to that neighbor and say, "What can I do to help," I want to thank you for that. The greatness of America really is as a result of the collective hearts of decent, caring people.

At any rate, I love being your President. I'm honored to be on the same team that you're on. And I'm so pleased that you've got a really good man running this Department, a man who will remind you on a constant basis—a man who will remind you, and probably remind me on occasion, that it's the results that matter, that working hard is good, but that we all stand here to represent the American people.

Thank you for your hard work, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. outside Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill's office.

Remarks on Departure for Fargo, North Dakota

March 8, 2001

House Vote on Tax Cut Legislation

In a couple hours, the House of Representatives will be voting on tax relief. I'm confident they'll do the right thing. The message is loud and clear that we've got ample revenues to fund our priorities, to pay down debt, to set aside money for a contingency, and ample revenues to send money back to the people who pay the bills, the taxpayers. I strongly believe, and I hope the House of Representatives sends the message, that the people of America are overtaxed and deserve a refund. I'm looking forward to hearing the verdict of the vote.

I'm also looking forward to continuing my trip around the country. We're off to North Dakota and South Dakota and Louisiana, and the message is the same: When you have a President and a Congress that works together to set priorities, to set the focus of the country on important matters when it comes to spending, when we stop the growth, the rapid escalation of the growth of the Federal

budget, we can meet priorities and have meaningful, real tax relief. And it's needed.

It's needed not only to provide a kick-start to our economy; it is needed because many Americans today are struggling to make ends meet. And so I'm confident the Congress will do the right thing.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks at North Dakota State University in Fargo

March 8, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. The air may be cold, but the reception is unbelievably warm. Thank you all for that warm reception. Governor, thank you very much. I appreciate you and Mikey meeting me at the airport. It's good to see public servants, such as your Governor, who are willing to do what they think is right. He follows the footsteps of a good friend of mine, a man who did a fine job as the Governor of North Dakota over the past years, and that's Ed Schafer. It's good to see Ed here, as well.

I don't want to jump the gun on my speech here, but I just got off the phone with the Speaker of the House. He informed me that the House of Representatives just took a major vote on—a vote on a major portion of my tax relief package, and by the margin of 230 to 198, the tax rate cut passed the House of Representatives. The American people—the American people had a victory today. The American family had a victory today. The American entrepreneur had a victory today. One House down, and now the Senate to go.

I'm here for a lot of reasons. One is to ask for your help. I wasn't sure how many folks were going to show up to hear a budget speech. It seems like a lot of people are interested in the national budget and, more particularly, your own personal budgets. And so I'm here to ask for you—if you like what you hear today—to maybe e-mail some of the good folks from the United States Senate from your State. If you like what you hear, why don't you just give them a call or write them a letter and let them know that the people are speaking. You see, one of the important things for the President, if the truth be known, people who hold Federal office, to make sure you get out of Washington, DC, on a regular basis.

It is important to make sure you get outside the DC scene and listen to the people. I'll tell you, I love traveling our country. I'm so proud to be landing in Air Force One and getting off the airplane and driving into this hall and seeing people lining the streets, waving at the office of the President. It makes me proud to be your President. Now, they wave because they respect the office. And sometimes, at least in this State, it seems like the people like the occupant, too. It's a huge honor to be your President. It's a huge honor.

One of the things I hope the people figure out about me is that I like to bring commonsense approaches to our Government. Take budgeting. It seems like we need to have a commonsense approach on how we spend the people's money, which means it's important to set priorities. You set priorities in your family budgets; the Federal Government ought to set priorities with your money.

Let me describe some of our priorities. Educating our children is a priority. But lest you think I forgot where I came from, I want you to understand I firmly believe that the people who are best able to run the schools in North Dakota are the citizens of North Dakota. I believe in strong—mine is an administration—mine is an administration that strongly supports local control of schools. But we also understand in Washington that we need to set high standards, that every child, regardless of his or her background, can learn, that we must have the highest of high expectations, and that we must work with States and local jurisdictions to measure so that we know whether or not we're leaving any child behind in America today.

Not only today do we have good news out of the House of Representatives, but the Senate Education Committee passed our education reform package 20 to 0. We're making progress because these pieces of legislation are right for America. These aren't political documents; this is public policy that's good for American families and American children. So education is one of our priorities.

We've increased spending for education, but we've also insisted upon more flexibility so Governors and local folks can use Federal dollars to meet their specific needs. One size does not fit all when it comes to the education of American children.

Secondly, a priority is to keep the peace. In order to keep the peace, our military must be well paid and well housed and well trained. So my budget sets aside money for increasing military pay, but as importantly, it is important to have a Commander in Chief who sets a clear mission for the military. And the mission of the United States military must be well—to be well trained and well prepared to fight and win war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Another priority is the health care of our citizens. We've set aside money in the budget to make sure the working uninsured have got the capacity to purchase health insurance. We've set aside money in the budget to make sure we fulfill the promise to our senior citizens, by doubling the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. We've set aside money in the budget to increase the number of community health centers around America, to make sure the poor have got access to primary care. We've set our priorities, and the health care of our citizenry is a priority.

Another priority is the retirement accounts of the U.S. citizens. We've set aside all the money—all of the money aimed for Social Security will be spent on only one thing: Social Security. The days of the Congress dipping into the Social Security Trust for other programs are over. And by the way, down the road, we're going to be thinking differently about Social Security. You see, the Social Security Trust now only earns 2 percent on your money.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Yes. I'd be booing, too. [*Laughter*] What we need to do is to give younger workers the option of taking some of your own money and managing it in personal savings accounts.

Ours is a budget that sets priorities. We've actually grown what they call the discretionary spending by 4 percent. That's greater than the rate of inflation. That's greater than the increase in disposable income. That's a significant increase in expenditures.

But the debate is, it's not as big as some of the big spenders in Washington would like it to be. You see, they're used to a different attitude out of the White House. The discretionary spending at the end of last year increased by 8 percent. So we're saying we're going to meet our needs, but we're just not going to spend the people's money quite as extravagantly as has been done in the past. That's called commonsense fiscal responsibility. That's the kind of message the people in North Dakota like to hear.

I was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the other day, taking this message around to the people. And a grandmother gave a speech—or talked a little bit, and she said, she's had a lot of children go through her house, and a lot of grandchildren go through their house, and every time she has left cookies on the table, they got eaten. [*Laughter*] That's kind of how I view the Federal budget. If we leave money sitting around on the table, it will get spent. And so what we need to do is set priorities and clear priorities and work to achieve those priorities.

Another priority is to pay down debt. In our budget we've submitted, we've increased discretionary spending by 4 percent, but we've paid down $2 trillion of debt over 10 years. It's the biggest amount of debt that any nation has ever paid off that passed in history, in the history.

Increased spending, we've paid down debt, and we set aside another $1 trillion over 10 years for contingencies. An important contingency could be making sure that we get money into the ag sector, like we've done in the past year. We certainly hope that's not the case. We hope that the ag economy recovers. We hope that we can increase demand for North Dakota products all around the world.

By the way, my attitude is this: If given a level playing field, if we have free trade, true free trade, North Dakota farmers can compete anywhere, any place, any time. I would like our farmers in America to be feeding the world. And therefore, I am going to work hard to open up markets. When it comes to international trade discussions, the American farmer is not going to be treated

like a stepchild anymore. The American farmer—the American farmer will be a primary concern. We shouldn't use food as a diplomatic weapon from this point forward. We ought to implement the Food-for-Peace Program. But if we have an emergency in the farm economy, we've set aside contingency money to do that—contingency money.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. There you go. [*Laughter*] And guess what, though? By not overspending on the discretionary count, there's still money left over, and the fundamental debate in Washington is, what do we do with it? What do we do with your money? The fundamental question is, do we increase the size of Government?

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. Or do we remember that the surplus is not the Government's money; it's the people's money? The other day, I noticed that the cash flow into the country—the surplus for the first 4 months was $72 billion. That's significantly higher than the first 4 months of last year. It tells me that the American people are overtaxed. That's what that says.

When you're running surpluses that big—when you're running surpluses that big, particularly with your economy beginning to sputter, it ought to say something loud and clear, if you take a commonsense approach to Government. And that means the folks are overtaxed, and if you're overcharged for something, you ought to demand a refund. And I stepped in front of the Congress and demanded a refund on your behalf.

And so, as I mentioned—so, as I mentioned, the United States House of Representatives began the process, the long, arduous process of providing tax relief for the American people. Today they took a hold of our plan to reduce marginal rates on everybody who pays taxes, and as I mentioned, they passed that piece of legislation. I want you to hear some of the principles involved.

First of all, my administration did not believe in what they call targeted tax cuts, because I don't believe that the Federal Government ought to try to pick and choose winners in the Tax Code. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief.

So we cut all rates. We drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. And there is a lot of squawking about that, but let me explain to you the rationale. First of all, there ought to be some principles involved at the Federal level, and a principle is the Federal Government should take no more than a third of anybody's check.

But also, a principle is—a second principle is the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur and the small-business person and the dreamer and worker can realize his or her dreams. And the facts are—and the facts are, by far, the vast majority of small-business people in America, the backbone of our economy, pay the highest rate possible, because most small businesses are unincorporated. Most are Subchapter S—many are Subchapter S. And so by dropping the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, we're sending a clear message to America that the small-business person, the entrepreneur is the backbone of the future of this country.

Our Tax Code is unfair. It's unfair to the small-business people. It's unfair to people struggling to get into the middle class. You're on the outskirts of poverty, and you're working hard to get ahead, and you're trying to raise children—and by the way, being a single mom, raising children, is the toughest job in America. That's the toughest job in this country. And we penalize those on the outskirts of poverty trying to get ahead, trying to get into the middle class.

If you're making $20,000 a year and you're earning money, for every addition—you're raising two kids—for every additional dollar you earn, the way they've got the earned-income tax credit and the way they've put you in the brackets, is that you pay a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who's successful. That's the facts in the Tax Code. For every additional dollar you earn, if you are making $22,000 a year raising two children as a single mom, you pay nearly 50 percent on that dollar. That's not right in America. That's not what this country stands for.

And so our Tax Code not only serves as a stimulus to foreign capital and the private sector for small-business growth; ours also

makes the Tax Code fair for people struggling to get ahead. We dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. We doubled the child credit from $500 to $1,000. We made the code fair for people working to get ahead.

The marriage penalty is unfair. And the Congress will be taking that up pretty soon to make sure the marriage penalty is fixed. But let me tell you what else is unfair. And if anybody understands it, it's the good people of this State.

The death tax is unfair. It is particularly unfair for American farmers and ranchers. That's particularly unfair. There is a lot of talk about making sure that we have green spaces and open spaces, and that's good, and that's important. But probably the best reform to make sure that happens is to eliminate the death tax so family farmers aren't forced to sell their farms before they want to.

With us today is the Wightman family. You probably—maybe you know them, maybe you don't. But they're here for a reason, because behind every tax relief plan are real Americans, Americans who will benefit. These good folks both work; they've got Melissa and Paige. Melissa's 14; Paige is 10. They right now pay $3,700 in Federal income taxes. When our plan is fully implemented, these good folks will save $1,900.

The reason I bring up the Wightmans is because I want America to know what our philosophy is when it comes to the people's money. Once we set priorities, once we pay down debt, once we set aside contingencies, it's important for Congress and the United States Senate to send this message to the American people: We trust you with your own money. It's your money to begin with.

Instead of figuring out new programs or new ways to get reelected, why don't we figure out ways to let the Wightmans plan for their future? Now, I know some say, "Well $1,900 isn't a lot." Just ask them what it means. Ask the people who are paying higher energy bills what it means. Ask the people who are struggling under consumer credit card debt what it means to have their own money back. As a matter of fact, we shouldn't take it in the first place.

I'm here with a message. My message is with fiscal discipline, with planning, with leadership, our Nation can fund important priorities. We can pay down debt. We can meet emergencies or contingencies. But in order to make sure this economy gets a second wind, we better start passing money back quickly. And so not only should we have tax relief; we need to make a lot of it retroactive.

We need to get money in the pockets—so the President gets to make some suggestions, gets to make some phone calls on occasion to Members, but the best way I can garner support is to come to you and ask for your help and to say, there is nothing more powerful than the voice of the people. There is nothing that will get anybody's attention more than good, hardworking people, standing up, saying, "Let's have some common sense up in the Nation's Capitol about our money."

And it's so important to trust the American people, so important for our Government to trust people, because the people are the strength of this country. This is a fabulous land. It's the greatest country on the face of the Earth, not only—not only because of the fantastic principles—we believe in freedom of religion, freedom of press, the freedoms to achieve your dream, regardless of where you're from—but it's the greatest land on the face of the Earth because of our people. God-fearing, hardworking, neighborly citizens all across America, that's the true strength of the country.

I'll be involved a lot—part of my job is to argue for fiscal sanity in Washington. Part of my job is to represent your interests when it comes to how your money is spent. A big part of my job will be to work to keep the peace by making sure our military is strong. But a significant part of my job is to invigorate the American spirit, that spirit that says, when a neighbor sees somebody in need, "What can I do to help?" You see, the strength of America, if it is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, it must be used to make sure people aren't left behind, that the downtrodden is lifted up, that people in need get help. Oftentimes we turn to Government, but the true love and true compassion in this country begins when neighbors help neighbors in need.

So if you've got a mentoring program in the State of North Dakota that needs some help, say, "What can I do to help?" If you've got a church program that's trying to help people that are hungry, take the extra step and see if you can't help. If you know some people that are wondering whether or not somebody loves them, take a little extra time, put your arm around them, and say, "We do." I also want you all to remember that the most important job any of us will have, the most important job if you happen to be a mother or dad, isn't President or Governor, is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.

Now, we're a blessed nation. We can achieve anything we set our mind to. We can have sound fiscal policy. We'll work hard to keep the peace, but most of all, we can make sure this great American experience shines brightly for every citizen, everybody in this great country. People are willing to role up their sleeves and work, because we've got a country of people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to be your President. I am so grateful—I am so grateful that so many came out to say hello.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:18 p.m. in Bison Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Hoeven of North Dakota and his wife, Mikey.

Proclamation 7415—National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, 2001

March 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Last year, approximately 130,000 new cases of colorectal cancer were diagnosed in the United States. This is a startling number. Late diagnosis is one reason why colorectal cancer, cancer of the colon and rectum, is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths for Americans. The disease strikes men and women with almost equal frequency and often progresses without symptoms. Fortunately, colorectal cancer is usually curable when discovered early, and early diagnosis is possible through regular screenings. Regular screenings are particularly important for persons age 50 or older. Regular screenings are also important for individuals considered at higher risk for the disease.

Widespread screening for colorectal cancer could save up to 30,000 lives a year, if all cases were found at an early stage. To raise awareness about the disease and to encourage regular screening, the Cancer Research Foundation of America, the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, and the American Digestive Health Foundation have joined together to encourage Americans to observe March 2001 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. By supporting continued education about this disease and research into treatment and prevention, Americans can help stop colorectal cancer and save many lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:39 a.m., March 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12.

Remarks in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

March 9, 2001

Thank you all very much. I am glad to be here in South Dakota. I was telling the good Governor, the air may be a little chilly, but the people are awfully warm.

I want to thank your warm hospitality. I particularly want to thank those who were on the road, waving to us as we came in, and those who have lined up outside the hangar. It's really—it really makes me feel

great to be here. Thank you for your hospitality.

I'm so proud to be able to call your Governor my friend. He's a good man, Janklow. He's kind of hard to settle down, sometimes. [*Laughter*] But the thing I like about him is he married well—[*laughter*]—he's honest, and he loves the people—and he loves the people.

Earlier today, we toured a community health center here in Sioux Falls. And I was honored and so pleased that the minority leader in the Senate, Tom Daschle, greeted me. It's very thoughtful of him to do so. I appreciate—I appreciate the dialogs we have had. He treats me with respect; I will treat him with respect.

I'm also appreciative of the fact that we've got two United States Congressmen on the stage with me today. A very capable, strong, able man from South Dakota, John Thune. And I've noticed you've relaxed your border policy and allowed Congressman Mark Kennedy from Minnesota to come today, too. I appreciate these two men being here. It gives me a chance to personally thank them for casting an important vote on behalf of the American people yesterday, when they cast a vote to cut the taxes on the people who pay the bills. I want to thank you all.

I appreciate the mayor; I appreciate the former Senator; I appreciate my fellow citizens. I appreciate the fact that you've given me a chance to get outside of Washington—[*laughter*]—remember where I came from, to come to the heartland of America. It's important for all of us in the Federal Government to continue to come to the heartland, because it's the land of good heart and the land of commonsense people.

And I am here to talk about a commonsense way to budget in Washington, a commonsense approach for what to do with your money. I want you to understand, first and foremost, all the talk about the surplus. The surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money; it's the hard-working people of America's money.

And I'm going to remind the good folks in the Nation's Capital, some of whom don't need reminding, some of whom may need to be occasionally reminded, that we work for you. And it's your money we're talking about when it comes to setting budgets.

It's important to be fiscally sound and fiscally responsible with your money, which starts with setting priorities, clear priorities. And so I want to share some of the priorities that I've set.

First, educating our children is a important priority for our Nation. So we spend money on public education—but I always remember where I came from. I hope you don't get too nervous, Governor, because I have always believed and will always believe in local control of schools. And so, while the Government will spend money, we've got to trust you to run your schools.

We got a good vote out of the Senate Education Committee that passes power out of Washington, so the local folks can chart the path to excellence for every child. Education is a priority, but it must be a priority in the context of empowering local folks and strong accountability measures and trusting parents and always challenging failure. Because in our vision, there are no second-rate children in this great land of ours, and there are no second-rate dreams in America.

Health care is an issue, and it's a priority. I believe we ought to double the amount of patients we cover in community health centers, to make sure that the poor and those on the outskirts of poverty are able to find primary care.

I know we've got to make sure we take care of our elderly, and so we've doubled the Medicare budget in my budget. It says loud and clear to our seniors, the promises that we have made to you will be a promise we will keep. But it also requires new thinking and new leadership. We must reform Medicare, to give seniors more options, more choices, more opportunities to tailor their health care programs to meet their needs, all of which ought to include prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

A priority is to work with States on important development projects. And the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project is a project that will be in my budget and something that we can work together on.

Our retirement systems are a priority in the budget. And so we've sent the clear message to the Congress—and it's being well-

received, by the way, by both Republicans and Democrats—that the payroll taxes, all your hard-earned taxes, aiming for Social Security, will be only spent on one thing, and that's Social Security—that we set aside that money.

One of the biggest jobs I have is to serve as the Commander in Chief, and I do so proudly. I want to be the Commander in Chief of troops that have got high standing and high morale; people that have got a clear mission stated to them by the Commander in Chief, which is to make sure our military is properly trained, ready to fight and win war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place. So a priority is to make sure our military is better paid, better housed, and better trained.

Those are priorities of ours. We grow what's called the discretionary part of the budget by 4 percent. That's greater than the rate of inflation. That's a lot of money, by the way, when you're talking in terms of billions. We grow the budget.

But if you listen to the voices of those who would rather keep your money in Washington, DC, they say we can't meet the needs. I'm telling you, we can meet the needs with the right kind of priorities. We can meet the needs with the right kind of focus.

So we grow that budget, but the problem is, some of the folks in Washington are used to spending orgies. At the end of the last session, the discretionary spending grew at 8 percent. I mean, it's like, "Let's have a contest to see who can spend the most in order to get out of town." Those days are over. We're going to bring some fiscal sanity to the budget.

We can meet our priorities, and we can fund them. And we can also pay down debt. I know a lot of folks around America are worried about national debt, as am I. We pay down $2 trillion of debt over the next 10 years. That's all the debt that's available to be retired without having to pay a premium for prepaying debt. That's a lot of debt retirement. It will be the biggest repayment of debt in the history of the world. And so we pay down debt.

In order to make sure that the American people are comfortable with our plan, we also set aside a trillion dollars over 10 years for contingencies, emergencies, money for the unforeseen. So people say, "What do you mean by that." Well, I'm concerned about the agricultural sector here in our country, the agricultural economy.

I want to increase demand for South Dakota products. I believe that the South Dakota farmer and rancher is the best in the world. And if given the opportunity, they can compete with anybody in the world, so long as the opportunity is fair. So my administration will work hard to increase demand for South Dakota products.

When it comes time to negotiating trade agreements, we're not going to leave the farmer behind. We understand the significance. But we may need some contingency money to help the farmers transition from the old ways to the market-oriented approaches for agriculture.

And speaking about agriculture, let me reiterate my commitment to value-added processing, to making sure that ethanol is an integral part of the gasoline mixes in the United States. It makes common sense to set aside money for priorities and contingencies and debt. But there is still money left over.

The people are working so hard and long hours and are overtaxed—that there's money left over. And the fundamental debate that's taking place in Washington, DC, is what to do with the money. That's the fundamental debate. And I'm here to make my case: If the American people are overcharged, they deserve a refund. They deserve some money back.

It's really a matter of who you trust. It's a matter of trust. Once the priorities are met, once debt is repaid, once the money is set aside in case something goes wrong, it's, who do you trust? And I want to make it clear to the people of South Dakota: I trust you, rather than the Government, to spend your money. I trust you.

I also don't trust the Congress to pick winners and losers in the Tax Code. You're going to hear the words, "targeted tax cuts." That means a group of folks get to decide who is targeted in and who is targeted out. That's not my view of Government. My attitude is, if you pay income taxes, you ought to get relief. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief.

And so, yesterday, the Congress did the right thing. They heard the call that if we're going to have tax relief, reduce all rates. And we have done so. We've made the code—we're trying to make the code more simple. We've dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increased the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

And there is a reason, and the Congress must hear the reason. It's because we want the code to be more fair—that if you're living on the outskirts of poverty and you're struggling to get ahead, today's Tax Code penalizes hard-working people.

I want you all to remind folks who need to be reminded, that if you're making about $22,000 a year and you're a single mom raising two kids—which I know and many of you know is the toughest job in America—that's the hardest work in this country. For every additional dollar under this code—under this code that some label progressive—for every additional dollar, that hard-working lady earns, she pays nearly 50 percent tax. The way the code is structured, she loses part of her earned-income tax credit. She pays the 15 percent bracket. She's paying her payroll taxes. She pays more on the margin than Wall Street bankers do. And that's not right, and that's not fair. And we're going to do something about it in the Tax Code.

We're also dropping the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent. There's a lot of hollering about that. A lot of people—you know, they like the targeted tax cut, "We're going to try to pick and choose the winners." But I want you all to remember this, that an integral part of America is the small-business owner. The small-business owner not only provides many of the new jobs we create, but the entrepreneur and the small-business owner represents the best of America. It talks about the American Dream and the American experience of starting and owning your own business.

There are a lot of folks who have come to this country, whether or not America is meant for them, and they start their business, and they work hard, and they own a piece of the future. That's what America is about. And I want you to remind the skeptics and the naysayers and the doubters that many small businesses are unincorporated, many are what they call Subchapter S, and they pay the highest marginal rate in the Tax Code. And by dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we provide capital infusion into the small-business sector of America. This is a plan that is good for the entrepreneur and small-business people. It makes sense to be that way.

And by the way, there is a need to make this happen quickly. We got a issue with our economy. It's beginning to sputter. It's beginning to get a little shaky. And one way to make sure that we provide a second wind to the economy is to give people their own money back. That's called economic recovery.

And so I appreciate so very much the Congress working with the White House to make the tax relief retroactive. In other words, when we pass the bill, it will be as if it went into effect on January first of this year, to get money in your pockets quicker.

I also want to thank those 10 Democrats who voted with us yesterday. People are beginning to hear from the people. People are beginning to hear. The elected Members are beginning to hear from the people. That's why I'm here. I want to remind you that you all have an incredibly positive effect. You can help a lot, and I appreciate so very much——

[*At this point, a small fire broke out in one of the spotlights hanging above the crowd.*]

The President. As I said, you can have a positive effect. [*Laughter*]

It's a sign from above. I'll keep an eye on it. [*Laughter*]

Let me say one thing, quickly. I am concerned about our economy. And therefore, today, in order to make sure our transportation hubs continue to flourish and we continue to fly, I'm issuing an Executive order to protect the flying public in a time when Northwest Airlines and the mechanics are having trouble resolving differences, and they need time to do so. This order that I signed today will prevent any disruption of air service for the next 60 days.

It is significant to the people living in South Dakota that I do this. Northwest is the first airline this year to reach a critical point in labor/management negotiations.

Several other negotiations involving other national carriers face deadlines within the next few weeks, and I am concerned about their impact, concerned about what it could mean to this economy. And I intend to take the necessary steps to prevent airline strikes from happening this year.

I urge the National Mediation Board to make sure that the parties work toward a solution and negotiate in good faith. It's important for our economy, but more important, it's important for the hard-working people of America to make sure air service is not disrupted.

I'm watching. And I'm winding down, but I want to do one other thing. I want to remind you that tax relief is good for families. It's good for our families. And it is going to be better for families when we do something about the marriage penalty in the Tax Code. The Tax Code is unfair to farmers and small-business people. We need to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code. There's a lot of talk about taxes. I want to put a face on taxes. I want people to understand that tax relief is real for people.

We've got the Hagen family here. You all stand up, Scott—and their family, Tiffany and Christian and Austin and Kyler. This is a hard-working family. They're raising their three children. They now pay $1,500 in Federal income taxes. When it's all said and done, after the Congress passes its plan and when it's all said and done, they'll end up paying zero in Federal income taxes.

Now, I know they're going to say, and you'll hear them say in some of the parlors around the country, "You know, 1,500, that's not much." Just ask the Hagens. Just ask the working families who have energy bills that are high. Ask the people—I want the skeptics to ask the question to people, what it's like to have huge consumer debt.

There's a lot of talk about debt at the national level. We need to worry about debt in the communities all around America. No, that $1,500—$1,500 may not mean a lot to some. It means a lot to the Hagens, and there's a principle involved. And the principle is, we trust them to spend the 1,500 the way they see fit. It's their money to begin with.

And so I'm here to thank you for your support, thank you for your friendship, and ask for your help. You're just an e-mail away from making a difference in somebody's attitude. It's the right thing to do. This is commonsense approach to your money. It's the commonsense approach. It requires some discipline. It requires reordering priorities. And the priority with your money is not to grow the Federal Government; the priority of your money is so you can grow your own families and meet your own needs and meet your own responsibilities.

And that, after all, is what's important about America, responsibility. We have a responsibility—those of us elected to office have a high responsibility—responsibilities that I will keep. But it doesn't just start in Washington, DC. It starts in neighborhoods. At the community health center today, I had the honor of meeting people who assume the responsibility of not only providing health care but of saying to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" They call it the heartland because people have got good hearts in this part of the world. People care about neighbors.

We can argue about budgets, but that's not the greatness of America. The greatness of America is our people, the fact that we've got people who care about somebody. And so I urge you, become a Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader to teach a youngster right from wrong. I urge you—I urge you, don't hope that Washington fixes schools, don't hope that the Federal Government waves some magic wand to make the schools better. Get involved with your education systems here at the local level. Thank a teacher, thank a principal for their hard work.

If your church, your synagogue, or mosque, you're looking for something to do, find a program that will help mentor a child. Put your arm around somebody. It says, "We love you." America is meant for—you know, the greatness of this country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. My job will be to argue smart budgets. My job will be to represent you when it comes to making sure you've got your money back. My job will be to keep the peace.

But my job will also be to call upon the best of America, to lift this Nation's spirits,

to set our sights high, to call upon the goodness and kindness of America, to remind the moms and dads of our country, if you're fortunate to be a mom or dad, love your child every day, love them with all your heart and all your soul.

And that's why it's such an honor to be here, an honor to be your President. I'm so optimistic, with the right focus, the right attitude, the right approach, that this great Nation can achieve anything we set our minds to.

Thanks for coming out today. God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. in the National Guard Hangar at Joe Foss Field. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. William J. Janklow of South Dakota; Mayor Gary Hanson of Sioux Falls; and former Senator Larry Pressler.

Executive Order—Establishing an Emergency Board To Investigate a Dispute Between Northwest Airlines, Inc., and Its Employees Represented by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

March 9, 2001

A dispute exists between Northwest Airlines, Inc., and its employees represented by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association.

The dispute has not heretofore been adjusted under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151–188) (the "Act").

In the judgment of the National Mediation Board, this dispute threatens substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree that would deprive sections of the country of essential transportation service.

Now, Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 10 and 201 of the Act (45 U.S.C. 160 and 181), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of Emergency Board* ("Board"). There is established, effective March 12, 2001, a Board of three members to be appointed by the President to investigate this dispute. No member shall be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any organization of airline employees or any air carrier. The Board shall perform its functions subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2. *Report.* The Board shall report to the President with respect to this dispute within 30 days of its creation.

Sec. 3. *Maintaining Conditions.* As provided by section 10 of the Act, from the date of the creation of the Board and for 30 days after the Board has submitted its report to the President, no change in the conditions out of which the dispute arose shall be made by the parties to the controversy, except by agreement of the parties.

Sec. 4. *Record Maintenance.* The records and files of the Board are records of the Office of the President and upon the Board's termination shall be maintained in the physical custody of the National Mediation Board.

Sec. 5. *Expiration.* The Board shall terminate upon the submission of the report provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 9, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Executive order had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a number. An original was not available for verification for the content of this Executive order.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 4

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from Camp David, MD, to Hampton, VA.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush, traveled to Newport News, VA, and later, they returned to Washington, DC.

March 5

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Vice President Cheney wishing him well following an angioplasty procedure at George Washington University Hospital.

The President announced his intention to nominate William S. Farish to be Ambassador to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Dam to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger Walton Ferguson, Jr., to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The White House announced that the President announced that 203 educators will receive the annual Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for 2000.

March 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL, where he toured Chicago Mercantile Exchange in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Graham to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Pizzella to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Administration and Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Negroponte to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Goteborg, Sweden, to attend the European Union-U.S. summit in June.

March 7

The President announced his intention to nominate Pete Aldridge to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Gordon Card to be Under Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristine Ann Iverson to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bobby P. Jindal to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donna McLean to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Budget and Programs and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Transportation.

The White House announced that the President welcomed the formation of Israel's new government and extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who will come to the White House for a working visit on March 20.

March 8

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fargo, ND, and in the evening, he traveled to Sioux Falls, SD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter R. Fisher to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Steven Griles to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Hansen to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sean B. O'Hollaren to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Government Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Brussels, Belgium, in June.

March 9

In the morning, the President traveled to Fayetteville, LA, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ruth A. Davis to be Director General and Chairman of the Board of the Foreign Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alphonso R. Jackson to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate James J. Jochum to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Export Administration.

The President announced the appointment of Richard R. Kasher, Helen Mercer Witt, and Robert Oberndoerfer Harris as members of the Presidential Emergency Board No. 235. Ms. Witt will serve as Chairman.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan at the White House for a working visit on March 19.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Vice Premier Qian Qichen of China at the White House on March 22.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 8

Kenneth W. Dam,
of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, vice Stuart E. Eizenstat, resigned.

Michael P. Jackson,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Mortimer L. Downey, resigned.

Richard Lee Armitage,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, vice Strobe Talbott.

John Robert Bolton,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, vice John David Holum, resigned.

Grant S. Green, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), vice Bonnie R. Cohen.

Marc Isaiah Grossman,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs), vice Thomas R. Pickering.

William Howard Taft IV,
of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, vice David Andrews.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's telephone call to the Vice President

Announcement: President Honors Nation's Leading Math and Science Teachers

Released March 6

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Goteborg, Sweden, to attend the biannual European Union-U.S. summit

Released March 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks to the press pool by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

Statement by the Press Secretary: Israeli Prime Minister To Visit Washington

Released March 8

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's tax plan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President's will visit NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, during his upcoming visit to Europe

Fact Sheet: President's Tax Relief Plan Gives Greatest Relief to Lowest Income Taxpayers

Released March 9

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Visit by Chinese Vice Premier

Statement by the Press Secretary: Japanese Prime Minister To Visit Washington

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Remarks in Lafayette, Louisiana

March 9, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. I'm sure glad I came here to Louisiana. Thank you for coming. I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank the thousands of people who lined the road on the way in here. I wish the hangar were 10 times bigger, but thank you all so much for being here.

First, I want to thank my friend and your Governor, Mike Foster. I appreciate his friendship. One thing you can say about him is, you know where he stands. And I know he stands as my friend, and I appreciate that so very much.

I appreciate John Cooksey, the Congressman who is here. I appreciate Susie Terrell, who is here. I want to thank Senator Michot for being here. Ernie Alexander, my friend, is here; I want to thank him. My friend Ernest Johnson, who heads the Louisiana NAACP, is with us today, and I want to thank you, Ernest, for coming.

There is one other fellow, a man who stuck his neck out in the course of the campaign. You see, he doesn't happen to have the Republican label by his name. His name is Dan Morrish. He's a Democrat. He put party aside and did what he thought was right for the country. And Dan, I'm honored to have your support. I thank you for your friendship.

And it's great to be here. I tell you, it is important for me to make sure I get outside the Nation's Capital on a regular basis. I love people in Louisiana. I like the idea of coming to bring my message to you. I hope by now the people of the country are beginning to realize that we all have adopted a commonsense message. It's a message of the people. It's a message that understands that the most important element of politics are the people of this country, the hard-working Americans who make the country go.

I get to propose things in Washington. I don't get to vote on them. I'm not a member of the legislative branch. But the biggest influence in our Government is the people, and I know that. So I'm here today in Lafayette, Louisiana, to explain a commonsense budget. And if you like what you hear, you might decide to maybe e-mail or call some of those who represent you and let them hear from you. If you like the commonsense approach to how we spend your money, it may make sense to pick up the phone or drop a note to people who may not see it our way. That's what politics is all about, as far as I'm concerned; it's the people's will. And I'm here to talk about the people's business. And the people's business is to bring some fiscal sanity to the budgeting process in Washington, DC.

It starts with understanding this important principle, that the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money. And so what makes sense? Well, what makes sense is to set priorities. That's what makes sense. Here's some of my priorities. Education is a priority; making sure children learn is a priority. So we increase spending at the Education Department. It's a priority of the country, but in case you might think that I forgot where I came from, I'll understand that the people who can run the schools best in Louisiana are not people in Washington, DC, but the folks of Louisiana. So we're spending a little more at the Federal level, but we're going to work with Congress to pass power out of Washington to empower the local folks, to empower parents and teachers to make the right decision for the children of the great State of Louisiana.

The people's health is a priority. Today I talked about expanding a number of community health centers around America to make sure that the poor are able to get primary care. I also want to make it crystal clear in the budget I submitted to the Congress that we have doubled Medicare spending over a 10-year period of time, that we're going to make the commitment that we have made

to the elderly. It not only requires more spending, which we will do; it also requires an attitude of reform that says we'll trust seniors to make choices for themselves—seniors—to match their needs with a variety of programs, all of which include prescription drugs.

And I want to praise one of your Senators from Louisiana. John Breaux and I are going to work on this issue. We will spend a lot of time making sure that Medicare is properly reformed so that the promise we have made to our seniors will be a promise that will be kept.

There's a lot of talk about Social Security, as there should be. The message to the Congress is loud and clear: We're not going to spend payroll taxes on anything other than Social Security; we're not going to take the money aimed for Social Security and spend it on anything else.

There's money in my budget to make sure that we're able to keep the peace by making sure we pay our military folks a good wage. There's money in the budget for priorities. As a matter of fact, we increased what's called the discretionary spending by 4 percent. That's greater than the rate of inflation.

But it's not enough for some in Washington, because, you see, they're used to spending a lot of money up there. The last session, they spent your money to the tune of 8 percent. It's like they had a bidding contest to see who could get out of town. Those days are over with.

We will set priorities and fund them. But we'll be wise about how we spend your money. We don't want the Federal Government exploding in growth. We want the Federal Government to be lean and efficient and focused with your money. And that's exactly what's going to happen with new leadership in Washington.

There's a lot of discussion about paying down debt. I want to remind you, there are two types of debt—there are a lot of types of debt—but there are two types of debt that I worry about. One is debt at the national level. And under the plan I submitted to the Congress, we pay down $2 trillion in national debt over 10 years—$2 trillion. It's the biggest amount of debt repayment ever. There's also consumer debt, the credit card debt that burdens many of the working families in America. Yes, we talk about national debt, and we're paying a lot down. But you're fixing to hear me tell you, part of the remedy for people who have got a lot of credit card debt is to make sure people get some of their own money back.

We have met priorities. We grew the budget at a reasonable rate, not this fantastic rate that exploded during the last session. We pay down debt. We protected Social Security. We have also set aside one trillion over 10 years for contingencies.

Who knows what will happen. And so, we put one trillion aside. That makes sense. That's common sense to do that, it seems like, to me. We may need money for our farmers. And I'm going to tell you something about agriculture in America. It is an incredibly important part of our economy. Who knows what we'll need money for.

So we set aside money to do so but, guess what? There's still money left over. The fundamental question is: What do we do with that money? The fundamental question that I want Congress to hear from you about is, what to do with the money? Do we increase the size and scope of the Federal Government?

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. Or do we trust you with your own money?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. There's a lot of discussion about how to get tax relief. I worry about what's called targeted tax cuts. I worry about people sitting around Washington saying, "You're targeted in, but oh, by the way, you're targeted out." It seems like, to me, the fairest way to handle the people's money is to say that everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief. The Federal Government ought not to try to play favorites. It's likely people in Louisiana may not be considered a favorite. You will be, as far as this President is concerned.

So the plan that was passed out of the House—and John, thank you for your support—is fair. It reduces all rates on everybody that pays taxes, and it simplifies the code. It drops the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. It increases the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. And

let me explain to you why. Let me explain to you why this Tax Code we have is unfair.

One of the things that the people must stand for is fairness in life. If you're a single mother in the State of Louisiana trying to raise two children, and you're making 20-something thousand dollars a year, under the code that's written today, for every dollar you earn above $22,000, you pay a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is successful. You pay nearly 50 percent on that dollar, and that's not right. And that's not what America is all about.

Now, this country stands for rewarding hard work, not penalizing it. And we must understand and—when we find people working the hardest job in America, which is the single moms in this country, and they're struggling to get ahead, we ought to have a Tax Code that welcomes hard work and says, "You can access the middle class, and you can realize your dreams."

This plan that passed the House yesterday makes this code imminently more fair. It also reduces the top rate. And oh, I know there's a lot of discussion about that, dropping the top rate, but let me tell you why. First, there ought to be some principle involved in the Tax Code. And this principle is, the Federal Government ought to take no more than a third of anybody's check.

But there's another principle. And that is, our Nation must understand that the small-business man and the small-business woman is the backbone of job creation. Our Nation must never forget—we must never forget that good public policy will encourage entrepreneurial spirit in America, encourage the growth of the small-business owner.

And we must also realize that many small businesses are unincorporated; they're sole proprietorships. They're Subchapter S's. They pay the high marginal rate. And by cutting the rates from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, we send a clear signal that we encourage entrepreneurship and small-business growth, that we understand—that we send a loud message to Washington that the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which American risk takers and dreamers and people willing to work for a dream have got a better opportunity to realize those dreams.

The plan that we've submitted to the United States Congress recognizes that the death tax is unfair to Louisiana farmers and small-business owners, and we need to get rid of the death tax. The plan that I submitted to the United States Congress recognizes that when you penalize marriage, we send a bad signal about families and the role of families in our society. We've submitted a good plan, and it's working its way through the system.

It came—a major portion came out of the House, and I want to thank the 10 Democrats that stood with 100 percent of the Republicans that spoke on your behalf. And now it's headed to the Senate, and it's time for your voices to be heard.

Now, I want to give you some ammunition if you agree with what I'm saying. Not only have we got a commonsense budget—in other words, we can afford what I'm telling you; we can afford it—but that makes economic sense to give people their own money back. You see, our economy is beginning to sputter a little bit. There are some places around the country where people are beginning to get laid off; economic growth is slowing down. It is important to act quickly to get people their own money back, so you can spend it and serve as a second wind for our economy. It makes sense—it makes sense. We need it now. And so I appreciate the fact that the plan that came out of the House will make some of the tax cut retroactive, which means when it passes, it's as if it took effect on January of this year.

But there's another reason why this tax plan is important—because it sends a signal about the priorities of our Government, and the priorities of our Government is to trust people with their own money. We must send a clear message that once we meet our priorities, the people who can best handle the people's money is the people, themselves.

Today I've asked the Anderson family to join us here from Lafayette. We've got Richard and Jenifer—and first, I want to say they're teachers, and you can't thank teachers enough for being a teacher. And with Richard and Jenifer are Jane, Noah, and Sam,

their three children, who they love more than life.

And the reason I've asked them to join us is to help make my point, that when we're talking about taxes and budgets, it's more than numbers that we're talking about. We're talking about people's lives. We're talking about the fact that this is a plan that understands that there are a lot of folks working hard to get ahead.

Remember, we haven't had an energy policy for a while. And anybody that understands that is the people of this part of the world. There's a lot of people paying high energy bills in America now. It's like a new tax on American families. By the way, we're going to have an energy policy, and it starts with finding more energy here in America.

But I'm worried about hard-working folks like the Andersons. I'm worried about the fact that people all across America are paying high energy bills. I'm worried about the fact that a lot of folks have got credit card debt. I'm worried about the folks—the fact that folks are working longer hours. And it seems like, to me, that if you've got a little extra money in Washington, instead of spending it on programs, why don't we let people spend their own money.

And so, here are the facts—here are the facts. These good folks now pay $4,300 in Federal income taxes on an annual basis. Under our plan, they will save $2,600. Oh, that may not sound like a lot to some. It's a lot to me, and it's a lot to the Andersons.

You see, the principle is, do we want that $2,600 that's their money to begin with to go to excess Federal spending, or do we think it's better spent by them? Would we rather have the Government spend it, or would we rather have it for them to save for their children, to meet their priorities?

I want to tell you what a grandmother said the other day in Council Bluffs, Iowa. You see, I've been moving around the country, making our case. And she said, she's had a lot of children and grandchildren go through her house, and when you bake cookies and you leave them on the table, sure enough, they'll be eaten. [*Laughter*] That's kind of how I view that $2,600. If you leave it on the table, sure enough, it will be spent.

The right thing to do, the fair thing to do, the thing to do that's based upon common sense, is to understand whose money it is to begin with and to trust the good people of America to spend their own money to meet their own priorities.

I have great trust in the American people. I can't tell you what an honor it is to be your President and to travel our land and to see people come out and wave. It reinvigorates my spirit, because it helps me understand, yet again, the spirit of America. The true greatness of this country does not lie in the halls of our governments; the true greatness of our country lies in the hearts and souls of the American people.

My job is to represent the folks in Washington and to fight for sound budgets and tax relief. But my job also is to call upon the spirit of this country, is to say to the moms and dads of America, "Your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul." It's to thank the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Club leaders who are teaching our children commonsense values, the difference between right and wrong. It's to thank those folks who, when they see a neighbor in need, put their arm around them and say, "What can I do to help you, brother or sister? What can I do to help you on your walk?"

No, the greatness of America is our people. It's important to trust the people. It's important to trust the people with their own money. But it's also important for our President to understand that by rallying the spirit of America, we can trust the people to make America a compassionate, decent place for all of us who are fortunate enough to live in this land.

I'm proud to be your President. Thank you for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in a hangar at Lafayette Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to State Senator Michael J. Michot; State Representatives Ernie Alexander and Dan W. "Blade" Morrish; and Suzanne Haik Terrell, commissioner, Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
March 10, 2001

Good morning. On Thursday the House of Representatives voted in favor of my tax relief plan, a large step toward the first broad tax reductions in a generation. The House approved the toughest part of my package to get passed, reduced tax rates, with the support of several Democrats.

We have made a good start, with the help of a lot of Americans who contacted their Members of Congress. Thank you all so very much. Support for tax relief is building. Now I urge the Senate to move quickly, also.

Our economy is sputtering. Economic growth has been stalled. Consumer confidence is falling. We can't just stand by and hope for the best. We must act and act now to get ahead of this problem and blunt or reverse this slowdown. And the best way to respond is to get more money into the hands of Americans, who will buy products and build businesses and create jobs. We must put more fuel into the engine of this economy, and that's what my tax relief package will do.

My overall budget plan funds important priorities like education. It pays down our national debt at a record rate. It sets aside nearly a trillion dollars in a contingency fund for future needs and emergencies. And we still have surplus money left over for broad, fair, responsible tax relief.

High tax rates punish hard work and enterprise, values America has always tried to reward. And high tax rates are particularly damaging during an economic slowdown. They act like an anchor on the economy, a drag on economic growth. High tax rates can make a downturn deeper; they can make a slowdown longer. A time of economic stagnation is exactly the moment when tax relief is most urgent.

Not long ago, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve testified before Congress that tax relief in the past has often come too late to boost the economy. This is why I support making tax relief retroactive, meaning the new lower rates will take effect as of 3 months ago, on January 1st of this year. And that is why I'm asking Congress to act as soon as possible.

There's another reason to act quickly, because many families need some help right away. A lot of Americans are struggling with debt and some have borrowed against their homes to repay it. These families could certainly use extra money—money that my tax relief plan will offer. Other families will buy some things they need or save for college or retirement.

Tax relief is good for our economy precisely because it is good for American families. When millions of families have some extra money to save and spend, it helps kickstart our economic growth. When families are more confident about the economic future, that future gets brighter for us all.

I feel the momentum for tax relief everywhere I travel in this country. Americans know our economy needs some immediate help. Americans know they are overtaxed and overcharged by their Government, and Americans are ready for a refund. For all these reasons I urge the Congress to deliver tax relief now. And I hope you will urge them to do the same.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on March 8 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks on Arrival at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida
March 12, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. General Ryan, thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank your base commander. I want to thank the command sergeant who greeted me at the stairs of the Air Force plane that flew me here. The good news is, those pilots know what they're doing.

It is such an honor to be the Commander in Chief of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. I'm proud of the men and women who wear our uniform. My job is to set a clear mission for the United States military. The mission of the military would be to be well prepared to fight and win war and,

therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Today I'm going to speak to a Rotary Club and chamber of commerce event that will detail parts of my budget that I submitted to the Congress. One part of my budget that I submitted to the Congress will be to make sure we house our military folks better.

One part of the budget I submitted to Congress is a pay raise for those who wear the uniform. I believe by focusing our mission, we can improve morale. But I know by paying folks more we can improve morale, as well.

I look forward to shaking your hands and looking you in the eye and thanking you for serving America. For those of you who I don't get to look in the eye and say, thanks for serving America: Thanks for serving America. We're counting on you. Our Nation relies upon you to keep the peace, and we will do so.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. on the tarmac. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Michael E. Ryan, USAF, Chief of Staff; and Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins, USAF, commander, and M. Sgt. Karl W. Meyers, USAF, commander chief, 325th Fighter Wing.

Remarks During a Tour of Senior Airman Donnie Bryant's Home and an Exchange With Reporters at Tyndall Air Force Base

March 12, 2001

The President. Donnie, thanks for having us—me, my brother, and about 400 other people in your living room.

Airman Bryant. I think this is the most I've ever had in my living room, sir.

The President. Well, there are some fine Americans in your living room.

Airman Bryant. Yes, sir.

The President. Thanks for having us.

Airman Bryant. Yes, sir.

The President. So, tell us about housing here.

Airman Bryant. Housing—we just recently have completed our Redfish Point housing, which is the housing right behind my house over here, the new housing. I think you may get a chance to drive by and see it.

The President. Right, we are.

Airman Bryant. This is the older housing. It's about 50 years old, built to the standards at the time. And these houses are totally being refurbished. We have kitchens being redone in them. The electric and all the plumbing and stuff, some of that's been taken care of. The outside electric has been put to an underground system instead of the overhead wiring that we had for a long time, that actually goes into the house. It saves a lot of problems with power problems around the house. We still have a few problems with plumbing, but I believe they are starting a project on that. We've had some plumbers pull in out back. But overall——

The President. Particularly after they knew General Ryan was coming.

Airman Bryant. Cleaned it up for you, Mr. President.

But the main thing is, I guess we're trying to keep all the houses, the old houses up to par and keep everything maintained and keep the housing conditions livable.

The President. That's my mission, as well.

Airman Bryant. That's where we need our money, to keep projects going and to also make room for new houses and stuff, as well.

The President. That's one of the reasons I've come to your house, to highlight my initiative that I look forward to working with the Air Force on, and base commanders all around the country, to refurbish housing and build new housing. I do think we need for a troop to be able to house his family; that's an important part of building morale in the military.

Airman Bryant. Yes, sir. It is.

The President. Thank you for letting us come by.

Airman Bryant. Thank you, sir, for coming by.

The President. We want Chloe to have a good roof over her.

Theresa Bryant. Would you like to see her room?

The President. Sure. Chloe, would you show me your room?

Airman Bryant. Mr. President, I'll show you back there.

The President. Is everybody going in there? [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President toured the house and then took questions from the press.*]

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Can I ask you your response to all those Senators that are saying they expect you to compromise on your tax cut plan?

The President. Well, there's 100 opinions in the United States Senate, and I respect every opinion, but when they listen to what the American people want, they're going to find out people want something, they want a tax relief that's substantial and real. And I look forward to working with the Senate.

Q. Does that mean you are or are not willing to compromise, sir?

The President. I'm willing to listen to the 100 different voices who've got different views about where this package ought to go. And of course, I'm pleased with what happened in the House. And as I've said all along, I laid out a plan that I thought was the right size to begin with, and look forward to working with the Members to get this done. And we need to do it in a quick way in order to provide a little second wind to the economy.

Q. What about Democrats running ads in the State against your tax package but wrapping that issue around the issue of the Florida recount, saying your brother delivered this State, and now look at what we're getting?

The President. Some of the Democrats here want to keep revoting the election. But if they would listen to America, they would find that Americans want to move forward. Secondly, there are some who would rather spend the surplus on bigger Government. And I have an honest disagreement with those types of people.

The American people, when they hear that we've got enough money to meet needs such as building housing on military bases or refurbishing housing on military bases, if we set priorities and have fiscally sound leadership in Washington, DC, they will find that there is enough money for tax relief.

And I can understand why some—I mean, I don't understand it, but some people want to increase the size of the Federal Government. And if the people that are running those ads here in Florida want to travel the State and say, "Support us because we want to increase the size of the Federal Government," I think they're going to find a lot of people aren't going to listen.

Thank you all.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. You're not backing down off your faith-based program, are you?

The President. Oh, not at all, no. Our faith-based—we've submitted a package to the United States Congress. I'm proud of the Faith-Based Initiative. There is a lot of bipartisan support on the Hill.

And somebody mentioned something about an article today. I haven't read it yet. But no, we're moving forward. It's the right thing to do.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Okay, see you all soon.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:45 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Gen. Michael E. Ryan, USAF, Chief of Staff; and Chloe Bryant, Senior Airman Bryant's daughter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Youth Activities Center at Tyndall Air Force Base

March 12, 2001

Amy R. Justice. Thank you for coming, sir. We're really looking forward to this.

The President. I'm looking forward to hearing from them. But one of the things I—my job as the Commander in Chief is to boost morale in the military. In order to keep the peace, the military must be strong and morale has got to be high. And I've come to talk about base housing. We want to make sure people are well housed in the military, and there's some money in my budget to do that.

[*At this point, a baby cried.*]

The President. Don't worry about it. Base housing's on the way. [*Laughter*]

I got to see new housing, and I got to see not-so-new housing. And it was important to

do so, and I appreciate the general giving me a tour. Anyway, thanks for letting me come by.

And by the way, I'm proud to be traveling with my brother Jeb. If you've got any problems, write him—[*laughter*]—and the two Congressmen from this area. Congressman Boyd and Congressman Scarborough are with us. And of course, General Mike Ryan, who is from the Joint Chiefs. I appreciate you being here, General, as well.

But thank you all very much for giving me a chance to come. I look forward to hearing what you have to say, and it's your chance to give the Commander in Chief a few suggestions. And I'm interested.

I do want to say that I know a lot of families are worried about all the deployments that take place. And we'll honor our commitments. But the mission of this military is going to be, to be ready to fight and win war and, therefore, stop war from happening in the first place. And I think that's important for all of the folks who wear the uniform and their spouses to hear. The mission will be well focused, and that's what we'll be focusing our resources and attention on. I take it very seriously, because—and I believe strongly that we're going to be able to keep the peace. It's a noble mission for all of us involved with the military.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:16 p.m. He was welcomed by S. Sgt. Amy R. Justice, USAF, 325th Medical Group. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce in Panama City

March 12, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Sit down, Governor. [*Laughter*] Well, I'm glad I came. Thank you for the invitation.

Audience members. We're glad to have you. [*Laughter*]

The President. It's one of these responsive meetings. [*Laughter*] Governor—what a good man he is. The key to our success is pretty simple: We listen to our mother. And she is still telling us what to do. I'm listening about half the time.

I appreciate the two United States Congressmen who are here. Joe, thank you very much, and Allen, thank you very much, as well. I'm honored to have you both here. I've had some good visits with both of the Members. Sometimes we agree; sometimes we don't agree. But the thing about these two men is that we're going to agree to be respectful to each other. And that's what this country wants.

I want to thank the members of the Rotary. I want to thank the members of the chamber. I want to thank the economic development folks who gave me an opportunity to come and talk about what's on my mind. Walking in, the man from the Rotary said, "Our slogan is: Create awareness and take action." And that's exactly why I'm here. I want to create awareness about a commonsense budget and ask you to take action to help me get it passed.

It's good to see the leaders of the Florida Legislature, members elected to the statewide—on the ticket here in Florida. I want to thank you all for coming. I know there's a lot of local officials here. I always believe the government closest to the people is that which governs best. So I appreciate you all being here.

It was my honor to go to Tyndall today, to see the good folks who wear the uniform of the United States military, to tell them how much I appreciate their service to the country. I'm reminded today of how dangerous service can be. We lost some servicemen today in Kuwait on a training accident. I hope you'll join me in a moment of silence for those soldiers and their families.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

The President. God bless.

I'm here to talk about a budget. And there's a lot of talk in Washington about budgets. But here's what I believe. I believe the people who can best affect the budget are the people who pay the bills in the first place, the taxpayers of America.

Sometimes it seems like we tend to talk to ourselves in Washington. And that's why I like to travel around the country, talking

to the people who have got most at stake in the budget negotiations that go on in the Nation's Capital.

First, let me tell you that good budgeting means setting priorities. And part of my travels around the country is to explain where I think our priorities are.

It is a priority to make sure we pay the men and women who wear our uniform good wages. It's a priority in my budget to do so. It's a priority to make sure they're housed well. But it's also a priority to make sure if we spend money, that we spend it wisely. That's why I've asked the Secretary of Defense to do a bottom-to-top review about missions and spending and research and development dollars, to come up with a strategic vision of our military, not only today but what the military ought to look like tomorrow, to make sure that money is wisely spent when we spend your money on the military.

You see, I think we have a fantastic opportunity not only to keep the peace today but to redefine the terms of war, to use our new technologies to redefine how the battlefields are configured, so we have a better chance of keeping the peace. So we'll set priorities. The first priority is the people who wear the uniform.

The second priority is to make sure long-term objectives are clearly set and, as we spend money, to make sure we meet those objectives. But there's one priority of the Commander in Chief that requires no money, and that's to make it clear the mission of the military, to make clear the mission of those who wear our uniform, and it is this: to be well trained, to be ready to fight and win war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A second priority has been education. Now, we've increased the budget at the Federal level, but Governor, don't be too nervous. I remember where I come from. I believe in local control of schools. I strongly believe we ought to pass power. I know the secretary of education is here. It's good to see you, Charlie.

The reason I mention Charlie is, I believe that the people who care more about the education of the children who live in the Panhandle of Florida than anybody else are the citizens of this part of the State. I know the Governor understands that. I know Charlie understands that. And the people in Washington have got to understand that. And that's why I look forward to working with Congress to pass power out of Washington, to provide as much flexibility with Federal money at the local level as needed, so that you all chart the path to excellence, so you figure out whether or not children are learning and, if not, make sure they do.

The temptation in Washington is to say, one-size-fits-all will work. But we know better than that. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to the education of our children. There needs to be local control of schools. There needs to be strong accountability measures. And when we find failure, we've got to free parents to make different choices for their children.

Social Security is a priority. I know there is a lot of talk, and there was during the campaign. I suspect there may be some, and for people who are trying to keep your money in Washington, they'll say, "Well, you can't have meaningful tax relief, otherwise, the Social Security system will fail." You read these polls. They're saying, you know, "Do you want to take away somebody's Social Security check, or do you want to have tax relief?" But that's not the choice. That's not the choice that we have here, as we work on this budget.

Because we set aside every dime of payroll taxes for one thing, and that is to spend it on Social Security. All this business about threatening people's Social Security checks is just not real, and it's not valid. The Congress and the White House agree that all the payroll taxes ought to be spent on only one thing, and that's the Social Security systems.

There's a lot of talk about health care, and there should be. The budget I submitted to Congress doubles the Medicare budget, for example. The budget I submitted to Congress increases by 2 times the amount of people who will be taken care of in community health centers. Now, we focus on health, and there is money in the budget to do so.

And so we've set priorities. Education is a priority. Keeping the peace is a priority. The health care of our citizens is a priority.

Retirement accounts are a priority. And there is still money left over.

But the difference between this administration and what happens in the past is that we grow discretionary spending by 4 percent. And I said, "Well, that seems like a reasonable number." But that's not what happened last time around. Last time, as the Congress was trying to get out of town, they had a bidding contest, and the discretionary spending increased by 8 percent. That's a huge amount of money. The baselines of the budget were that much higher, and we're adding on top of that.

And yet there are some saying, "He doesn't want to meet basic needs." What we need in Washington is fiscal discipline; we need priorities. We need to set priorities and fund it, so our budget increases by 4 percent. And by the way, just so you understand, the accounting talk there in the Nation's Capital, the definition of a budget cut is when numbers don't increase to expected levels.

So like, for example, if the baseline is one and the expected level is one and a half and I propose 1.4, that's called a spending cut. It's the darnedest accounting system I've ever seen. [*Laughter*] That's why I'm trying to bring some common sense into the budgeting of your money.

In the budget I submitted to the Congress, we pay down debt by $2 trillion. Over the next 10 years, we will reduce the amount of debt at the Federal level by $2 trillion. But let me also remind you all, as we talk about numbers, remember there is a lot of debt around our society. There is debt at the Federal level, and we do a good job of paying down a lot. But there is also consumer debt, credit card debt, debt that burdens the working people.

So as we talk about budgets, I just want you all to also keep in mind the budgets of the families who live in your neighborhood, budgets of people struggling to get ahead. You bet we're going to pay down debt at the national level. But we need to be mindful of the debt that burdens those who are struggling to get ahead and struggling to get into the middle class, as well.

Then I set aside a trillion dollars for contingencies. That can mean money to help our farmers. And one of the things you'll find out about my administration is I respect and understand the importance of American agriculture, not only for our domestic consumption but for international trade purposes, as well. Farming is a very important part of our vision for the future.

And after setting priorities and growing the budget at what I believe is a reasonable rate of 4 percent and setting aside the payroll taxes, paying down debt, and putting aside a trillion over 10 years for contingencies, there is still money left over. And that's the fundamental debate.

There's a lady in—there's a lady in Iowa, western Iowa, a grandmother who stood up at an event I had, and she said, "I've seen a lot of children and grandchildren go through my house. And every time I leave a plate of cookies on the table, they eat it." And that's how I view surpluses. That's what I'm afraid is going to happen if we don't have fiscal discipline, and are willing to say that the surplus is the people's money. It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And that's the important thing for the Members of Congress and the Senate to keep in mind. It's not the Government's money; it's your money to begin with. And oh, there are some priorities that need to be kept, and we're keeping them.

But there's another priority, as far as I'm concerned, and that is, how best to help American families to help themselves, how best to help people access the middle class. And there's another important priority, and that is, let people have money as quickly as possible, that otherwise would go to Government, to provide a second wind to an economy that's slowing down.

One of the things that concerns me about tax relief is what they call targeted tax relief. That means Federal officials get to decide who's targeted in and who's targeted out. To me, that's not good public policy. I don't think we ought to try to pick winners and losers in Washington, DC. I think everybody's a winner in America, and I think if you pay taxes, you ought to get tax relief. And so I submitted a plan that reduces all rates, on everybody who pays taxes. We simplified the code.

This Tax Code of ours is unfair. It is unfair to people who are struggling to get ahead.

Incredibly enough, if somebody has—a single mom, for example, raising two children, if she earns more money above $22,000, she pays a higher marginal rate on every additional dollar she earns than somebody who is successful. And she loses her earned-income tax credit, goes into the 15 percent bracket for the first time, and pays payroll taxes. She's paying nearly 50 percent on every dollar. This is somebody struggling to get ahead, somebody who's working the toughest job in America, by the way, and that's raising children on her own.

And yet, the Tax Code we have makes it unfair. And so we've reduced the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increased the child credit from $500 to $1,000, to make it easier for that person to realize her dreams. The message is: The harder you work, the more money you have in your pocket in America; the harder you work, the easier it is to get ahead, and not the other way around.

But we also drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. And I know that's created a lot of howling in Washington, but I think you can help remind people over whom you've got some influence that the whole notion of dropping the top rate is to stimulate growth in the small-business sector of America. There are hundreds of small-business owners who are unincorporated, who are sole proprietors, who may be organized along Subchapter S lines, that pay that high marginal rate. And by dropping the rate, we're sending a clear message to America: The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which a small-business owner can flourish, in which the entrepreneur can realize their dream.

The small-business owner is a job creator. The small-business owner also represents the best of America, which says, "If you dream big and work hard, you can own your own business." And by the way, when it comes time to pass that business on to your heir, we need to get rid of the death tax to make sure you can do so.

The House moved out our cut on marginal rates. I look forward to working with them on the rest of the package, including doing something about the marriage penalty and the—we send the wrong signal. Our Tax Code ought to encourage marriage. We ought to encourage families. We ought not to penalize people who said, "I do" at the altar.

So there is a lot of work to be done, and I am here to ask for your help. Instead of sending people your check, why don't you send them your check and send them an e-mail while you're at it. Why don't you let your Senators know that you think tax relief is not only good for the economy, but you think tax relief is good for working families here in the State of Florida.

And let me talk about two such people, Darrell Calhoun and Andrea Calhoun. They're here with their children. Raise your hand, Darrell. Darrell is a small-business owner. He owns a fence company. Today, in America, he pays $1,200 in Federal income taxes. When this plan is fully enacted, he will pay zero in Federal income taxes. He and Andrea are raising Garrett and Madison.

Oh, I know some will say, "Well, $1,200 isn't all that much." It's a lot to them. It's a lot to people who are paying high energy bills today in America. It's a lot to people who struggle with their own personal debt. I think it makes sense to set priorities. I think it makes sense to pay down debt at the national level. I think it makes sense to make sure the retirement systems work.

But I think instead of spending on bigger Government, I think we ought to trust people with their own money. I'd rather have these good people spend the $1,200 than the people in Washington, DC. And that's the fundamental debate that's taking place, and I'm glad we're discussing it. It's really what democracy is about. It would be better if they did everything the President said. [*Laughter*] Sometimes it doesn't work that way. But they darn sure better listen to the people. And the people can have a large say as to whether or not we want fiscally responsible Government in Washington, DC, or whether we're going to continue those spending orgies that spend your money on bigger and bigger and bigger baselines of budgets.

It's time to have fiscal sanity in our Nation's Capital, and it's time to remember who pays the bills. It's the working people of America who pay the bills. It's so important, for those of us who hold the high honor of

representing you, to trust the people. After all, that's the strength of America, the people. But the great strength of the country is not our governments. The great strength of the country are the people, the people who will help to make this country the—fulfill its promise for everyone who's lucky to live here.

I say that because the common acts of decency and courtesy that take place neighborhood to neighborhood are really part of the strength of America. The fact that there are moms and dads who become Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club leaders, that take a child around the shoulders and say, "Somebody loves you," and, "Somebody cares," that's the strength of America.

The fact that there are little centers of love that exist because somebody says, "What can I do to help? What can I do to live that common call to love a neighbor like I'd like to be loved myself?" Now that's the strength of America. The great strength of our country lie in the hearts and souls of the American citizens. My job is to lift the spirit of the country. I'll argue on your behalf, and I'm going to argue until I get a bill to sign. It's out of the House. Come on out of the Senate, and I'll sign it. And I'll argue on your behalf.

We'll have our agreements, and we'll have our disagreements, but my pledge is to have those agreements and disagreements in a respectful way. But there's more to the job than just arguing on your behalf when it comes to fiscal sanity in Washington. The job really is to lift the spirit of the country; to call upon the best; to remind the moms and dads, your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul; to call upon the compassion of America—and by doing so, we, as a nation, can unite, and we, as a nation, can hold out that great beacon of hope. We want it to be for every person who lives in our country.

What an honor it is to represent you all, and what an honor it is to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. Write your Senators; let your Congressmen know; and God bless.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:38 p.m. at the Marina Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Representatives Joe Scarborough and Allen Boyd; and Charlie Crist, commissioner, Florida Department of Education.

Remarks on Signing Legislation Designating the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse

March 13, 2001

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. It's my honor to welcome you all to the Rose Garden. So many friends and colleagues of Joe Moakley are here—I want to thank you all for coming. This is the first bill-signing ceremony to take place in the Rose Garden since I've been the President. And I'm glad to be part of an event honoring a distinguished Member of the United States Congress.

After today, the U.S. Courthouse, located at 1 Courthouse Way in Boston, will be officially known as the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse. It is a fitting tribute to a remarkable man.

Joe Moakley is a man of strong opinions and broad respect. And in this town it isn't always easy to combine the two, but over a long career he's been able to do so. He's a self-described bread-and-butter Democrat. Others know him as a formidable advocate for his party's cause. Ever since he joined the House of Representatives in 1972, he has made the cares and concerns of everyday people his business.

Joe is not only a passionate advocate for what he believes in, he's an enormously effective Member of Congress. Representative Moakley understands how the United States House of Representatives operates. He knows its rules, and he knows its ways.

But what makes Joe Moakley exceptional is not simply his political skills, it is the fact that he's so well-liked and admired by members of both political parties. Joe has a well-deserved reputation for being civil, friendly, and funny. Members love his sharp Irish sense of humor. They admire his courage in the face of adversity. And a few past Members of the Rules Committee even liked his singing voice. Notice I said a few. [*Laughter*]

But above everything else, Joe Moakley has brought honor to his profession. Some people run for office by trying to tear down

the institutions of Government; not this man from South Boston. Joe loves the United States Congress, and he loves public service.

Like Robert Kennedy, another son of Massachusetts, Joe Moakley considers politics to be an honorable profession, an opportunity for achievement, and a truly exciting adventure. If Speaker McCormack and Speaker O'Neill were here today, they would have a simple tribute to this good man: Well done, John Joseph Moakley. You served your constituents and your Congress and your country with honor and distinction.

Congressman Moakley.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 559, approved March 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107–2. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Representative Moakley.

Notice—Continuation of Iran Emergency

March 13, 2001

On March 15, 1995, by Executive Order 12957, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. On May 6, 1995, the President issued Executive Order 12959 imposing more comprehensive sanctions to further respond to this threat, and on August 19, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13059 consolidating and clarifying the previous orders. The last notice of continuation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14, 2000.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on March 15, 1995, must continue in effect beyond March 15, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Iran. Because the emergency declared by Executive Order 12957 constitutes an emergency separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, this renewal is distinct from the emergency renewal of November 2000. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 13, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:57 a.m., March 13, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

March 13, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to Iran is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2001, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14, 2000.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests

of the United States in the region and threaten vital interests of the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that I must continue the declaration of national emergency with respect to Iran necessary to maintain comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 13, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

March 13, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 13, 2001.

Letter to Members of the Senate on the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

March 13, 2001

Dear _____ :

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 2001, asking for the Administration's views on global climate change, in particular the Kyoto Protocol and efforts to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act. My Administration takes the issue of global climate change very seriously.

As you know, I oppose the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts 80 percent of the world, including major population centers such as China and India, from compliance, and would cause serious harm to the U.S. economy. The Senate's vote, 95–0, shows that there is a clear consensus that the Kyoto Protocol is an unfair and ineffective means of addressing global climate change concerns.

As you also know, I support a comprehensive and balanced national energy policy that takes into account the importance of improving air quality. Consistent with this balanced approach, I intend to work with the Congress on a multipollutant strategy to require power plants to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury. Any such strategy would include phasing in reductions over a reasonable period of time, providing regulatory certainty, and offering market-based incentives to help industry meet the targets. I do not believe, however, that the government should impose on power plants mandatory emissions reductions for carbon dioxide, which is not a "pollutant" under the Clean Air Act.

A recently released Department of Energy Report, "Analysis of Strategies for Reducing Multiple Emissions from Power Plants," concluded that including caps on carbon dioxide emissions as part of a multiple emissions strategy would lead to an even more dramatic shift from coal to natural gas for electric power generation and significantly higher electricity prices compared to scenarios in which only sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides were reduced.

This is important new information that warrants a reevaluation, especially at a time of rising energy prices and a serious energy shortage. Coal generates more than half of America's electricity supply. At a time when California has already experienced energy shortages, and other Western states are worried about price and availability of energy this summer, we must be very careful not to take actions that could harm consumers. This is especially true given the incomplete state of scientific knowledge of the causes of, and solutions to, global climate change and the lack of commercially available technologies for removing and storing carbon dioxide.

Consistent with these concerns, we will continue to fully examine global climate

change issues—including the science, technologies, market-based systems, and innovative options for addressing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. I am very optimistic that, with the proper focus and working with our friends and allies, we will be able to develop technologies, market incentives, and other creative ways to address global climate change.

I look forward to working with you and others to address global climate change issues in the context of a national energy policy that protects our environment, consumers, and economy.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Senators Jesse Helms, Larry E. Craig, Pat Roberts, and Chuck Hagel.

Remarks During a Tour of the Youth Entertainment Academy and an Exchange With Reporters in Plainfield, New Jersey

March 14, 2001

The President. It talks about armies—there is an army of compassion in America, too. That's what I'm here to highlight, not only the technology but the hearts.

One of the things our Government is going to do is to recognize the way faith-based initiatives—they take place in neighborhoods all around America. And I believe strongly that Congress ought to fund programs that will allow for low income parents to access after-school programs that can be run by faith-based programs as well as secular programs.

We ought to ask the question, does it work? And if it works, we ought to empower those who are making it work.

One of the problems we face in society is, Government cannot make people love one another. I wish we could. But we darn sure can find those who do love their neighbor and facilitate programs that will change people's lives.

So I'm honored to be here, and I want to thank you for your compassion and your love.

[*At this point, the tour continued.*]

The President. I'm honored, and I can't thank you all enough for providing a little haven of love and haven of hope. And I want to thank you all for your fantastic music. But more importantly, I want to thank you for the example you've set. All of us who are in positions where people look at us must understand we've got to set examples.

And the drummer was telling me not only was he learning how to hone his skills, but he's learning how to send the right signal to people in his church and in his family about making the right choices, lessons he's learned here. And I am so grateful for your love and your compassion.

Our Government must serve as a spawning ground for social entrepreneurs, many of whom have heard the call to help a neighbor in need through their religion. We ought to welcome faith-based programs into our society, not fear them. And I have come to this program to, not only herald what you do but to say to others who are wondering whether or not the Government is going to thwart efforts or enable, that we intend to be enablers.

So thank you for letting me come. And Governor, thank you for your time, appreciate your support. And Congressmen and mayor and Buster—[*laughter*]—Madame President, thank you all.

[*The President took questions from reporters.*]

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, on the economy, sir, how concerned do you think Americans should be, how concerned are you about the turmoil in the markets and the state of the economy in general? And do you think it's time to start talking the economy up?

The President. Well, I'm concerned that a lot of Americans' portfolios have been affected; people that put aside money in the stock market are now seeing their asset base decline. But I've got great faith in our economy. I've got great faith in the entrepreneurial spirit. And I believe the plans we're putting in place by working with the Congress are going to serve as a second wind for economic growth.

Carbon Dioxide Regulation

Q. Why did you change your mind on making carbon dioxide—regulating carbon dioxide?

The President. We'll enforce our—this administration will enforce the clean air laws of the country. We will work with our utilities to encourage better efficiency, so as to clean up the air. We've got an energy crisis in America that we have to deal with in a commonsense way. It is important to not only encourage conservation, but we need to increase the supplies of energy, so as the make sure that our consumers and small businesses and large business have got the energy necessary to not only heat their homes but to run their businesses.

Q. What has changed, though, since the campaign, when you said we should regulate it, so now when you say we shouldn't——

The President. We're in an energy crisis now. We're going to have to recognize—our country has got to recognize that we need more powerplants, that we—50 percent of our fuel source for our utilities comes from coal. I'm confident, with better efficiencies, we'll keep improving our air quality.

But this is an administration that will address our problems in a commonsense way, and we've got an energy crisis.

Q. How do you respond to criticism, sir, that you have gone back on a campaign promise here?

The President. Ours is an administration that will deal with the problems of the day. We've got an energy crisis in America. We use a lot of coal, and we need a lot of coal to fuel our plants, to make sure Americans have got the ability to heat and cool their homes.

Q. Are you feeling a lot of pressure from industry on this issue?

The President. I was responding to reality. And reality is, the Nation has got a real problem when it comes to energy. We need more sources of energy. We need more powerplants. We need more exploration for natural gas, and we need clean coal technology.

I am concerned that if we don't act in a commonsense way that our people will not be able to eat and cool their homes. And I'm worried about a failure of an energy policy could affect our economy, and we're dealing with it in a commonsense way.

New Jersey Gubernatorial Election

Q. This is the first time you've been back to New Jersey since the election, and we have a Governor's race coming up. How often are you going to come back, and are you going to campaign for the new acting Governor?

The President. Well, everybody knows the new acting Governor is my good friend. And I value his friendship. I will be back in the general election to help him win, if he wants me. [*Laughter*]

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. Mr. President, your charitable choice proposals are probably not going to be in the legislation that goes to the Senate. Are you disappointed about that?

The President. First of all, the reports about our charitable choice legislation not going full steam ahead is just simply not true. We're moving on a timetable that we're comfortable with. And part of our Faith-Based Initiative was to make sure we take a full inventory of programs that now exist within the Federal Government.

So we'll move our package, and I'm confident it will get passed. So I really appreciate the bipartisan effort that has taken place. Joe Lieberman has said some very positive things, for example, about our program. Americans are—want to see the Government welcome faith-based programs and a compassionate delivery of health.

So we're going to have a good package, and I'll be signing a good bill.

Q. It's not a setback, sir, that they've decided that there's a little too much controversy on that for now?

The President. I'm not sure what report you're referring to. But the reports I get is that there is bipartisan support for the Faith-Based Initiative. And I'm pretty confident we're going to get a very good bill. And I appreciate those Members who are working with us on it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. In his remarks, he referred to Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco of New Jersey. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce in East Brunswick, New Jersey

March 14, 2001

Well, Governor, thank you very much. I appreciate your kind words, and I appreciate your friendship. I got to know Donny and his wife, and I respect them a lot. And I know the people of New Jersey do, as well.

It's good to see my friend the Speaker. I had him down to the Governor's Mansion in Texas, and I want you to know he didn't spill. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be traveling with members of the New Jersey congressional delegation today. We flew down on Air Force One. I am thrilled that Members of the House of Representatives came, Rodney Frelinghuysen and Marge Roukema, Jim Saxton, Chris Smith, Rush Holt, and the newly elected Mike Ferguson. And I want to thank you all very much.

I'm also very pleased that Senator Corzine and Senator Torricelli came, as well. I have been most pleased with the comments that Senator Torricelli has been making. It shows that—I don't want to single anybody out. [*Laughter*] Not one vote is more important than any other vote. But he has shown a lot of common sense as far as I'm concerned.

I am thankful they're here; it gives me a chance to sing the praises of those in Congress who are joining my administration in changing the tone in Washington. We'll have a lot of debates on important issues. And we're in the middle of one that I want to talk about today. But we're going to show, Senator Torricelli and me, Senator Corzine and me, Senator Holt and me, that Republicans and—I mean, Congressman Holt and me. [*Laughter*] Don't want to be rushing your career. [*Laughter*] But we can show that Republicans and Democrats can differ, but we can do so in a civil way. We can set a better example for people who look at our Government than the example that had been set in the past, that we can have disagreements.

So I like to tell people I'm beginning to see a culture of respect develop in our Nation's Capital, and also, by the way, a culture of achievement that I hope people will judge us based upon results, not how we say things. And recently, the Congress has shown their willingness to focus on results. The ergonomic regulation reform that took place shows a positive development and our willingness of people to get things done.

We got a good piece of legislation moving out of the Senate in terms of education, which I'll talk about in a little while. I mean, we're showing people around the country that it's possible to have a culture of positive achievement in the Nation's Capital, and for that I'm grateful. And I want to thank the Members of Congress who are willing to work together to get some positive things done on behalf of the people.

Joan, I want to thank you very much for inviting me, and I want to thank all the folks who worked so hard to put this event on. We didn't give you very much notice. [*Laughter*] But you responded, and I appreciate your hard work. And I appreciate those who spent hours over the weekend making sure that this event gave me a chance to come and talk about an incredibly important issue, and that's the people's budget.

I like to remind people it makes sense to have common sense in Washington, particularly when it comes to spending your money. And the first principle involved with budgeting is for our Government to remember whose money it is that we're spending. We're working with the taxpayers' money. It's not the Federal Government's money. I like to remind people that the surplus is the people's money, and we better be wise about how we spend it.

And it means setting priorities. It's important for the President to set priorities, to set clear priorities so that Congress doesn't overspend or get exuberant, in their attempts to get reelected, with your money. And so some of my priorities are these: Education is a priority; I think it's incredibly important. So we've increased the education budget by a significant amount of money.

But lest you forget where I came from, I also strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe we've got to trust the people in New Jersey to run the schools of New Jersey. I also believe, though, in return for Federal money, States and local jurisdictions should measure to determine whether or not

children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

I believe the cornerstone of reform is not only to insist upon local control of schools, which means flexibility and authority at the local level when it comes to spending Federal money, but it also means that if you receive help, you and the citizens of New Jersey must devise accountability systems to show us all whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if so, the teachers need to be praised, and the principals and superintendents. But if not, if our society finds children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, instead of standing by and saying it's okay, good public policy demands something to challenge the status quo.

Oh, I've heard all the arguments about accountability. Some say, "Well, we can't measure. The Federal Government does not have a role in education and, therefore, should not insist upon results." I disagree. We're results-oriented people in this country. And in return for taxpayers' money, we ought to insist upon results.

Now, I don't believe in a national test, nor do I believe the Federal Government ought to tell New Jersey how to test its students. If you believe in local control of schools, you trust your Governor, and you trust the local folks. But I darn sure believe in asking the question, are the children learning?

I'm told some say, "Well, it's racist to test." It's racist not to test, because the people who generally are left behind in a system that does not measure are those who it's so much easier to quit on. It's so much easier to say that an inner-city child can't learn. "Let's just move him through. Let's have no accountability." It's so much easier to quit on a child whose parents may not speak English as a first language.

No, we need accountability in the public school system. We need results. And we'll herald success, and we need to be bold enough to blow the whistle on failure by giving parents different options if their children are trapped in failing schools.

A priority of mine is to keep the peace. And it starts with making sure the military is well paid and well housed. So in the budget I submitted to Congress, we increased the pay of the people who wear the uniform, and we've got a housing initiative to make sure they're well housed.

It's one thing to pay people well; it's another thing to make sure the mission is clearly defined. In order to increase morale in the military, we must have a clearly defined mission, which is to be able to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A priority of mine is to make sure the retirement systems in the country work well, which basically means that all the money going into the Social Security System be spent only on one thing, and that is Social Security. There is universal agreement with Republicans and Democrats in the Congress that we're not going to use the payroll taxes for anything other than Social Security. And that makes sense.

It not only makes sense, good fiscal sense, it also makes sense because a substantive reform that I look forward to working with Congress on is to make sure the Social Security System is vibrant and strong, particularly as we head into the 21st century, which means not only will we guarantee payments to the seniors who rely upon Social Security today, but we need to think differently and let younger workers manage some of their own money in the private markets, to make sure there is a Social Security System around tomorrow.

Another priority is the health care system. And as an example, the budget I submitted to Congress doubles the Medicare payments over the next 10 years—got over 100-and-something million new dollars of spending in Medicare. And that makes sense, because we must fulfill the obligation to our seniors, meet the promise of a health care system that works for seniors. It's one thing to spend money, but the system also needs to be reformed. And we need to give seniors a variety of options from which to choose, all of which will include prescription drugs, in order to make sure the Medicare system works as we go into the 21st century.

So we're setting priorities. Community health centers is an incredibly important part of the health care mix in America. It's a place where the poor or near-poor can find primary care. The budget I submitted doubles the

number of people who will be served in community health centers over the next 5 years.

It's also a budget that understands the great role of faith programs in our society. I went to one today, run by Rev. LaVerne Ball of the Youth Entertainment Academy, housed in the basement of a church in Plainfield, New Jersey. It's a place that is staffed by people who have heard the universal call to love a neighbor like they would like to be loved themselves. I've expanded in my budget the amount of money for after-school programs and have said loud and clear: If you're a faith-based program, you ought to be able to access that money in order to provide after-care programs for children who are looking for something other than just the standard old way of conducting after-school programs, who are looking for somebody to put their arm around them and say, "I love you, and I care."

Now, this is a budget that meets priorities. We grow the discretionary spending in the budget by 4 percent. Now, that's where the friction is coming in Washington, because the discretionary spending at the end of last year grew at 8 percent. And when you're talking in terms of trillions, that's a huge amount of the increase of—the role of Federal Government.

So we say to the Congress, "There are not many workers in America who got a 4 percent pay raise last year. Surely, you can live within 4 percent discretionary spending. By focusing on priorities, surely the Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, can live within a 4 percent increase of discretionary spending."

I have made it clear that debt reduction is a priority of this administration, and so we pay down, in the budget I submitted, $2 trillion of debt over the next 10 years. That's all the available debt; that's all the debt that becomes available to pay off during that period of time. That's $2 trillion; that's the largest debt repayment of any nation at any time in any history.

So the budget sets priorities. It grows discretionary spending at 4 percent, considerably less than the spending orgy that took place last year but, nevertheless, enough to meet the needs. It pays down $2 trillion of debt. It sets aside the payroll tax for Social Security. It doubles the Medicare budget. And there's also a trillion-dollar contingency fund, so there's another trillion over 10 years that's set aside for contingencies. It may be an agricultural issue that we need to deal with. We may need to bolster the payment of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There's money set aside. It makes common sense not to spend all the money, and so therefore, we've got money set aside. We pay down debt; we meet discretionary spending; and there's still money left over. And that's where the battle is. And the fundamental question is what to do with it.

My belief is that once we meet priorities, instead of increasing the size and the scope of the Federal Government, we better remember who pays the bills in America. We better remember the working people. We better remember who created this surplus in the first place.

And so I submitted a plan that says, instead of increasing discretionary spending, let's give people more of their own money back. And it makes sense to do so. It makes sense to do so. Our economy is beginning to sputter. I believe—I was asked about the markets today; I'm sorry people are losing value in their portfolios. That worries me, but with the right policies, I'm confident our economy will recover—the right policies, fiscal policies. And that means giving people money back, in plain language. Or better yet, don't take it in the first place.

And we're making good progress on this issue. We're making good progress. The House passed the cut on marginal rates, and I want to thank the Members of the House who were with me on that. It makes sense.

Let me tell you the principles behind that part of the tax relief plan. I don't believe the proper role of Government is to try to pick and choose winners when it comes to tax relief. See, I don't think there's a right American or wrong American when it comes to those who pay taxes. I think, if we're going to have tax relief, all Americans ought to get tax relief.

So we reduced all the rates on everybody who pays taxes and simplified the code; reduced the rates from 5 to 4; we dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. I'm asking Congress to increase the child

credit from $500 to $1,000 per child, and let me give you the benefits.

The benefits of that are—is this: We have a Tax Code that is unfair for people who are trying to get ahead in life, people who are struggling on the outskirts of poverty. If you're a single mom raising your children, two children, for example, and you're making about $22,000 a year, for every additional dollar you earn in working the toughest job in America, raising those kids—for every additional dollar you earn, you pay a higher marginal rate than a Wall Street banker. And that's the facts. As you begin to lose your earned-income tax credit and go in the 15 percent bracket and pay payroll taxes, the hardest dollar you earn is taxed at nearly 50 percent.

And folks, that isn't right. That's not what the American experience should be. It seems like to me the harder you work, the more money you ought to put in your pocket. And our Tax Code ought to reflect that, and that's why we dropped the bottom rate from 15 to 10 and increased the child credit.

But we also dropped the top rate, from 39.6 to 33 percent. And I know there's a lot of people that are hollering about that part of the tax package. First, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. But I want the Members of Congress to understand that part of this plan is to stimulate the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs, and that thousands of small-business owners in America are unincorporated or sole proprietors, or Subchapter S's, and pay taxes at the highest marginal rates. And by cutting the top rate, we stimulate the growth of small business in America.

Those who would like to leave your money in Washington try to make us feel bad about cutting the top rate. But I come from the school of thought that the American Dream must be alive and well. The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can realize his or her dreams, in which the small-business owner can find capital in order to fuel an idea. And cutting that top rate is an infusion of capital for the small-business owner in America, and it makes good economic sense. And it makes good sense to reinforce the American Dream through good tax policy.

This Tax Code is not only unfair to people struggling to get ahead at the bottom end of the economic ladder; it sends the wrong signals. It doesn't make sense, and it's unfair to tax marriage in America. We need to do something about the marriage penalty in the Tax Code. And it's unfair to tax a person's assets twice, and we ought to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code, as well.

This plan is fiscally sound. It makes common sense. We meet priorities; we pay down debt; we set aside money for Social Security; but we also remember who pays the bills. It makes sense for our economy to give people their money back, and that's why I look forward to working with Congress to make sure this tax relief package is retroactive.

Senator Corzine and I on the plane talked about how we'd make sure money gets in the economy as quickly as possible. And I appreciate his thoughts along those lines. This is part of an economic recovery plan, but this plan is also good for American families. And the Dietrich family is with us today. Where are you? There you go. Thank you for coming, Mark and Kim and Mark, Jr., and Christopher. And I've asked them to come because oftentimes during the course of these tax debates and budgets, all you hear are numbers. But it's important for me to remind people in America that there are lives affected by our discussions.

And there's a lot of focus, for example, on debt at the national level, and that's fine. That makes sense. But I also want the policymakers to understand there's debt at the local level, too, that a lot of hardworking Americans have got credit card debt. And when you couple credit card debt, for example, with high energy prices, it puts people in a bind. And good public policy frees Americans to be able to make more decisions for their families.

These good folks pay $5,700 in Federal income taxes. When our plan is fully implemented, they will save $2,000. Now, that may not sound like a lot—oh, I know, in this land of big numbers, $2,000 may not sound like a lot, but it's a lot to them. It's a lot to a family who is worrying about high energy bills. It's a lot to a family who wants to put

aside money for their children. It's a lot for moms and dads who are concerned about the future of their family. It's a lot. And my attitude is, once we made basic needs, I'd rather have these good people spending the $2,000 than the United States Congress spending it.

It's a fundamental decision where we put our trust. And that's what I want this debate to focus on: Who do you trust? Oh, I love dealing with the Members of the Congress, and they're good folks. They care a lot about their country. But we ought to trust the people of America. We ought to trust them to spend their own money. We ought to trust them to make the right decisions for their families. We ought to have a limited and focused and energetic Federal Government that, when it's all said and done, holds the people up in our trust.

And after all, that's not only important for good economic policy; that's important to make sure America fulfills its promise for everybody who is fortunate enough to live here. Because, you see, the great strength of the country really doesn't exist in the halls of our governments; the great strength of America is in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

One of the biggest honors of my job is to be able to travel the country and say thanks to those social entrepreneurs who literally change America, one face at a time; people who don't wait for Government to act and who say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help? What can I do, brother or sister, to help you on your walk?" I think of Catholic Charities that provide such incredible service all around America. I think about homeless shelters staffed by volunteers who feel the need to help somebody in need. No, the great strength of this country, folks, exists in neighborhood after neighborhood after neighborhood, where people of religion and people who don't give a hoot about religion say, "What can I do to help a neighbor in need?"

My job is not only to argue good policy on behalf of the people and argue on your behalf to make sure your money ends up in your pocket after needs are met; my job is also to lift the spirit of the country and to call upon the best, to work to unite our Nation, but always remember that the true strength of America is our people and the hearts of our people and the compassion of America.

I'm fortunate to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. It's an unimaginable honor. And I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to come and talk about a commonsense policy for the budget, but to remind you that if you see somebody in need, put your arm around them; tell them God loves them.

Godspeed to you all, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the ballroom at the East Brunswick Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco of New Jersey; Diane DiFrancesco, Governor DiFrancesco's wife; New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Jack Collins; and Joan Verplanck, president, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

Exchange With Reporters on Returning From the Friends of Ireland Luncheon on Capitol Hill

March 15, 2001

The President. Hey, look who's here.

The First Lady. Hi, everybody.

The President. Barney's back. [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. Barney had a really good trip.

The President. Hey, Spot, look who's here.

Q. Mrs. Bush, where are you coming from?

The First Lady. I'm coming from Texas. I've been at the ranch.

Meeting With Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland

Q. What do you expect out of your meeting with the Irish leaders?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. What do you expect out of your meeting with the Irish PM—Prime Minister?

The President. I had a good meeting, and I'll have one tomorrow, as well. Looking forward to it. We'll be discussing the Good Friday agreement, what I can do to help—be reaffirming our trade with Ireland. We had a good visit with him at lunch. I'm looking forward to seeing him tomorrow.

Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

Q. Mr. President, are you prepared to send your suggestions on campaign finance legislation to the Hill, and——

The President. Pretty soon.

Q. ——what would you like to see in it?

The President. Well, wait until I send them up there, but we'll be sending some principles up here pretty soon.

Q. Not today?

The President. Maybe today.

Q. Mr. President, to follow up, I mean, do you still support limited soft money contributions?

The President. I think we ought to get rid of labor union and corporate soft money. And I know we need to make sure we have—to make sure that shareholders and labor union members have got a say-so on how their money is spent.

Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe. Thank you all very much.

The President. Just getting warmed up. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you, Barney.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:22 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to his dogs Spot and Barney. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

March 15, 2001

Dear _____ *:*

As the Senate prepares to consider campaign finance reform legislation, I wanted to highlight my principles for reform. I am committed to working with the Congress to ensure that fair and balanced campaign finance reform legislation is enacted.

These principles represent my framework for assessing campaign finance reform legislation. I remain open to other ideas to meet our shared goals.

I am hopeful that, working together, we can achieve responsible campaign finance reforms.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Campaign Finance Reform: President Bush's Reform Principles

Protect Rights of Individuals to Participate in Democracy: President Bush believes democracy is first and foremost about the rights of individuals to express their views. He supports strengthening the role of individuals in the political process by: 1) updating the limits established more than two-decades ago on individual giving to candidates and national parties; and 2) protecting the rights of citizen groups to engage in issue advocacy.

Maintain Strong Political Parties: President Bush believes political parties play an essential role in making America's democratic system operate. He wants to maintain the strength of parties, and not to weaken them. Any reform should help political parties more fully engage citizens in the political process and encourage them to express their views and to vote.

Ban Corporate and Union Soft Money: Corporations and labor unions spend millions of dollars every election cycle in unregulated "soft" money to influence federal elections. President Bush supports a ban on unregulated corporate and union contributions of soft money to political parties.

Eliminate Involuntary Contributions: President Bush believes no one should be forced to support a candidate or cause against his or her will. He therefore supports two parallel reforms: 1) legislation to prohibit corporations from using treasury funds for political activity without the permission of shareholders; and 2) legislation to require unions to obtain authorization from each dues-paying worker before spending those dues on activities unrelated to collective bargaining.

Require Full and Prompt Disclosure: President Bush also believes that in an open society, the best safeguard against abuse is full disclosure. He supports full, prompt and

constitutionally permissible disclosure of contributions and expenditures designed to influence the outcome of federal elections, so voters will have complete and timely information on which to make informed decisions.

Promote Fair, Balanced, Constitutional Approach: President Bush believes reform should not favor any one party over another or incumbents over challengers. Both corporations and unions should be prohibited from giving soft money to political parties, and both corporations and unions should have to obtain permission from their stockholders or dues-paying workers before spending treasury funds or dues on politics. President Bush supports including a non-severability provision, so if any provision of the bill is found unconstitutional, the entire bill is sent back to Congress for further adjustments and deliberations. This provision will ensure fair and balanced campaign finance reform.

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Trent Lott, Senate majority leader, and Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader. Copies of this letter were provided to all other Senators.

Remarks at a Saint Patrick's Day Shamrock Presentation Ceremony With Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland

March 16, 2001

Taoiseach, thank you very much, sir. We're so honored you're here. Laura and I welcome you and welcome our guests. Thank you all for coming. We accept this crystal of shamrocks, not just as a symbol of Ireland but as a symbol of a strong friendship between our nations, our shared values and shared history and shared hopes. Thank you for continuing this Saint Patrick's Day tradition. And we really appreciate this wonderful gift.

But Saint Patrick's Day is also a time for everyone to reflect on Ireland's many gifts to the world. We are thankful, first, for all that Ireland and the Prime Minister have done to further the cause of peace in Northern Ireland. There's an Irish expression, "the work praises the man." The peace that holds today in Northern Ireland is no small measure a tribute to the Prime Minister and his courageous leadership. And I assured him, and will continue to do so, that the United States stands ready to help in any way that the governments involved need.

The world is also thankful for the thousands of peacekeepers Ireland sends to other troubled corners of the globe, everywhere from Kosovo to East Timor. And we're thankful for the generous development aid Ireland sends to the world's poorest nations.

But Ireland's most precious gift to the world has been the Irish. No nation has benefited more from Irish talent and industry than the United States. You've given us Presidents, nine signers of the Declaration of Independence. In fact, so many Irish served as volunteers in the Continental Army, a Lord in Parliament lamented, "We have lost America through the Irish." [*Laughter*]

Today, over 44 million Irish-Americans reinforce the natural bonds of friendship between our nations. The United States is proud of our strong ties of trade and investment and proud that they have contributed to the strong economy that you have led. We look forward to working even more closely with Ireland, particularly now that it serves on the U.N. Security Council.

According to legend, Saint Patrick returned to Ireland after hearing the Irish people beckon him in a dream to come and walk among us once more. Well, today, it is a world that beckons the Irish to continue walking among us and sharing with us the rich culture, the large hearts, and good works.

So Mr. Prime Minister, America is proud to call Ireland a friend, not just on Saint Patrick's Day but on every day.

Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the Prime Minister Ahern.

Remarks at a Saint Patrick's Day Reception

March 16, 2001

Thank you very much. It sounds like we invited some rowdy Irish-Americans.

[*Laughter*] Thank you all for coming. *Taoiseach*, thank you very much, sir. Secretary of State of Northern Ireland, Dr. Reid; First Minister Trimble; Deputy First Minister Mallon—thank you all for being here.

I want to thank the Ambassadors who are here. I want to thank the other leaders from Northern Ireland who are here. It's most gracious of you to take your time to come and celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with us. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see you again, sir, as well.

The *Taoiseach* and I just had an excellent meeting. We spent a good hour of frank dialog. He gave me Dublin's perspective on the peace process in Northern Ireland, just as Prime Minister Blair gave me London's perspective when we met last month. An Irish proverb tell us that a friend's eye is a good mirror. And I can tell you that what is striking about my meetings with both Prime Ministers is how similar their perspectives are, how optimistic they are, and how determined they are.

It is clear that all sides want the Good Friday agreement to succeed. It is also clear that all sides are seeking to overcome very difficult internal obstacles and to keep up forward momentum. The agreement negotiated by both Prime Ministers in Belfast last week is a reflection of a common commitment. As always, we deeply appreciate the efforts.

And again, I want to pledge what I said yesterday: The United States stands ready to help. It is in our national interest that there be a lasting peace, a real, lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

I also want to say how much I appreciate the contributions that Irish-Americans have made to the cause of peace. Many of you are right here in this room, and our Nation thanks you. By supporting those committed to a peaceful approach, you're truly giving something back to your native land.

Today is also about celebrating what Irish-Americans have given to their adopted land. The White House itself was designed by an Irish-American. This fact about America's home is symbolic of the contributions made by millions of Irish of both Catholic and Protestant persuasion.

Your industry and talent and imagination have enriched our commerce and enriched our culture. The strong record of public service has fortified our democracy, and the strong ties to family and faith and community have strengthened our Nation's character. In short, the Irish are a big reason why we'll always be proud to call ourselves a nation of immigrants.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

And now, would you join us, please, for some refreshments in the State Room.

Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to United Kingdom Secretary of State for Northern Ireland John Reid; and First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland Executive.

Message on the Observance of Saint Patrick's Day, 2001

March 16, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to those celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Each year on March 17, joyous events commemorate the remarkable life of Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Born in Britain many centuries ago, Patrick was captured as a teenager by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During six years of forced labor as a herdsman, he looked to his religious faith for sustenance.

Patrick eventually escaped and returned to Britain, where he dreamed that he was being called to serve as a missionary. He began to study for the priesthood and returned to Ireland, dedicating his life to preaching Christianity. Patrick endured hardship and suffering, but his bravery and devotion to his faith became legendary in the hearts and minds of the Irish people.

Centuries later, St. Patrick's Day pays tribute to an incredible hero and to the rich cultural heritage of the Emerald Isle. Countless Americans symbolically proclaim Irish ancestry by taking part in the festivities celebrating the stories and traditions of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is also a time to honor the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation's history and way of life, enriching the United States in great measure.

As we move into the 21st century, Americans look forward to continued friendship and goodwill with the people of Ireland. Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful St. Patrick's Day.

George W. Bush

Remarks to Small-Business Owners

March 16, 2001

Thank you all for coming. Be seated. [*Laughter*] Madame Secretary, thank you very much for the kind introduction. I want to welcome you all to the White House, the people's house. I can't tell you what an honor it is to live here. It's been a fantastic experience for me and Laura and our family, and we take our responsibilities seriously.

I want to welcome you. I want to welcome the entrepreneurs of America. First, I want to recognize Hector Baretto, who is the nominee for the Small Business Administration—Hector—and president of the Utah State Senate, Al Mansell, is here, as well. Al, thank you for coming.

Before I introduce the folks behind me, I'd like to say something about commonsense budgeting, something you get to do every day, something our Federal Government ought to do with your money. And that is, take a commonsense approach about what we do with the people's money. And it means setting priorities, understanding whose money it is we're spending. And the best way to do this is to say, what are our priorities?

Education is a priority, and we need to focus on education. But I also remember where I came from. It's one thing to spend money at the Federal level; it's another thing to make sure we understand how to achieve educational excellence for every child. And that means trusting local folks to chart the path to excellence. The people who care more about the children in a respective community are the people who live in the community. And so while we'll focus some Federal resources, we need to trust the local people by passing power out of Washington, DC, to run their public schools in America, and at the same time, we've got to insist upon results.

You do that every single day with your businesses. The Federal Government ought to start doing that, as well. And so we're going to say, "There's more money for you but show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. You measure, you show us so that not one single child gets left behind."

Another priority is the defense of the country. It's a solemn, solemn task of the President to keep the peace, which means we've got to prioritize spending in the military. And it starts with making sure we pay our troops more money. And so my budget says, there's more money for those who wear the uniform and better housing for those who wear the uniform and taking care of the veterans, for those who used to wear the uniform.

Another priority is health care. We've got a plan to take care of the working uninsured by refundable tax credits. We double the Medicare budget over a 10 year period of time. Another priority is to make sure that the Social Security system is safe and secure. And it starts with spending the Social Security money on only one thing—Social Security.

So this is a budget that I submitted that sets priorities. It increases what's called discretionary spending by 4 percent. That's enough to fund our priorities and keep our commitments without overburdening working folks and small-business owners. Now, part of the consternation here in Washington is that I don't want to spend as much money as they used to spend up here. By setting priorities and focusing and remembering whose money it is we're spending, I think we can slow the rate of growth down.

You see, at the end of last time, the last session, discretionary spending increased 8 percent. That's a lot, particularly when you're talking in terms of trillions. And so we've said, "Let's be responsible with the people's money. Let's focus, let's meet needs, but let's always remember whose money it is in the first place."

There is a lot of discussion about debt reduction, and that's a worthy discussion. The budget I submitted pays down $2 trillion in debt. That's all the debt that's coming due over the next 10 years—that's $2 trillion over

10 years. People say, "Why don't you pay down more?" And for those of you who have debt, long-term debt, know there is a cost to prepaying debt. And it doesn't make any sense to pay a premium to prepay debt with the people's money. That's not good fiscal policy. It doesn't bring any common sense to the budget.

But when we discuss debt, I also want Members of Congress to understand there is more than just Government debt. There is credit card debt that burdens working people. There is debt in the private sector. And it seems to make common sense to me that when we're planning what to do with the people's money that we not only pay debt at the national level, but we give people some of their own money back or don't take it in the first place, so they can manage their own debt, so that small businesses can manage their debt.

I set aside money in our budget over a 10 year period, the 10-year budget, for contingencies. So there is a trillion over 10 that's not spent, just in case something comes up. What I'm trying to do is to lay out exactly what we've got planned for the country. We increase discretionary spending by 4 percent. That's greater than the rate of inflation. That's greater than most people's paychecks have risen by. We pay down debt by $2 trillion. We set aside a trillion debt of contingencies—I mean, $1 trillion of contingency money. And the debate is, what to do with the rest, because, you see, incredibly enough, as a result of your hard work and the tax burden on the American people, there is still money left over. And so what do we do?

And by the way, before I tell you what I think we ought to do, I want you to know the assumptions in the plan are conservative assumptions. For example, over the 10 year period it is assumed our economy will grow at 3.2 percent. We can do better than that in America. We don't have to have such a pessimistic view of the productivity of the American people and the ingenuity of the entrepreneurs and the hard work of small-business people. We'll do better than that.

So I want to assure my fellow Americans that the assumptions in the budget are very conservative assumptions. After all, in the first 4 months of this year the cash flow coming into our Treasury is $40 billion more than anticipated. And it seems like to me that if you're collecting $40 billion more than you thought, somebody is being overcharged.

And so we've submitted a plan to Congress to provide meaningful tax relief. Let me give you some of the principles of the plan. First, I don't believe in targeting tax cuts. I don't think the U.S. Congress ought to be able to pick and choose the winners in society. "You get the tax relief, and you don't get the tax relief." It makes sense that everybody who pays taxes, if we're going to have tax relief, ought to get tax relief. That's the fair way to do things.

We need to begin the process of making the code more simple. And a good place to start is to reduce the number of rates there are. So we shrink the rates from five to four and drop all rates. The Tax Code is very unfair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're struggling to get ahead in America, say for example, you're a single mom, raising children, and you're at the $22,000-a-year range, for every additional dollar you earn, the way this code is structured today, you pay a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who's making over $200,000. As the lady who's struggling to get ahead, trying to put food on the table for her family, makes additional dollars over time—if you're a waitress, for example, working late at night—that additional dollar is taxed at a higher rate than someone making $200,000. That's incredibly unfair, and it's certainly not what America's about, as far as I'm concerned.

America ought to be about rewarding hard work, not punishing hard work. And so we drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. The code is not only unfair at penalizing people who live on the outskirts of poverty, the code also sends the wrong signal when it comes to marriage. And we have a marriage penalty in the Tax Code that we need to fix. And so my plan that I'm submitting to Congress does just that.

But I want to talk about two other aspects of the tax relief package that are very important and sometimes misunderstood. I strongly believe we need to drop the top rate from

39.6 to 33 percent. I've heard all the rhetoric about what that means, and so have you. But overlooked in the political hyperbole that tends to take place in our process is the fact that dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent serves as a stimulus to small-business growth in America.

The Treasury Department released a report earlier today on small-business owners who pay personal income taxes and small businesses which pay at the highest rate of 39.6. According to the Treasury Department, nationwide there are more than 17.4 million small-business owners and entrepreneurs who stand to benefit from dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial person in America who works hard and dreams big can realize his or her dreams. That's the role of Government.

I've got three folks standing up here that will serve as vivid examples of small-business folks from respective States. And I want to explain the impact of what dropping the top rate means in terms of the number of people, number of small businesses, who will be affected. Again, I repeat for America to hear: Most small businesses don't pay corporate taxes; most small businesses are sole proprietors or Subchapter S's. And their businesses are subject to personal income tax rates.

Patty Nathe of the State of Florida represents a State where there is one million small businesses and entrepreneurs who will benefit when we drop the top rate. Dennis Fugo from Ohio—Denise Fugo, who happens to be head of the National Restaurant Association, represents a State that has more than 630,000 small-business owners and entrepreneurs who will benefit. And Brad Drake from the State of South Dakota, an entrepreneur and small-business owner, represents a State with 55,000 small-business owners and entrepreneurs in a State who will benefit from dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent.

It is very important for Congress to hear from you. It is also important for Congress to understand the impact small businesses have on our economy and to always keep that in mind. If we want to have a strong economy and a strong America, it is important to understand that small businesses generate 51 percent of the private sector GDP and that small businesses provide 75 percent of the net new jobs in America.

The small-business owner is incredibly important to the future of this country. And this tax relief plan is aimed at encouraging capital formation and capital growth in the small-business sector of America. And the Congress must understand that and must hear from you all.

The tax relief plan will increase cash flow of small businesses, giving folks more resources to buy more equipment and, as importantly, hire more workers. This tax relief plan gives people a chance from both political parties to send a clear signal that we are allies here in Washington of the small-business owner, not adversaries, that we encourage small business growth, that we understand the importance of the entrepreneur in the American economic sector.

And I hope as you all become involved in this process, that you help fight through the noise, the background chatter, the kind of political clutter that tends to fog the real issue. And the real issue is, how do we get money in the pockets of our entrepreneurs, after we meet basic obligations of Government, after we increase discretionary spending by 4 percent, and pay down taxes?

The fundamental debate is, what to do? And the apologists, those who don't stand on the side of the entrepreneur, want to say, "Use every excuse in the business to keep your money in Washington." They want to grow the size of Government. I don't. I want to grow the size of the private sector by giving you your money back.

And there's another debate that's taking place that affects you directly. And it's about the death tax. I don't think it's fair to tax a person's assets twice. I don't think it's fair for the small-business owner or the farmer or the rancher to work their life so they can pass their asset or their business on to a relative or a family member and have it taxed twice, once when you make the income and secondly after you die. I hope—I hope—that you stand with us, not only to make sure that the tax relief plan is fair, staying with us to

make sure that dropping that top rate—people hear what it does for the incredibly vital sector of America, the American economy, which is the small-business sector—but also stand with us in sending that message loud and clear, that we need to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code.

I urge you to let your Senator know, or Senators know, what your opinion is. I believe you can have a big impact on how folks think up here. I certainly feel like we're making progress by reminding people of the practicalities of budgeting and the commonsense approach to what to do with your money.

But you need to let people know what they ought to be doing with your money, too. And a choice is—the choice is growing our economy or growing the Government. I just want to assure you that we've got ample money to meet our needs. And if we don't pass money back, I just know what's going to happen to it. It's going to be spent. [*Laughter*]

It's like the grandmother in Council Bluffs, Iowa, said during a speech. She said she has baked a lot of cookies in her day. And she's seen children and grandchildren come through her house. And every time she's left the cookies on the plate, they have been eaten. [*Laughter*] And that's how I view the budget process. [*Laughter*]

Finally, I want to urge you to be involved in your communities. I know you are in hiring people. But as entrepreneurs and concerned citizens, it's also important to be involved in your schools, to help fund and staff the programs that literally change America, one face at a time.

You see, the great strength of America are the people of our country, the dreamers and doers and people who can accomplish things. People not only figure out how to make a living by using their brain but also figure out how to make their neighborhoods better by following their hearts. I hope you sponsor mentoring programs, so that all children feel like somebody cares about them in our society. I hope you get involved with after-school programs, that may be sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The greatness of the country really, really exists because Americans care about our future.

There is a role for Government, but I understand how limited it is. I oftentimes tell people I wish I could sign the law that says we'll love each other like we'd like to loved ourself. That's not the role of Government. But it is the role of the President to lift the spirit of the country and to call upon the best. And the best are sitting right here. And I urge you to go back to your community and make a difference in somebody's life.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Labor Elaine Lan Chao, who introduced the President.

Proclamation 7416—National Girl Scout Week, 2001

March 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This week marks the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Juliette Gordon Low founded the organization as a way to give girls greater opportunities to develop skills and to mentor them in knowledge and character. Promoting leadership and altruism, the Girl Scouts organization has played a unique and important role in preparing millions of girls to master challenges and to pursue dreams.

The Girl Scouts offers many ways for members to explore their interests and talents. With participation spanning five levels, girls ages 5 to 17 learn the importance of strong values as they strive to fulfill the highest ideals of good citizenship. The pure enjoyment of camping and other recreational activities is matched with lessons in compassionate caring for their neighbors.

Today, almost 3 million girls and more than 900,000 adult volunteers reap the benefits of involvement with this beloved and enduring organization. Guiding America's next generation of leaders, the Girl Scouts helps individuals to reach their full potential and builds a brighter future for our great Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 11 through March 17, 2001, as National Girl Scout Week. I call on the people of the United States to observe the 89th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 20.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 12

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Panama City, FL, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paula J. Dobriansky to be Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs.

The President announced the designation of Dale Cabaniss as Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

March 13

In a morning ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Cyrille Oguin of Benin, Usha Jeetah of Mauritius, Yang Jiechi of China, Knut Vollebaek of Norway, Vygaudus Usackas of Lithuania, and Rostom Al-Zoubi of Syria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy A. Bernardi to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate William James Haynes to be General Counsel at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victoria Clarke to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Chertoff to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina at the White House for a working visit on April 19.

March 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Plainfield, NJ. In the afternoon, he traveled to East Brunswick, NJ, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard J. Egan to be Ambassador to Ireland.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Burns to be Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lou Gallegos to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Powell A. Moore to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Charles Weicher to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and serve as Federal Housing Commissioner.

The White House announced that the President added the responsibility of leading the U.S. engagement in support of the Northern Ireland peace process to Richard Haass' February 6 nomination to be Director of Policy and Planning at the State Department.

March 15

In the afternoon, the President met separately with World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion Johnny Ruiz and National

PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Educator Award winner Katha Black in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gene Hickok to be Under Secretary of Education.

March 16

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Samuel W. Bodman to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ann Laine Combs to be Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen B. Cooper to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the White House on March 23.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Juan Carlos I of Spain on March 28.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Quebec City, Canada, for the third Summit of the Americas on April 20–22.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Japan, South Korea, and China in October.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 13

Theodore Bevry Olson,
of the District of Columbia, to be Solicitor General of the United States, vice Seth Waxman, resigned.

Dov S. Zakheim,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), vice William J. Lynn III.

Submitted March 15

Kenneth I. Juster,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, vice William Alan Reinsch, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Argentine President To Visit Washington

Released March 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Appointment of the Counterintelligence Executive

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the designation of Richard N. Haass to lead U.S. engagement in support of the Northern Ireland peace process

Released March 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President's Attendance at Summit of the Americas

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President's Travel to Asia

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit by King Juan Carlos I of Spain

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Announcement on the President's signing H.J. Res. 19 (Public Law No. 107–4)

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 13

H.R. 559 / Public Law 107–2
To designate the United States courthouse located at 1 Courthouse Way in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse"

S. 279 / Public Law 107–3
Affecting the representation of the majority and minority membership of the Senate Members of the Joint Economic Committee

Approved March 16

H.J. Res. 19 / Public law 107–4
Providing for the appointment of Walter E. Massey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

The President's Radio Address

March 17, 2001

Good morning. For several months, economic indicators have pointed toward a slowdown, and now many Americans are beginning to feel its impact in your lives. The stock market is causing worries; high energy prices are straining family budgets; and some American workers and small-business people have been directly affected by layoffs and slowing retail sales. We have been hearing too much troubling economic news. It is time for the United States Congress to give Americans some good economic news: tax relief for everyone who pays income taxes.

This would be good news for families struggling to pay off debt and to save for the future. It would be good news for small businesses that need customers with money to spend. And it would be good news for our broader economy; good news for economic growth and job creation and consumer confidence.

The House of Representatives has already passed a large part of my tax relief plan. Now it is up to the Senate. It is only common sense to give our economy a boost in a slowdown. Yet tax relief is more than common sense; it is a matter of principle. My tax relief plan is also a tax reform plan. It corrects some of the worst, most unfair abuses in our current tax system. And I would be recommending these changes in any economic circumstance.

On principle, our Tax Code should reward hard work and overtime by men and women struggling to enter the middle class. Right now they face some of the highest marginal rates in the Tax Code. So we lower those rates to encourage their dreams.

On principle, our Tax Code should honor family. That's why we double the per-child tax credit and reduce the marriage penalty.

On principle, no one in America should have to pay more than a third of their paycheck to the Federal Government. So we reduce tax rates for everyone in every bracket.

On principle, every family, every farmer, and small-business person should be free to pass on their life's work to those they love. So we abolish the death tax.

These are not Republican principles or Democratic principles; these are principles that are shared by Americans in both parties, and Americans in no party. This is the reason my tax relief plan has so much momentum. Americans want our Tax Code to be reasonable and simple and fair. These are goals that unite our country, and these are goals that have shaped my plan.

The Senate should act quickly on my plan for two good reasons: First, tax relief is good news for our economy, which needs some good news. Second, my tax reform plan will treat everyone fairly.

If you agree with me, I hope you'll tell your Senator that you agree. Together we can help make our Nation more prosperous and our tax system more fair.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:06 p.m. on March 16 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters

March 19, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of our close friend to the Oval Office. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. This meeting is an important meeting because it gives us both a chance to confirm the importance of our relationship. We view Japan as a very strong friend and ally, and

that's the way it's going to be during my administration.

And we've got such a good friendship and such a strong alliance that we're able to overcome occasional problems that might arise. We can do so in the spirit of friendship. So I'm honored that the Prime Minister is here. We're going to have a—we'll discuss a lot of issues: we'll discuss our economies; we'll discuss trade; we'll discuss our alliance and how best to work together to keep the peace. I'm looking forward to a very fruitful and important discussion.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Mori. I have spoken to President Bush over the phone three times, but I am delighted today that I am able to have a face-to-face meeting with the President. In today's meeting, as the President just said, I would like to reaffirm the strong alliance between Japan and the United States and would like to discuss a very—a broad range of issues, including various issues in international affairs, and would like to set out the fundamental direction in which the Japan-U.S. alliance should head in the 21st century.

I would like to explain the various measures which our Government has taken so that the Japanese economy will have a fully sustainable economic growth. And I'd like to express my strong determination to pursue necessary policies for that. I'd also like to express to the President my hope that United States will take appropriate macroeconomic policies to deal with the U.S. economy that is slowing down.

Bank of Japan's Zero-Interest-Rate Policy

[*At this point, a question was asked in Japanese, and no translation was provided.*]

Prime Minister Mori. I, of course, will be explaining to the President the decision made by the Bank of Japan yesterday, and I sincerely hope that it will have—and I am certain that it will have a positive effect on our economy.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, with both the Japanese and the American economies in such fragile states, could you explain how you see the interrelationship between the economies and what you'd like to see the Japanese Government do to address its problems and particularly in the financial sector?

President Bush. First, we've got to get our own economy growing the way I know it can. That's why I'm advocating tax relief and free trade regulatory relief. And I look forward to explaining to the Prime Minister that we do have a plan to give our economy a second wind. I'm very confident about our economy. I know it can beat expectations. I will explain that to him, as clearly as I can, about when our policies are in place, how optimistic I am about economic growth.

And secondly, I look forward to hearing Japan's view of reform, internal reform. I'm confident that's going to be a large part of our discussions today.

The interrelationship between our two economies is important. When you combine our economies, we represent about 40 percent of the gross domestic products of all the nations added up. And that's a very important—and therefore, our economies are very important to the world. And the stronger we are, the more likely it is there will be prosperity in other parts of the world. And so this is going to be a very important part of our discussion.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Prime Minister Mori spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori

March 19, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori today reaffirmed the strength of the bilateral relationship between their two countries. The two leaders expressed their conviction that the U.S.-Japan relationship is rooted in friendship, mutual trust, and shared democratic values. They also concurred that these solid ties enable the two countries to deal with problems, such as the regrettable Ehime Maru accident. They noted that the U.S.-Japan alliance is the foundation of peace and stability in the Asia-

Pacific region. Agreeing that the U.S. presence remains vital to regional security, the leaders pledged to work together to further strengthen the alliance.

The two leaders, noting that the United States and Japan together account for roughly 40 percent of the world economy, reaffirmed the importance of working together to promote prosperity in their two countries and around the world. The leaders recognized the need to address the challenges facing their two economies. The Prime Minister reiterated his determination to continue pursuing appropriate economic policies and to promote vigorously structural and regulatory reform to revitalize the Japanese economy and strengthen the financial system, including through effectively addressing the issues of corporate debt and non-performing loans. The President reaffirmed the importance of taking appropriate policies to support sustainable growth in the United States, which will benefit both countries and the world economy. They agreed on the importance of promoting deregulation, restructuring, and foreign direct investment. They agreed to work together to seek new ways to enhance the U.S.-Japan dialogue to address global, regional, and bilateral economic and trade issues, and recognized that bringing views from outside the two governments into this effort would strengthen the bilateral relationship and improve economic performance in both countries. Both leaders also agreed to work together closely for the launch of a new WTO round this year.

President Bush and Prime Minister Mori recognized the growing threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. As part of a comprehensive strategy to meet such threats, they agreed on the importance of stepping up diplomatic efforts, including in the field of arms reduction. They also reaffirmed the need to take effective measures to address such threats, including defensive systems, strengthened proliferation controls, and counterproliferation measures. The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the United States and Japan are already conducting cooperative research on ballistic missile defense technologies. They agreed on the importance of close consultations on missile defense among allies and with other interested parties.

The two leaders noted that uncertainty in the Asia-Pacific region necessitates close bilateral cooperation, including a dynamic approach to bilateral defense consultation and planning. The two leaders reaffirmed the need to continue to carry out commitments under the 1996 U.S.-Japan Joint Declaration on Security and related undertakings, such as the new Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation and the SACO process, that strengthen the alliance, and they agreed to continue to work closely on issues related to Okinawa. The leaders also agreed that strategic dialogue will be an important step in defining how the alliance can best promote stability and address new challenges that may emerge. They pledged to coordinate closely on pressing regional issues, and reaffirmed the particular importance of maintaining close consultations and coordination regarding North Korea, both bilaterally and trilaterally with the Republic of Korea.

The President and Prime Minister recognized the need for the United States and Japan to continue cooperation on global issues, taking note of the important achievements this cooperation has produced thus far. Noting that their two countries are the world's largest aid donors, the leaders agreed to strengthen joint efforts to address the transnational challenges of the 21st century. The two leaders expressed their commitment to promoting United Nations Security Council reform with the goal of strengthening its effectiveness. In this context, they agreed to continue to work together to obtain for Japan a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The President accepted with gratitude the Prime Minister's invitation for an early visit to Japan.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

March 19, 2001

Well, thank you very much, Abel. I don't know what you said, but—[*laughter*]—it worked.

I want to thank you very much for being here. I appreciate Mitch and Margaret and Ruben and Mark to be here to talk to you all and brief you about what we're trying to do here in the administration. And thank you all for your interest.

Before I begin, I do want to say hello to Hector, who is the designated nominee to the Small Business Administration. And George Herrera, thank you very much, *Jorge.* for your—[*applause*] And thank you all for what you do to make America a unique and wonderful place.

I don't think enough people in our country pay attention to the role of the small-business person, the incredible impact the Hispanic small-business person has on the country. I remember campaigning in California and Hector said, "You know, you've got an amazing statistic. There are thousands of Hispanic-owned small businesses in our State." And I said, "Oh, really, by thousands, what do you mean?" He said, "Would you believe 600,000?" And I said, "I do," because this is what America is all about, the idea of somebody having a dream. It doesn't matter what your background is, where you're from, if you work hard and dream big, you can realize your dream.

And that's what good public policy is all about, too. It firmly recognizes that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. And I want to talk to you about that today in terms of the U.S. budget.

But first, I want to confirm our commitment to free trade in this administration. I believe free trade is an incredibly important part of making sure the environment is hospitable to the formation of small businesses. And trade with Mexico is an integral part of making sure that our hemisphere is safe, secure, and prosperous.

I had a chance to reiterate that face to face with Vicente Fox, who is—he's going to provide good, strong leadership for Mexico. And I told him that a strong Mexico is in our Nations' best interests. It's in our Nations' best interests that Mexico be prosperous and vibrant. And the best way to do so is for there to be free and fair trade between our countries. This is a message I hope the Congress hears.

Our hemisphere, by the way, is not going to be an afterthought for this administration. It's one of the most important parts of our foreign policy, will be to promote prosperity and peace and freedom throughout this hemisphere.

And so part of making sure the environment is hospitable to a capital formation and the entrepreneurial spirit is trade. But another part is to make sure the Federal Government does not squash opportunity by being—overspending taxpayer money.

It's important that we budget wisely. And I want to talk a little bit about our budget, and I want to thank you all for paying attention to the debate in the budget, because it directly affects your lives.

First, the fundamental question a lot of people ask is, "Are we spending enough money to meet the needs of the Government?" And the answer is: Yes, we are. The budget I submitted to Congress increases discretionary spending by 4 percent. Now, keep in mind, that's greater than the rate of inflation; it's greater than, generally, the pay raises that the people who are paying the bills have received. In other words, we're spending quite a bit of money. And that 4 percent, when you look at the budget in terms of trillions, is a lot of money. It's a lot of money.

It allows us to set priorities. I mean, I have set priorities, which allows us to be fiscally responsible with your money. Education is a priority. Funding the defense budget, making sure our folks are paid better, who wear the uniform, is a priority. Medicare and Social Security are priorities. We doubled the Medicare budget, and we say to the Congress that the payroll taxes for Social Security will be only spent on Social Security. We've set priorities.

We've made it clear that education is important. We made it clear that health care is important. We made it clear that retirement systems are important, and we grew

the discretionary spending by 4 percent. Now, the reason there is some hollering up here is because last year they grew the discretionary budget by 8 percent. It's unbelievable how much money they spent on the way out of town. And we're saying, let's be realistic with the people's money.

On the Medicare and Social Security issue, these are more than just spending issues. These two are issues that are important for the future of the country and require the Congress and the President working together. Today the trustees issued their reports on the financial status of Social Security and Medicare. These nonpartisan reports underline and add an exclamation point to the need to reform and strengthen both.

Social Security and Medicare are vital programs, and they need major reforms. We must act and do so courageously. And that's part of my message to the Congress. These are issues that we need to work together on. Today's reports show health care costs are rising at a faster rate than was previously estimated. By 2016, expenses in both Medicare Part A and Social Security will be greater than the payroll taxes coming in to support them, and 2016 isn't very far down the road.

The financing deficit for the entire Medicare program, including Parts A and B, is larger than ever. We must respond and act with courage to keep Medicare and Social Security benefits secure. In the words of the Board of Trustees, both Social Security and Medicare need to be reformed and strengthened at the earliest opportunity, and that's what I'm going to ask both Republicans and Democrats to do on the Hill.

It's one thing to double the Medicare budget over 10 years. We need to work together to make sure the Medicare system responds to the needs of the elderly, to give elderly more choices, including prescription drug benefits, so we can say—firmly say, we're going to keep our promises to the elderly in America.

This requires a sense that—of urgency. We have only so many years to get the systems back on track. It's time to quit the posturing and time to reform the systems. And I'm prepared to spend the political capital, along with both Republicans and Democrats, to do so.

We have long-term commitments, and we'll keep them. And Medicare and Social Security have long-term problems that we're going to solve. Part of the Social Security reform must include allowing younger workers the option to take some of their own money and put it in the private markets, under safe conditions. In order to make sure that there is a Social Security system around tomorrow, we've got to get a better rate of return on the money in the Social Security Trust. And that means trusting people with their own money to make wise decisions as to how to get a better rate of return than the 2 percent in the Social Security Trust. I fully recognize that reforming Medicare and Social Security are going to require a new way of thinking in Washington, but it's time for there to be a new way of thinking in Washington.

There is also a lot of talk about paying down debt, as I'm sure the OMB Director will tell you. We pay down a lot of debt. We pay down $2 trillion of debt over the next 10 years. And that's important. It improves the balance sheet of our Government. But I want to remind the folks that there is more than just Government debt in our society. There is credit card debt that affects the ability of many of our citizens to be able to save, for example.

And when you couple high energy prices with credit card debt, there are some of our families in this country beginning to strain. And it seems wise and commonsense policy to meet our needs at the Federal level, pay down debt, and always remember, if we have any money left over, whose it is to begin with.

And so one of the things I'm asking Congress to do is to be fiscally sane with the people's money, pay down debt, set aside some money for contingencies, but with that money left over, not try to spend it on bigger Government but let it be spent on bigger family—on family needs. It's to pass it back to the people who paid the bills.

That's the fundamental debate taking place here in Washington. It's a debate as to whether or not, after we meet needs, we grow the Government or we trust people with their own money. And this is an issue of trust, and I want your help on the issue.

As I've said, it directly affects you, and let me explain how, besides the fact that if you

pay taxes you're going to get tax relief. And that's one of the principles of this debate. There are some in Washington who would like to have what they call targeted tax relief. It means the Federal Government gets to pick and choose the winners and losers. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government, in my judgment, is to be fair and even-handed, and it says if you pay taxes, you get relief. That's what the role of Government ought to be.

A lot of times in the rhetoric, people forget the facts. And the facts are that thousands of small businesses, Hispanically-owned or otherwise, pay taxes at the highest marginal rate, because most small businesses are not incorporated. They're sole proprietorships, or they're Subchapter S's, and they're subject to the 39.6 percent income tax rate.

And so when you hear us talking about dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, I hope Americans understand the positive effect this will have on the small-business communities.

It is the message that I hope Congress joins me on in saying we understand how small businesses grow, and they grow by being able to have more cash flow to reinvest in their own business. The small-business person is an integral part of new employment in America. But more importantly, the small-business owner represents the great dreams of Americans. And the role of Government is to create an environment that encourages Hispanic-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, anybody-kind-of-owned businesses.

And the reduction of the top rate sends a clear message that we appreciate what you're doing, and we want you to continue to do it, and we want you to have some of your own money so that you can expand your businesses and more likely realize your dreams. That's what tax relief is all about.

We have met the needs of Government. We have paid down debt. We've set aside money for health care. We have set aside the money—the people's money for Social Security. And what we're saying is, after we've grown the budget by 4 percent, let's remember who paid the bills and remember what drives America, and it's the small-business community and the entrepreneur.

And so I'd like your help. I'd like your help by—if you contact your Senators, you might just put a word in for your own self. [*Laughter*]

And there's one other aspect of tax reform that I think is important. There's a lot of it, obviously: We drop all rates; we simplify the code; we increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child, which is a very positive addition to the code because it makes the code more fair for people struggling to get ahead; we do something on the marriage penalty; and as importantly to you, we eliminate the death tax.

The death tax is a tax that causes the small-business owner to pay taxes twice, once as you build your business and then when you pass it on to your heirs. And it seems like to me that part of the American experience ought to make it easy for a mom or a dad, once he or she builds up his or her business, to pass it on to a son or a daughter. That's what America is all about, it's the ability to transfer.

And so I appreciate so very much you all being here to lend your voice—listen to what we have to say and to lend your voice for reason and common sense in Washington, DC. All the rhetoric sometimes tries to obscure reality, and there's a lot of name-calling at times and trying to frighten people one way or the other. But I think when people take an objective look at what we're trying to do, they'll realize this is a commonsense approach to your money, and it recognizes the great strength of America lies not here in Washington but in the hearts and souls of our folks, people who are willing to work hard, take risk, dream big, and realize the great American experience—but not only realize it but enrich it, to make it so much stronger and so much better.

I used to tell the folks in my great State of Texas, I said, I welcome the Hispanic influence in our State. It makes Texas a richer place, a stronger place, a place that I'm proud to call home. And that's the way I feel about America, too.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Associate Director of Public Liaison Abel

Guerra; Office of Management and Budget Director Mitchell Daniels, Jr.; Domestic Policy Adviser Margaret LaMontagne; Intergovernmental Affairs Director Ruben Barrales; Deputy Assistant to the President Marc Sumerlin, National Economic Council; Small Business Administrator-designate Hector V. Barretto; George Herrera, president and chief executive officer, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the National Energy Policy Development Group and an Exchange With Reporters

March 19, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate the Vice President calling this meeting. It's a meeting to bring me up to speed as to what the committee that we put together to look at the energy situation in America, where we are. His group is making good progress. Obviously, this is an issue that this administration takes very seriously. We've assembled senior members of the Cabinet to analyze the situation and to come up with recommendations.

It is clear from first analysis that demand for energy in the United States is increasing, much more so than production is. And as a result, we're finding in certain parts of the country that we're short on energy. And this administration is concerned about it, and we will make a recommendation to the country as to how to proceed.

But one thing is for certain: There are no short-term fixes—that the solution for our energy shortage requires long-term thinking and a plan that we'll implement that will take time to bring to fruition. It not only includes good conservation but, as well, exploration for oil and gas and coal, development of energy sources that exist within our 50 States.

It also requires good foreign policy, and that's—in order to increase the amount of energy available for American consumers, we've to work closely with our neighbors to the north and the south, which we will do.

And so, Mr. Vice President, thank you. You've done good work, and we look forward to reporting to the Nation when your report is final.

OPEC Production Limits

Q. Mr. President, during the campaign you said that you'd be able to work with our allies in OPEC to get them to restrain the prices. Given what happened over the weekend, what went wrong? Do you consider it a direct rebuff to your administration's entreaty? And what are you going to do about it?

The President. The OPEC nations are responding to decreased demand. World demand, they think, is going to decrease, and therefore, they've responded with a million-barrel cut.

The piece of good news in their decision was that the Saudi minister made it clear that he and his friends would not allow the price of oil, crude oil, to exceed $28 a barrel. That's very comforting to the American consumer, and I appreciate that gesture. I thought that was a very strong statement of understanding, that high prices of crude oil will affect our economy.

Having said that, it's important for American consumers to understand that if we have a price spike in refined product, it's not going to be because of the price of crude oil being at $25 or $26 a barrel. It's going to be because we don't have enough capacity, refining capacity; we're not generating enough product. And that's another issue that we'll be dealing with, is how to make sure we can get refined product to our consumers.

Q. So this cut in production won't have an impact on gasoline prices this summer?

The President. We don't think so. We think that the major—the major impact on gasoline prices, if they go up, is a result of not generating enough supply—enough refined product to meet the demand of U.S. drivers. And we haven't built a refinery in 25 years in America. We're not generating enough gasoline to meet demands. It's the same as natural gas. We're not exploring for enough natural gas to meet demand; we're not building enough power generating plants to meet demand; and we're beginning to pay the price for it.

America has got to understand that energy is an issue, and we're going to deal with it.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Q. Mr. President, you say there are no short-term fixes, but are you considering, or will you consider short-term options in case there are shortages this summer, such as tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve?

The President. We've been through that before. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is meant for a national emergency when it comes to war. There are some things we can do. We can work with California, at the Governor's request, to expedite permitting. And Administrator Whitman has done an excellent job of working with California to encourage and enable California to more speedily build plants.

The energy crunch we're in is a supply and demand issue. And we need to reduce demand and increase supply. The best public policy is to understand that, and that's what we're going to do.

Hemispheric Energy Resources

Q. Mr. President, what about tapping Mexico's oil reserves? Have you thought about what that——

The President. Well, we had a good discussion. I had a very good discussion with Vicente Fox. And Secretary Abraham had a very good discussion with his counterpart from Mexico. Mexico has to make the decision as to whether or not they will be willing to allow foreign capital to explore for oil and gas in their country. That's the Mexican decision to make.

I encouraged the President to begin allowing foreign capital to explore for natural gas in Mexico. It would be to our benefit. Gas is hemispheric. An mcf of gas found in Mexico is beneficial for the United States and Canada, even though it's found in Mexico. And the Vice President and I have had discussions with Prime Minister Chretien about exploration for natural gas.

A good energy policy is one that understands we've got energy in our hemisphere and how best to explore for it and transport it to markets. So you bet, we've continued discussions with Mexico, as well as Canada.

Meeting With Black Ministers

Q. The black religious leaders that you met with this afternoon, they emerged from the meeting and were very highly complimentary of you and your faith-based plan. Were you encouraged about the meeting that you had with them as much as they were? And how crucial is their support to your Faith-Based Initiative?

The President. Well, the black ministers with whom I met are very crucial for helping change the neighborhoods and communities in which they live. Many of those preachers are bishops over churches that have got great programs and change people's hearts and provide hope in neighborhoods where there is no hope. So I view them not as agents of politics; I view them as agents of change. And they are supportive of our efforts to empower people to be able to make choices as to where to find services and help. And I am supportive of their efforts to provide help where help is needed. And I really appreciate them coming, so I was very encouraged by the meeting.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Gov. Gray Davis of California; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Women Business Leaders

March 20, 2001

Thank you. Thank you for being here. Please sit down. First Lady—it's got a nice ring to it. [*Laughter*] I'm proud of Laura. She is—she makes this White House special for me. She is—brings a lot of perspective to our household. She kind of reminds the President where he came from—[*laughter*]—and always makes sure my tie lies straight. But I'm proud of the job she's doing for America, and she's going to be a great First Lady.

And I am proud of the ladies behind me, as well. We've put together a great Cabinet. They're not afraid to speak their mind. They're smart. They're capable, and they represent America. And they're good; they're really good. We've got a great Cabinet, and

these good folks up here make a big difference.

And I've got a great staff, as well. And I appreciate Margaret LaMontagne being here. Margaret's the Domestic Policy Adviser to the President. And I've known her a long time. She's plenty capable, and she's spending a lot of time on education, which is one of the subjects I want to discuss with you today. And I appreciate you, Margaret.

I also want to thank Bonnie for your hard work and for putting this on. And I want to thank you all for coming. I know you all are going to Capitol Hill today. I hope you help us deliver a couple of messages. One is going to be on education. Another is on commonsense budgeting and tax relief, and why it's important to all people, particularly those who have decided to invest capital in the private sector. And I want to explain why this tax relief package will spur economic activity and entrepreneurship in America.

First, let me talk about education. I said it was my priority in the campaign. It is our priority in this administration. An educated child is one much more likely to realize his or her dreams. And we've got to do a better job of making sure every child—I mean every child—is educated.

One of things about this administration I think people will find is that we are consistent. We set out a set of principles and stand by them, that we don't try to figure out polls and focus groups—we don't use polls and focus groups to figure out where to head.

And there are some solid principles involved with our education plan. One of them is setting high standards and high expectations for every child. We believe if you have low expectations, you get lousy results. If you believe in the best in every single child and set high expectations, good folks will follow.

Secondly, we believe strongly in local control of schools. We believe in aligning authority and responsibility at the local level. Many of you, as you run your own businesses, know full well that when you separate accountability and responsibility or responsibility and authority, it creates an excuse for failure. "Oh, I would have done it a different way." And so we align authority and responsibility where it belongs, at the local level. And I hope you help Congress understand the importance to pass power out of Washington, to provide flexibility at the State and local level.

Thirdly, we believe strongly in a results-oriented system. A lot of times in education, people focus on process. We think the world needs to start focusing on results. People need to start asking the question, "What do you know?" not "How old are you?" In a world that asks the question, "How old are you?" oftentimes people just get shuffled through regardless of what they know. "If you're 12, you're here. If you're 14, you're here," and, "Let's just move you through." And those of us who have been involved in public education know full well who gets left behind—children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, for example, inner-city kids. It's so much easier to quit on children. We strongly believe that by insisting upon results, it will begin to change the mentality of public schools all across America.

And so, one, we've asked for more money for our budgets. We've increased education spending quite significantly. And we've said, in return, however, we expect States and local jurisdictions to measure, to show us whether or not students can read and write and add and subtract, to focus on every child since every child matters. We've got to end the process-oriented world of public schools.

And we firmly believe that through accountability not only can we diagnose and solve problems, but accountability serves as a catalyst for reforms. It's the accountability system that encourages local folks to say, "Wait a minute, the status quo is unacceptable. Let's try something else." It's strong accountability measures that will foster charter school movements, or public school choice movements, if necessary, to make sure not one single child gets left behind.

So we've got an education vision that says, there will be more money in the system, but let's make sure that we have high standards, local control of schools, and strong results-oriented systems. I firmly believe that when we get the system right, the results will begin to improve dramatically. And we've targeted some money. We've set aside $5 billion for a national reading agenda.

It's not the Federal Government telling you what to do, but the Federal Government saying, "Here's money available for K-through-two diagnostic tools, so that we can determine early in a child's career where that child may need extra help." There's teacher training money. One of the failures—one of the deficiencies—I wouldn't call it a failure, but deficiencies in the system is that oftentimes—our teachers are not given a—taught how to teach a curriculum that works. And we need to retrain teachers. So we've got money available to do that.

We've got intense—money available for after school programs or schools within schools to help young readers get up to speed early. We've set a goal that all children ought to be reading by third grade. And I look forward to working with the Congress, to make sure the program gets funded, and our Secretary of Education, to make sure it gets implemented in such a way as we don't erode local responsibility of schools.

So that's the education plan. Oh, there's a lot of discussion you'll hear about, "We can't measure. It's too much Government to measure." I just disagree. If we're spending money, we ought to get results for the money. But this isn't a national test; this is a test where local folks will design the test. The great State of Pennsylvania can design its own test. Texas designs its own test. But there needs to be a sense of accountability in the system. And then you'll hear people say, "It's racist to test." It's racist not to test. It's racist not to hold people accountable. Those who say it's racist to test must assume that certain children can't learn. We don't believe that. We believe all children can learn.

So the principles involved in the education reform are sound and solid, and they reflect what I hope you all agree with, that there is a better way. We need to challenge the status quo when we find our children trapped in schools that are just not going to teach and won't change.

Secondly, I want to talk about the budget. There's a lot of talk about the budget, of course. And I made some people nervous up here, to be frank with you, because I've decided that instead of increasing discretionary spending by 8 percent on an annual basis, which is a lot, when you're talking in terms of trillions, that we'll have spending increase at 4 percent, greater than the rate of inflation, larger than most people's pay raises last year. And it's caused some consternation, because the temptation is for people to appropriate when money's available.

I was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a grandmother stood up and she said, "You know," she said, "I've baked a lot of cookies in my day, and I've had children and grandchildren go through the house. And every time I leave them on the table, they get eaten." And that's kind of what happens to Federal taxpayers' money.

So I've presented a realistic budget to the Congress. It says, like many of you all do in your businesses, set priorities. I realize that—we've got to realize it's important to set priorities. Education is a priority. The military is a priority of mine, starting with making sure people get better pay and better housing.

Now, we have stepped back from some of the big appropriation requests, because I want Don Rumsfeld to take a full look at the military, to make sure military spending meets a military strategy that will help us keep the peace in the out years. And it's important to do that. It's important to make sure taxpayers' money is well spent and well focused on all areas of concern. And the Defense budget requires a good scrubbing and a good looking-at. And that's exactly what this administration is doing. But in the meantime, we need to send a clear signal to the men and women who wear the troop—who wear the uniform, the troops who wear the uniforms: We appreciate what you do on behalf of America, so we're going to pay you a little better and house you better and have a mission that is more focused, which is to be able to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

We've got money in the budget for Medicare. Our Medicare budget doubles over the next 10 years. And that's part of what's needed, but also—but we also need to make sure the system is modern, that it meets the needs of our seniors, it gives seniors a variety of options from which to choose, and all the options should include prescription drugs. So

there's money in the budget for Medicare. That's a doubling.

And we set aside all the money for Social Security for only one thing, and that is Social Security. Take all the payroll taxes and make sure it's only spent on Social Security, and by the way, its system needs to be reformed, as well. One of the major components of reform is to allow younger workers to take some of their own money and put it in safe and secure market-oriented investment vehicles which will yield a greater rate of return than the paltry 2 percent our money now gets in the Social Security Trust today.

And we pay down $2 trillion worth of debt in our budget. Somebody said, "Why don't you take all the excess money and pay down debt?" Well, first of all, excess money tends to be spent on bigger baselines of Government. And—but the 2 trillion is all that's retiring over the next 10 years—all that's to be retired over the next 10 years. And it doesn't make any sense to pay a premium to prepay debt, and so we're paying down all the debt that's available.

We set aside money for contingencies. And I know this is getting to be quite a long laundry list, but I'm trying to make a point that you all can help me make, is that we've increased discretionary spending by 4 percent; we pay down debt; we protect Social Security; we set aside one trillion over 10 years for contingencies; and there is still money left over. And that's where the fundamental debate comes in Washington, DC. There are those who want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. I believe—I believe we need to remember who paid the money in the first place, and I believe we need to pass it back.

Now, we drop all rates and simplify the code. Drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. We increase the child credit from 500 to 1,000, and the purpose of that is to make sure that those who work hard to get into the middle class are more likely to succeed. The Tax Code today penalizes people in the outskirts of poverty.

The marginal rate for folks coming from—a single mom—the example I like to use is a single mom making $22,000 a year who is struggling to get ahead and trying to raise her two children, which I also happen to believe is the toughest job in America. For every additional dollar she earns above the 22,000, she pays a higher marginal rate than someone making 200,000. And that's just not fair. And so we address the inequity in the Tax Code by dropping the bottom rate and increasing the child credit.

And we also drop the top rate, of course, from 39.6 to 33. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. Everybody who—but everybody benefits, I'm convinced, when the top rate drops because of the effect it will have on the entrepreneurial class in America. What the Congress needs to hear is that most small businesses are unincorporated businesses, sole proprietorships. Many are Subchapter S corps, who pay at the highest marginal rate. And when you drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, you encourage the growth of small businesses, whether they be women-owned small businesses or any other small businesses.

People like to deflect the debate. They like to turn it into a class warfare debate. And you all can help by explaining clearly to people that reducing the top rate will help with job creation and capital formation and, as importantly, will help highlight the American Dream. And that is, you can own your own business, that ownership is not limited to just a few.

And we're going to do something on the marriage penalty. And we need to eliminate the death tax. This is a realistic plan with the people's money. It's a plan that meets needs. Admittedly, it doesn't grow the budget the way people are used to in Washington. But it's time to change that attitude about how prolific we're going to be with the people's money. There needs to be a focus and a strategy and a discipline.

It seems like, at times, people forgot whose money it is we're dealing with up here. It's not the Government's money. The rhetoric sounds like, "Oh, we're going to"—it's Government's money. But the money is here in Washington because of the hard work of people—people working hard, people who care. The cash flow coming into the Treasury of the United States is exceeding expectations, even though we're in an economic slowdown, which says to me, somebody is being overcharged. [*Laughter*] And I know who it is.

And so that's what the debate is all about. And I'd like your help. You can influence Members of Congress, and people listen to you. And so I hope you take folks aside and say, "Be realistic about our money. Let's don't balloon the size of the Federal Government." And let's also remember that by giving people their money back, it will help provide a second wind for our economy.

Many of you know better than me that our economy is slowing down, and we've got some issues with which we'll deal. Yesterday, the Vice President brought to me an interim report on energy—we've got a problem with energy in America. Our demand is increasing, but our supplies aren't. And it doesn't take much economics to figure out what will happen.

And we're going to do something about it. This is going to be a very practical administration. We will view problems, analyze them, and deal with them. We'll be as upfront as we can with the American people. We'll explain when we can get something done quickly, and we'll explain when we can't get something done quickly. And we're not going to shirk from the problems with which we're confronted. And one of the problems is an energy crisis.

Another problem is a slowing economy, and we're going to deal with it. We'll deal with it in a forthright way. And part of it is good fiscal policy, which means when we give people their money back, it should serve as a stimulus to economic growth.

So this is a plan that not only brings fiscal discipline to the budgeting process; it's a plan that sets priorities. But it's also a plan that remembers how America grows, and it grows through entrepreneurship and the creation of small businesses and providing capital in the private sector for the expansion of jobs and the purchase of equipment. And that's what the plan is.

And I'd like your help. I'd like your help to sell it on the Hill. Two things I hope that you notice when you go up there is that I believe the country is beginning—or the Capitol is beginning to develop a culture of respect.

I want the Members—I fully recognize not everybody is going to agree with me, or us, and I respect that. I do. I may not agree with it, but I respect it. One of my jobs is to change the tone of Washington. Oh, occasionally, there's the voice out there that sounds a little disgruntled. But that's okay. That's part of a democracy. But our administration, or at least the people in my administration, will treat people with respect.

I respect those who don't agree with me on every single issue. I expect there not to be unanimity. And I believe by treating people respectfully, it is possible to do some positive things. This is a Congress that is beginning to get a sense of accomplishment. There is a culture of accomplishment in Washington. There's a bankruptcy bill that's working its way through the House and the Senate. There's an ergonomics—change in ergonomics regulations that I believe is positive, and I intend to sign today. There are some positive developments. Things are getting done.

And that's important. And that will be a little change from the way people have viewed Washington in the past. Washington seemed to be a place of bitterness and acrimony, and it doesn't have to be that way. It's important to change it not only to get good public policy done, but it's important to change the tone of Washington so that when people look at our Nation's Capital they understand that public service can be noble and positive. Just like these ladies up here understand.

And our job is bigger than just legislation. Our job is to set a good tone, a tone of respect, a tone of accomplishment for the Nation. And that's exactly what we're going to do. And I want to thank you all for being here to help us get it done.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

March 20, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of our close friend and

ally to the Oval Office. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

We've just had a very frank and good discussion. Both of us reconfirmed our friendship, both talked about how best to keep the peace.

I assured the Prime Minister my administration will work hard to lay the foundation of peace in the Middle—work with our nations in the Middle East, give peace a chance. Secondly, I told him that our Nation will not try to force peace, that we will facilitate peace, and that we will work with those responsible for peace.

The Prime Minister and I had met before. I took a tour of the West Bank by helicopter, and he was the guide. It was a pretty interesting—it was a really interesting day for me. He's got a marvelous sense of history, and I learned a lot about our friend by touring the West Bank by chopper with you, Mr. Prime Minister.

You didn't think you were going to be the Prime Minister, and you probably darn sure didn't think I was going to be the President. But here we are, and we've got great responsibilities to work together, and I look forward to doing so.

Welcome, Mr. Prime Minister. Glad you're here.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you. I would like to thank you, President Bush, for inviting me to the White House. We've had a very constructive and frank discussion of strategic issues that are of the interest of the United States and Israel. And we discussed the peace process, what can be achieved, and how. We are, in Israel, we are all committed to peace. As one who saw in the past all the horrors of wars, I believe I understand the import of peace. And in Israel, all of us are committed.

But of course, the first thing and the most important one is to bring security to the citizens of Israel. That was the commitment that I took upon myself, Mr. President, and that is the first thing that we have to accomplish. Once we reach security, and it will be calm in the Middle East, I believe that we will start with our negotiations to reach a peace agreement.

We shared issues of common interest, and I think it was a very good conversation, a very frank one, and I think that we can look forward—can look ahead, how to achieve our common goals in the Middle East, together with deep cooperation and coordination.

And I would like you for your friendship to Israel. We have friends here, and you have friends there in Israel, which is a democratic country, a stable democracy which appreciate the values of democratic life. I'm sure that we can do many things together. And I would like to thank you for the cooperation of your government, of your own, for our future interests in the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Jerusalem

Q. Mr. President, the Prime Minister last night expressed his faith in Jerusalem as Israel's eternal, undivided capital, under Israel sovereignty. Mindful of your campaign statements, how do you feel about this statement? Is that something that has U.S. support?

President Bush. Well, the status of Israel, I mean, the status of Jerusalem will be ultimately determined by the interested parties. During the campaign, I said we'll begin the process of moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, yesterday you said that you were very confident about the U.S. economy. Today you said that it's slowing down. Which is it? Are you trying to have it both ways?

President Bush. I was talking about the long-term health of our economy is going to be very strong. And that's in Israel's interest, that our economy be strong. We've got some problems, some short-term problems, and if Congress were to act quickly on my tax stimulus package, it would make our recovery quicker.

Q. Is there any reason to believe that it will help in the short term?

President Bush. Oh, I think it will, and I think good fiscal policy and good monetary policy, good trade policy will help our economy. And we need an energy policy, too. But I hope the Congress acts quickly on a stimulus package that will improve our economy. People have got to know that I have got great faith in the American economy.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat

Q. Mr. President, do you accept the idea not to invite Yasser Arafat, or are you going to invite him and meet with him here?

President Bush. Well, one of the things that the Prime Minister and I talked about is our engagement in the Middle East. I will do everything we can to help calm nerves, to encourage there to be dialog in a peaceful way. I haven't made up my plans on who I'm going to meet with yet. I do have some plans in place. I'm looking forward to meeting the King of Jordan, for example.

But one of the things that I will do is use whatever persuasive powers I have to create an environment in which peace can flourish. I've got great confidence in the Prime Minister, and so do the Israeli people. He got 66 percent of the vote. He did a little better at the polls than I did. [*Laughter*] You know what I mean, Mr. Prime Minister.

Future Middle East Negotiations

Q. Prime Minister Sharon, did you manage to convince the President Bush that you will not negotiate underfire? Do you think that this message is clear, and do you think that President Bush agrees with you about this issue?

Prime Minister Sharon. I didn't have to talk to President Bush about that. I think what I understand the policy of this great democracy, the United States, is that one should not surrender to terror and pressure and violence. And therefore, I don't have to work too hard on this thing. I even didn't try.

But I understand, and I believe that they do, and I appreciate that respect that—to that approach that one should never surrender to terror and that the free world should struggle against terror, local, regional, and international terror. And I'm sure that the United States leads such a struggle, and we are a partner in the struggle. I think that is in the interest of every democratic state, because in order to keep stability—and I'm a great supporter of the President's policy of keeping stability in the Middle East—the main danger to stability is terror. And that, I believe, will be—should be the common goal of every democratic country in the free world.

Q. Do you think that Arafat is the danger for the stability in the Middle East, Mr. Sharon?

Prime Minister Sharon. I don't think that I have to add about Arafat. Everyone knows what are the steps of terror and who is behind the steps. I don't think I have to add anything about that. It's clear.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to King Abdullah II of Jordan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Central Intelligence Agency Employees in Langley, Virginia

March 20, 2001

Thank you, all. I learned that move from my mother. [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much, George. I appreciate your kind introduction. I also want to thank you for agreeing to continue to serve as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. You've done really good work here. The people that work here appreciate it, and I appreciate it, as well.

I also wanted to visit early in my administration to tell you all how much I value your work. The CIA and all the members of our intelligence community make a vital contribution to our Nation's security. I know this firsthand; I'm your customer. [*Laughter*] I see your product every morning at 8 o'clock sharp, and it's always first-rate.

I appreciate the work that goes into the briefing. I realize that the information inside it contains—represents the work of thousands of dedicated and daring men and women, at home and abroad. It is truly an honor to be among you and to be in this building.

I've flown into an airport once called George Bush. [*Laughter*] But I've never been in a Center like this. [*Laughter*] Seeing that sign on the way in, as you can imagine, made me feel really proud. But I was also struck by the contrast between today's world

and the world as it looked 25 years ago, when my dad was the DCI.

To say that a lot has changed is an understatement. Back then, America faced an overarching threat, and everything we did, from strategy to resource allocation, was oriented to defending against that threat. Today, that single threat has been replaced by new and different threats, sometimes hard to define and defend against; threats such as terrorism, information warfare, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. Back then, freedom was in peril. Today, freedom is taking root in more and more lands around the world.

In retrospect, the world of 1976 looks staid and static compared to the revolutions of change that characterize our times. But what hasn't changed, what isn't different is the fact that sound intelligence is still critically important to America's national security. The challenges are new, but we still need your work to help us meet them. The opportunities are new, but we need your help to take advantage of them. But perhaps most of all, in a world where change, itself, seems to be the only constant, we need your help to anticipate change and to shape it in a way that favors freedom.

Yours is a mission of service and sacrifice in a world of great uncertainty and risk. America's commitments and responsibilities span the world and every time zone. Every day you help us meet those responsibilities with your quiet excellence. And nothing speaks louder to your legacy of service and sacrifice than the 77 stars on the wall behind me.

The American people aren't told much about your labors. In fact, you might be the only Federal agency where not making the newspapers or network news qualifies as good news. [*Laughter*] This is by necessity. But you need to know your President knows about your fine contributions to our Nation's security. And you also need to know that Americans are proud of you and the vital work that each of you does for your country. The operations officers, the analysts, the scientists, the technical experts, the intelligence officers who work for other agencies—each of you is important to the cause of freedom. And for that I say, God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. in the original headquarters building lobby at the George Bush Center for Intelligence.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Repeal Federal Ergonomics Regulations

March 20, 2001

Today I have signed into law S.J. Res. 6, a measure that repeals an unduly burdensome and overly broad regulation dealing with ergonomics. This is the first time the Congressional Review Act has been put to use. This resolution is a good and proper use of the Act because the different branches of our Government need to be held accountable.

There needs to be a balance between and an understanding of the costs and benefits associated with Federal regulations. In this instance, though, in exchange for uncertain benefits, the ergonomics rule would have cost both large and small employers billions of dollars and presented employers with overwhelming compliance challenges. Also, the rule would have applied a bureaucratic one-size-fits-all solution to a broad range of employers and workers—not good government at work.

The safety and health of our Nation's workforce is a priority for my Administration. Together we will pursue a comprehensive approach to ergonomics that addresses the concerns surrounding the ergonomics rule repealed today. We will work with the Congress, the business community, and our Nation's workers to address this important issue.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 20, 2001.

NOTE: S.J. Res. 6, approved March 20, was assigned Public Law No. 107–5.

Exchange With Reporters at the George Bush Center for Intelligence in Langley

March 20, 2001

Visit to the Central Intelligence Agency

Q. Good briefing, Mr. President?

The President. It was really interesting. Our Nation is fortunate to have so many dedicated men and women serve the country, and a lot of really good folks who work here. They've got one thing in mind, and that is how to serve America, how to provide the best information possible so that we can live in a peaceful world.

There are a lot of people in this world that really resent our country and resent what we stand for. The good folks in this building are doing everything they can to provide enough information for us to be able to protect our way of life and protect our people. And I'm really touched by being here. And I'm so grateful for the hospitality, Mr. Director.

Situation in Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, a quick question on Macedonia. What should the United States do about the fighting that is taking place?

The President. Well, we're going to work with our allies to bring peace to that region. We're very much involved through the NATO process, and we'll work with the Macedonian Government to help Macedonia protect its own borders.

Q. Should the U.S. be giving the Macedonian military assistance?

The President. We'll work with NATO to develop a strategy that will help Macedonia protect herself.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:26 p.m. at CIA headquarters. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to Governor Angus S. King, Jr., on Disaster Assistance to Maine

March 20, 2001

Dear Governor King:

As requested, I have declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121 (Stafford Act), for the State of Maine due to the emergency conditions resulting from record/near record snow on March 5–7, 2001. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Emergency protective measures (Category B) under the Public Assistance program to save lives, protect public health and safety, and property will be provided. This emergency assistance will be provided for a period of 48 hours. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. David Rodham of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal funds.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21.

Remarks at the American College of Cardiology Convention in Orlando, Florida

March 21, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. George, thank you very much for your kind introduction. Doctor. Doctor. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to be here, and it's an honor to be your President.

I thought about inviting Vice President Cheney to travel with me today. [*Laughter*] He said he's seen enough cardiologists lately. [*Laughter*] I'm pleased to report that he's feeling great, and you'll be happy to know that when it comes to following doctor's orders, he's a model patient.

I appreciate so very much the leadership of this august organization having me here, and I appreciate the fact that they invited

my bigger little brother. [*Laughter*] I can't tell you how proud I am of Jeb. He is a really fine Governor of this important State.

I'm also pleased to be traveling with Members of the United States Congress from the State of Florida, John Mica, Ric Keller, and Dave Weldon. Thank you all for coming with me. Weldon informed me he's a doctor. He's representing your interests in the Halls of Congress.

And today we're in the hometown of the new Secretary of Housing, Mel Martinez. I'm proud that Mel is the first Cuban-American to serve in a President's Cabinet. Mr. Secretary, welcome home, but don't stay too long. [*Laughter*] You're going back to Washington with me; we've got a lot of work to do.

You know, I haven't been in front of so money people who poke and prod and examine since my last press conference. [*Laughter*] And I appreciate the chance to visit with so many distinguished doctors and their families. So many Americans live longer, healthier, and happier lives because of the important work you all do every single day. And I'm glad to have an opportunity to thank you in person.

Modern medicine continues to bring a revolution of hope and dignity into countless lives. The average life* expectancy in America today is 29 years longer than it was just a century ago. And those added years now have added vigor. Many forms of cancer, once incurable, are routinely treated and often cured. Diseases that grow more common with age, such as arthritis and osteoporosis, can be less debilitating than they once were. And heart disease, though still the leading cause of death in America for both men and women, is claiming fewer lives than ever before. Just 40 years ago, when patients were diagnosed with serious heart disease, treatment meant putting them in a hospital bed and trying to make them comfortable. Today, thanks to new surgeries, devices, and drugs, and thanks to doctors and researchers behind them, millions of Americans with heart disease live vigorous, productive lives. And Dick Cheney serves his country as Vice President of the United States.

This ongoing revolution in medicine is centered in America, and for good reason—medical advances depend on innovation, and innovation depends on freedom. America has wisely resisted efforts to place medicine and health care into the hands of central planners. Government-controlled health care may spring from the best of motives, but a cumbersome bureaucracy and one-size-fits-all approach stifle innovation and do not produce the best of results.

There is an appropriate role for Government in funding medical research, protecting consumers, and providing health care for our senior citizens. Our health care system is strong, and it can be stronger. And as we improve and reform it, we must always respect the freedom that makes America's health care system the best in the world.

This year we have a real opportunity to improve health care. Today I want to talk about protecting the doctor-patient relationships with a Patients' Bill of Rights. But first, I can't resist putting in a plug for my budget and for tax relief.

My budget funds our Nation's important priorities, including many health care priorities. We increase funding for education and for military pay and benefits. We set aside $2.6 trillion of payroll taxes over the next 10 years for Social Security and for only Social Security. We double funding for Medicare over the next 10 years and make sure that every dime that comes in for Medicare is spent only on Medicare.

And as you know better than most, Medicare urgently needs reform. At a time when prescription drugs are often the treatment of choice for heart disease and many other illnesses, 99 percent of employer-provided health care plans offer some form of prescription drug coverage; yet, Medicare does not. Often, Medicare does not cover new treatments and innovative technologies. The Medicare bureaucracy is rigid and difficult and too often treats doctors as if you have nothing better to do than fill out forms. To offer our seniors better coverage and better health care, Medicare needs new life and new vitality.

One of the leaders in the effort to modernize Medicare is a heart surgeon, Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee. He's joined with Democrat Senator John Breaux and Republican Congressman Bill Thomas to set out a

* White House correction.

framework for reform. And I'm committed to working with Congress to reform Medicare and to make sure that every senior has access to affordable prescription drug coverage.

My budget also proposes refundable tax credits to make health insurance more affordable for working families. I propose making it easier for small businesses to join together so that they can purchase better and more affordable health coverage for their workers. And we increase funding for community and migrant health centers, so that over the next 5 years we double the number of people served at community centers in rural and low income neighborhoods.

I've also asked Congress to increase funding for medical research, which gives hope to many who struggle with serious disease. My budget for next year requests an additional $2.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health, an important step toward our goal of doubling the budget for the NIH by the year 2003.

We've increased discretionary spending by 4 percent, greater than the rate of inflation. And after we fund important priorities in the ongoing operations of our Government, I believe we ought to pay down national debt. And so my budget pays down a record 2 trillion in debt over the next 10 years. And that sets up a $1 trillion contingency fund for emergencies or additional expenses. After funding priorities, after paying down debt, after setting up a contingency fund, we still have money left over.

And the fundamental question is, what do we do with it? Well, some in Congress want to spend it. They want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. That's not my vision. You see, I understand the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the peoples' money. And I believe after meeting priorities, we need to send it back to the people who earned it in the first place. Not only are we not going to send it back; we don't need to take it in the first place.

This debate in Washington has moved beyond whether we should have tax relief, to how much it should be and who should get it. Now, to put it bluntly, some folks in Washington think all of the doctors in this room make too much money, and you shouldn't get any of your money back. That's a fact. I know you've worked hard to get to where you are. You spent long hours in training and school. You do important, life-saving work. You also pay a lot of taxes. And I think everybody, everyone who pay taxes, from the school teacher to the truck driver to the doctor, should get tax relief.

Be wary of those who talk about targeted tax cuts in Washington, those who want to pick the winners and losers. That's not my vision for Government. I don't believe the Government is to try to pick winners and losers in the Tax Code. The only fair way to do it is to say, "If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief." My plan helps those at the bottom end of the economic scale. It lowers the rate to 10 percent and doubles the child credit. In fact, the greatest percentage benefits in my plan go to those at the lowest end of the economic ladder.

But my plan also drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, because I believe on principle that nobody in America, nobody in this room, should pay more than a third of his or her income to the Federal Government. I hope you'll join me in making the case to Congress to enact a fiscally responsible budget and provide meaningful tax relief. It is necessary, and we can afford it. Don't be afraid of contacting a Senator of yours or a Member of the Congress. I'm sure they'd like to hear from you. [*Laughter*]

And there is another issue I hope you'll join me on, persuading those very same Members of both parties to work together to pass a comprehensive and meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights. I'm very familiar with this issue. When I was Governor of Texas, I had to veto a bad patients' bill of rights. And then I signed some good ones.

First, I was presented a bill that gave special interest treatment to selected HMO's, so I vetoed it. And then worked with our insurance commissioner to write new patient protections that I proudly signed into law the next legislative session. I don't want that to happen again. This time I hope we can get it right the first time.

Doctors and their patients should be in charge of medical decisions. I want to sign a Patients' Bill of Rights this year, but I will

not sign a bad one. And I cannot sign any one that is now before the Congress. So enacting a Patients' Bill of Rights this year is going to require some different thinking, a new approach, based on sound principles.

First, a Federal Patients' Bill of Rights must cover everyone, all patients in all private health plans. The standard should be strong enough to protect everyone, yet flexible enough to preserve the good work that has already been done in many States.

Second, we must guarantee all patients important rights: the right to get emergency treatment at the nearest emergency room; the right to see a specialist when they need one—say, just for an example, the right to see a cardiologist for a heart problem—women should be able to visit their gynecologist, and parents their children's pediatrician without going through a gatekeeper; all patients should have the right to participate in potentially life-saving clinical trials when standard treatment is not effective.

Third, if medical care is denied, patients should have the right to a fair and immediate review. People want health care quickly. They don't want to have to go through a legal, lengthy process to get it. I want to sign a bill that protects patients' rights with a strong, binding, independent review process. If your health plan denies you care, you should be able to appeal immediately to an independent, impartial review panel of medical doctors. And if they say you need the care, your health care plan must provide it. An effective medical review is the key to protecting patients' rights and the key to maintaining the doctor-patient relationship you work so hard to develop and preserve.

Fourth, a Patients' Bill of Rights should offer patients who have been harmed a meaningful remedy without inviting frivolous lawsuits. After independent review, if you have been harmed by your HMO's refusal to provide care, you have a legitimate complaint, and you should have recourse in court. With a strong, independent review process, most disagreements should not wind up in court. Our Federal legislation must allow the review process to work, not short-circuit it by inviting unnecessary lawsuits. With strong independent review, doctors make medical decisions, not the lawyers.

The fifth guideline for a Patients' Bill of Rights ensures that Americans will have access to affordable health care coverage. I want to sign protections that improve medical care, not make it impossible for patients to afford it or employers to provide coverage. Excess and frivolous litigation does harm to our health care system. It clogs the courts and consumes time and money. It undermines the trust between doctor and patient. It drives up insurance premiums for everyone.

We've enacted civil justice reforms in Texas to guard against frivolous litigation and excessive awards. To make sure health care coverage remains affordable, I will insist any Federal bill have reasonable caps on damage awards. And the caps in proposed legislation before Congress are too high and will drive up the costs of health care in America.

To encourage employers to continue to provide health care insurance for their employees, we must protect them from unnecessary litigation. Some proposals now before Congress fail to adequately address this problem and would even make it worse. Employers who decide up front they will not make medical decisions should not be required to go to court all the time to prove they were not involved in those decisions. And I will not support a Federal law that subjects employers to new multiple lawsuits in 50 different States.

With these principles as our guide, I believe we can enact a Patients' Bill of Rights in the Congress this year. This issue has been debated in Washington time and time again. Over the years, alliances have been formed, and divisions have deepened. I hope Members of Congress will join me in advancing this debate beyond the arguments of the past.

Just as doctors no longer treat heart disease with bed rest, we should not approach this year's Patients' Bill of Rights stuck in last year's rut. Just as innovative approaches in medicine spur new breakthroughs, a new approach in Washington offers the hope that we will share the credit for success. Americans deserve comprehensive patient protections, and a new, commonsense approach may be just what the doctor ordered.

On this issue, the rewards are far greater than shared political success. The real reward

will be knowing that we have helped put the healing powers of modern medicine within the reach of all who need them. Each of you holds that incredible power and upholds a great trust.

I appreciate the important work you do. You have my gratitude and my respect. And in the days ahead, I hope my plans for reform will have your support. Thank you for having me.

God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:24 a.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to George A. Beller, immediate past president, American College of Cardiology, and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks at a SENIORS FIRST Luncheon in Orlando

March 21, 2001

Thank you very much. Thank you for that warm welcome. I suspect you're cheering so loudly because I'm traveling in good company.

[*At this point, the President spoke in Spanish, and a translation was not provided.*]

I'm honored to be here with my brother, the Governor of Florida. He's a good man. You know something about—both of us share something in common: We picked a pretty darn good mother, and she's still telling us what to do. [*Laughter*] I'm listening all the time. He's listening about half the time. [*Laughter*]

What made me think of that is I saw Barbara sitting there. And then Mel Martinez—you all know Mel. [*Applause*] Yes. I think I made a pretty darn good pick when I named him to my Cabinet. I love Mel's story. He's a good man. [*Laughter*] He represents the really best about America, doesn't he—doesn't he—[*applause*]—that you can realize dreams in this country. And I'm so thrilled that he's agreed to sacrifice and serve the country. And he is a good man, as you know.

I'm honored to be traveling with Members from the United States Congress. We've got some Congressmen that are traveling with us today. These men are going to be responsible for working with our administration to make sure that we keep the promise to the elderly.

And so I want to tell you all that, for example, in our budget we doubled the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. And we're going to focus on making sure children are educated, too. We're going to focus on keeping the promise to the elderly, and then we're also going to make sure that the young have a good chance for realizing the American Dream by making sure the schools are strong at the local level, making sure children aren't left behind.

I know you all care about that a lot. Many of you have got grandchildren, and you want to make sure the public school system holds out the hope for every child, regardless of their background, regardless of where they're from. And that's our dream; that's our dream for the country.

This is a fabulous land. I'm so honored to be your President. It is a huge, huge honor for me. So I want to thank you for your warm greeting. I look forward to walking around and shaking your hands and thanking you in person.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:28 a.m. in the ballroom at the Sociedad de Orlando community center. In his remarks, he referred to his brother, Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, and their mother, Barbara Bush.

Remarks to Catholic Leaders

March 21, 2001

Thank you all very much for that warm reception, and welcome to the White House—the people's house. It is such an honor to live here, and it's an honor for me to receive you all. And I look forward to thanking you in person for coming.

It's also a high honor for me to be on the podium with so many outstanding leaders of faith. I've had the honor of meeting many of the cardinals who are here and many of the bishops and archbishops from around the country. I've been struck by how humble the good folks are, how there's a universal love for mankind and a deep concern for those who are not as fortunate as some of us. The

Catholic Church is fortunate to have such strong, capable, decent leadership. And America is fortunate to have such strong leaders in our midst.

I want to thank the cardinals and bishops who are here, and thank you for your service and love for your fellow mankind.

I've been struck by a lot of things as I've had the opportunity to meet the leadership of the Catholic Church. I think the thing that has captured my heart the most is the not only universal care for the weak and the suffering but also the strong focus on making sure every child is educated.

And for those of you involved with the education system in America, thank you for your hard work. For those of you who are the administrators, thanks for providing great education. For those who give your hard-earned dollars to support the education systems around America, please continue to do so. [*Laughter*] Isn't that right, Bishop? [*Laughter*] It's an incredibly important part of the mosaic of a hopeful tomorrow.

I also appreciate the prayers of many of my fellow Americans. Many times layman and leader alike says, "Mr. President, we pray for you," and for that I'm most grateful. It does remind me that I think there's a great awakening in America; people are rediscovering the inspiration of faith in their lives and the importance of faith in our society. Faith gives our lives dignity, and faith gives our lives direction. Faith makes our Nation more just and more generous and welcoming.

All of you are part of the humanizing mission which is part of the "Great Commission" and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which we will dedicate tomorrow, will bring this message to generations of Americans in this Capital of our Nation. The best way to honor Pope John Paul II, truly one of the great men, is to take his teaching seriously, is to listen to his words and put his words and teachings into action here in America. This is a challenge we must accept.

But you know something about our country? With the right focus and the right leadership, it's a challenge this Nation will accept, because this is a great land. The greatness of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. And again, I want to thank those of you who inspire and teach love and compassion and hope.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:18 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Implement the Faith-Based Initiative

March 21, 2001

Earlier this year, I sent to the Congress my agenda to rally America's armies of compassion to address many of our toughest community challenges.

Government does not have a monopoly on compassion. And while Government cannot be replaced by charities, it should welcome them as partners, not view them as rivals.

Today, on a bipartisan basis, Members of the House and Senate took important first steps to advance this agenda to aid churches, synagogues, mosques, and communities in helping neighbors in need.

I welcome the bipartisan proposals that have been offered in the House by Representative J.C. Watts, Representative Tony Hall, and Speaker Dennis Hastert, and in the Senate by Senator Rick Santorum and Senator Joseph Lieberman. These new legislative initiatives demonstrate that momentum continues to build behind my agenda to rally America's armies of compassion. They represent a bipartisan consensus that Government must support our quiet heroes who are lifting lives and healing neighborhoods one heart and one act of kindness at a time.

I will continue to work in a bipartisan fashion with Congress to help those most in need by encouraging charitable giving and eliminating barriers to charitable works.

Remarks to the National Newspaper Association Government Affairs Conference

March 22, 2001

The President. Thanks for coming, and thanks for having me. Diane, I appreciate so very much the invitation. Ken, thank you for escorting me up here. And Jerry, thank you

for that kind introduction. I do remember the Fourth of July parade. I remember how hot it was. And next time, let's make it a Christmas parade. [*Laughter*] He comes from a great town in a State I love a lot.

You said you never thought you would be introducing me the last time you saw me. But I can assure you, in 1978 when I was running for the U.S. Congress and you were running the newspaper in Lamb County, Texas, you certainly didn't think you would be introducing me as President—[*laughter*]—because you had that funny feeling I wasn't even going to win the race for the U.S. Congress, which was true. [*Laughter*] It's amazing how life works.

One of the interesting things I did learn in that race, we had a lot of little bitty counties in far west Texas. And Jerry ran one of the newspapers; he worked for a man named James Roberts. Maybe some of you all got to know James over time. He's a fine, distinguished Texan. Lord rest his soul.

But he owned a string of little newspapers, in Andrews and Lamb County, and I think maybe in Muleshoe, Texas. And I can remember knocking on the doors of the newspapers when I was traveling the district. It was a magnificent place to learn about what was going on in each county. It gave me a chance to get a feel for what the people were really all about. I got to hear the gossip, got to maybe spread a little good news on my side. But I came away with a deep respect for the small newspapers that dominate the landscape of America. There's a real sense of community when you walk into those newspapers and sit down with the publishers and the editors and the writers. It's really the best of America in many ways.

I sound somewhat nostalgic about those days. I'm loving what I'm doing. It's interesting that I'm doing it, in spite of the fact that my first race for public office I came in second in a two-man race. [*Laughter*] Life has its interesting twists and turns. Life is unpredictable. But it turns out if you aim, work hard, and treat people with respect, keep your priorities straight, life can turn out pretty good. And it certainly has for me. I'm honored to be your President. I'm honored to be here to discuss some issues that are important to our country.

I want to thank my friend Tommy Thompson for having been here. Tommy is serving our Nation very well as the important Cabinet position. I got to know Tommy as a Governor. You got to know him as a Governor. And he's a fine man. He represents the kind of Cabinet I've put together—distinguished citizens, all of whom are here to serve our country, all of whom have put aside their personal comforts to do what's right for America.

I appreciate my friend Roy Blunt. I understand he's coming or has been here—a Member of the United States Congress, a fellow I'm working closely with to try to get some legislation through the legislative process.

I want to talk about a couple of things, and then I'd like to weave issues in, in context of the budget that I presented to the Congress. It's important for opinionmakers such as yourself to hear my side of the budget.

See, there's a lot of folks in Washington that would like to send out information that might cloud the picture so that they get to keep more of the taxpayers' money here in Washington. We're in the midst of a big debate, and it's a healthy debate, as to what to do with the people's money. That's what the budget is all about. Remember, the context I come from, though, is not to do with what to do with the Government's money; it's what to do with the people's money. All the talk about the surplus as the Government's money misses the point. They forget who pay the bills. Those who say that the surplus is the Government's money, forget where it comes from. And one of the things I'm not going to forget is where it comes from; I'm going to remember where it comes from. It comes from hard-working people. It comes from entrepreneurs, small-business owners, hardworking folks who pay the bills for this Government.

So we sent up a commonsense budget to the Congress. I say common sense because it sets priorities. When you run your businesses, you set priorities. That's sometimes the definition of success, is somebody who figures out how to set priorities and stay on those priorities. And that's what we did; we set some clear priorities. We funded public education, increased the funding of public education. It's the biggest increase of any Department in my budget.

Now, lest you forget where I came from, it's one thing to provide money at the Federal level, but I can assure you I'm a strong supporter of local control of schools. I believe that the best way to run the schools is to trust the local people. So we're increasing spending, but we're going to also increase power at the local level. One size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children in America. We've got to have local control of schools; we've got to align authority and responsibility at the local level. And I'm working with Congress to do that.

But one of the cornerstones of reform for education is to hold people accountable for results. I'm a strong believer that in return for the receipt of taxpayers' money, States and local jurisdictions must develop accountability systems to tell us whether or not children can read. It's in your best interests, by the way, that we have a literate tomorrow. You're irrelevant if people can't read. [*Laughter*] And we need to start figuring out whether they can or cannot, early in a child's career. And so, the only way to do that is to measure.

Now, I'm against a national test because a national test would undermine local curriculum and local control of schools. But I am for saying, "In return for money, show us—show us whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract." Hold people accountable. Use the accountability system not as a way to punish but as a way to correct problems early, before it's too late.

And you mark my words, when you have a system based upon the principles of high accountability and high—of high standards and strong accountability and local control of schools, children will learn. And that's what this country needs. They need an education system that's responsive, results-oriented, that focuses on each child as a child, that challenges the process-oriented system that asks the question, "How old are you? Oh, if you're 10, we'll just put you here. And if you're 14, you go here. And if you're 16, you go here." It's time in America we start asking the question, "What do you know?" And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we're all going to come together to make sure you do, early, before it's too late.

I'm so confident that we can achieve what we all want, an educated tomorrow. And it starts with having systems in place, systems in place that encourage reform, based upon accountability.

Another priority in the budget I sent is more pay for the military. I am concerned about morale and the troops. It was a big issue during the course of the campaign. I said, if you give me a chance to be the President, we'll begin by increasing morale two ways. One is, pay people more money. So, in our budget—we've increased the budget that I've submitted to Congress for better pay and better housing. And two, to have a Commander in Chief, who will clarify the mission of the U.S. military. And the mission of the United States military is to have our troops well prepared and well trained, to be ready to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place. The mission of the military must be focused, and the job of the Commander in Chief is to focus that mission. And that's what I've done.

There will be a lot of talk on Capitol Hill about increasing military budgets, and my answer is, let's make sure we have a strategic plan before we do so. Let's have a blueprint of what the future ought to look like. Let's make sure—not only make sure morale is high today, but as we begin to spend on weapons systems, let's make sure they fit into a plan so we can keep the peace as we go down the road. Many of the decisions that are made in the Defense Department today will affect how the military looks like 20 to 30 years from now. And I want to make sure that money is wisely spent and focused on how to keep the peace in the long run.

Another priority is retirement systems of Americans. And so the budget I set up says the payroll taxes are only going to be spent on one thing, and that's Social Security—that the Congress won't be using the payroll taxes for other programs. So—lockbox, I think, is the terminology they like to use up here. [*Laughter*] Rest assured, it's set aside only for Social Security.

And later on in the year, we're going to begin the process of debating how to make sure the Social Security System works as we go down the road. One of the things that—I went to a senior citizen center yesterday

in Orlando, Florida, home of the great Governor Bush. [*Laughter*] And a couple of folks said there, "Now, you're not going to be messing with my Social Security check." They didn't quite put it that eloquently. [*Laughter*] But I said, no.

Every time there's a campaign, there's a lot of noise and ads and stuff that try to frighten people into the voting booths. And by setting aside all the money that goes into Social Security for only Social Security, we can assure folks who rely upon Social Security that they're going to get their check.

But the fundamental question is, what happens to the younger workers, younger folks in America? Will there be a system available for them? And one of the things that we're going to start thinking about and encourage a lot of debate about is this notion about letting younger workers take some of their own money, some of their own payroll taxes, and invest them in the private markets to get a better rate of return on the money than we get now under the Social Security Trust.

You see, we've got to get a better rate of return on payroll taxes. Otherwise, there's not going to be enough people putting money in the system, compared to those who are taking it out of the system. I'm willing to think differently on the issue and encourage others to do so up here, as well.

Health care is a priority in our budget. We double the number, if we put enough money aside, double the number of folks who will be served by what's called community health centers. Perhaps you've got a community health center in your neighborhood. These are fundamentally important health care, delivery systems that enable the indigent, or other folks who are struggling with health care, to be able to get primary care. These are good programs, and it's an effective part of the delivery of health care.

We double the Medicare budget in the budget I submitted to the United States Congress. We've increased funding so we can double the NIH budget by 2003, from when that initiative first started. There's a lot of programs that we focus on.

We increase discretionary spending by 4 percent. That's greater than the rate of inflation. It's probably greater than the pay raises you gave the people working for you. It's a pretty healthy increase. But the problem is, they're not used to that kind of fiscal responsibility in Washington. The discretionary spending at the end of last year increased by 8 percent.

So you've got a new President who comes to town and says, "Why don't we be fiscally responsible with the people's money? Why don't we, instead of increasing spending by 8 percent, be reasonable, take a commonsense approach? Not try to be all things to all people at the Federal level." And that's where the squawking started. That's where people started getting nervous, because fiscal-responsible spending is something that they're not used to. But it's important. It's important to be responsible with the money. My point to you is, we can make priorities. Four percent of a budget that we're talking about of billions of dollars is a lot of money.

Now, there's a lot of talk about paying down debt, and we do so. The budget I submitted pays down $2 trillion of debt over a 10-year period of time. One of the things I want to try to remind Congress to think about is, there's not only debt at the national level; there's a lot of folks in your communities who have got credit card debt. There's all kinds of debt. And we pay down debt at the national level, but it's important to also remember, there are people struggling to get ahead, particularly with energy bills going up, the economy slowing down. We've got personal debt. And with people's money, it seems like, to me, we ought to encourage them to be able to manage their own accounts with some of their own money back.

I also am aware that sometimes things don't go as planned. So in the budget we submitted, there's one trillion over 10 years for contingencies. Now, you're probably saying to yourself, "He's talking about a lot of money," and I am. But incredibly enough, after meeting priorities and by slowing down discretionary spending to 4 percent and paying down debt and putting aside contingency money, there's still money left over—about $1.6 trillion. And the fundamental question is, what to do with it?

And the debate is this: Do we increase the baselines of our budgets, or do we understand where the money came from and let

the people keep it? I stand squarely on the side of letting the people keep it. I think it is so important for a couple of reasons: One, more money in people's pockets—more money in people's pockets will help provide a second wind for our economy; and, two, I trust people with their own money. I trust them more than I trust the Federal Government to make decisions on their behalf.

There is a fundamental, philosophical divide in Washington. It's basically, who do you trust? Who do you trust? I used to travel the country, and every time I'd go somewhere, there would be tax families at a stop. And I would say, well, so-and-so Smith family. And they would say, well, they pay, $3,000 of Federal income taxes, and under our plan in which everybody who pays taxes gets relief, they're going to save $2,000—that would be the example, say. And I would say, who would you rather spend the money? Once you meet priorities in Washington, DC, the debate is, who would you rather spend their $2,000, the Smith family or the Federal Government? And I'm coming down on the side of the family every time, and that's what the debate is about.

We've got pretty good cash flow coming into the Treasury. In spite of the fact the economy is slowing down in the first 4 months of the year, the cash flow was $40 billion more than anticipated—$40 billion more. It sounds like, to me, somebody is getting overcharged. And I'm asking Congress for the refund for the people, and that's what the debate is.

And so, the tax plan we submitted is based upon some principles, as well. First of all, you will hear a lot of talk up here about targeted tax cuts. Basically, what that says is, Congress wants to decide who gets a tax cut and who doesn't, obviously. They want to decide who the winners are and who is not a winner when it comes to tax relief. That is not my view of Government.

My view of Government is that everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief, that the United States Congress nor the Federal Government should try to say, okay, you pay, but you don't get anything, and you pay, and you do. That's not my vision of fairness and fair play when it comes to the Federal Government. So everybody who pays gets relief.

We drop all rates, and we simplify the code. Instead of five rates, there's four rates. We drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. That's a very important part of the reform, because the Tax Code we have today is incredibly unfair to people who are struggling—what I like to call struggling—on the outskirts of poverty, people who are working hard to get to the middle class. And under this Tax Code—take the example of the single mother making $22,000 a year. The lady is raising two children. First of all, she has got the toughest job in America. And secondly, under her circumstances, for every additional dollar she earns, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is successful. She starts to lose earned-income tax credit. She pays the 15-percent bracket, and she pays payroll tax. The marginal rate on her additional dollar is nearly 50 percent. And that is not fair. That's not what America is about. America is, the harder you work, the easier the middle class ought to become, and the more money you get to keep. And by dropping the bottom rate and increasing the child credit, we make the code much more fair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. And I think there's universal agreement about that point here in Washington.

I also strongly believe we need to cut all rates, including the top rate, from 39.6 to 33 percent. And there's a lot of rhetoric about that. I'm sure you've heard it. But it's very important for Congress to understand this fact: Most small businesses in America are unincorporated, or Subchapter S's. Most small businesses pay at the 39.6 percent rate. And by dropping the top rate to 33 percent, we stimulate small businesses in America; we encourage entrepreneurship.

One of the things I like to tell people is, the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur or the small-business owner can flourish. That's the role of Government. And dropping the top rate will provide more cash flow for small-business owners to be able to invest, to buy new printers, to employ more people.

Now, I've heard the rhetoric, but they're missing the point. The point is, how do we

encourage growth, particularly when the economy is beginning to slow down. And a good way to do so is to drop that top rate.

We also have got two other reforms that I want to mention to you. One is, we do something about the marriage penalty. Our Tax Code taxes marriages. It doesn't—I mean, penalizes marriage. It doesn't make any sense; so mitigate what the marriage penalty does. And we also eliminate the death tax.

I want to quote one of your own—publisher from Eufala, Alabama, the Tribune—Joel Smith. I hope I'm—if Joel is here, I hope I'm not embarrassing you. But sometimes, when we say things, words come back to haunt us. [*Laughter*] Well, not exactly haunt, in this case. [*Laughter*] Here's what he wrote: "I hope the President and Congress will repeal the death tax and help my family keep publishing our 72-year-old, twice-weekly newspaper." That's what he said. He represents the sentiments of hundreds of Americans who work hard to build up their asset base, with the dream of being able to pass it on to a family member.

It doesn't matter whether you're a newspaper publisher or a farmer or a rancher or a small-business person. Many folks have got the dream of working hard as they can to build up an asset base and to have the pleasure of knowing a family member is going to run the newspaper or manage the farm. And yet, our Tax Code makes it awfully hard for people to realize that dream. The death tax is unfair. It is unfair to tax a person's assets twice. And it's not fair to prevent people from passing their own business, their own property from one generation to the next. We've go to get rid of the death tax.

And so that's the rationale of the budget I submitted. And we're making progress, I think. It used to be, "Well, we're never going to have any tax relief." And now, the discussion is, how much and how soon. And as far as I'm concerned, the sooner, the better. And I look forward to working with both Republicans and Democrats to get this done. This is the right thing for America. It's the right thing for our country to have meaningful, real, fair tax relief.

There are a lot of other issues that, of course, I'm involved with. One of the biggest issues is, changing the tone in our Nation's Capital. It's not really an issue like we know it. It's not the kind of thing that requires a piece of legislation but does require an attitude, and it starts with the President.

We need more respect in our Nation's Capital. We need people that respect other's opinions. I used to remember looking up at Washington from Austin, Texas, and thinking about, surely there's a better way to have discourse on important issues than without the name calling and finger pointing and unnecessary politics on important issues that affect the people.

One of my hopes—and I believe we're making progress—is to convince people of both parties to treat each other with respect. And it starts with the President being respectful of somebody else's opinion. I hope that by changing the tone in Washington, we can change the tone in other places around the country, too, where we can prove that there can be respectful disagreement.

I know you and your newspapers try to do that all the time. You put out opinions, and you do so in a way that I'm confident is respectful. And it's important. It's important for our country to be a nation that honors—that respects other people's opinions. That's what democracy should be all about.

We're not all the same. We don't always agree, but we can do so in a way that brings honor to the process. And it's important to do that, as well, because our system is only as good as those who are willing to participate. And I hope—my hope of hopes is, once my stay is through up here—and by the way, I'm heading back to Texas once it's over—I hope somebody says, "Well, you know, I think I might try to enter the public arena. I'd like to try to serve my country." You don't have to try to serve your country as the President; you can serve your country as a school board member or as a county commissioner. There's all kinds of ways to serve our Nation.

It's important for those of us who have got the high honor and responsibility of public service to remember that there's something more than personal ambition involved. We have a responsibility to set a tone and to call upon the best. And that's my pledge to you. You may not agree with my budget or how I'm approaching things, but when it's all said

and done, I think you will agree with how I conduct myself in public office. It's a big responsibility.

I think there's a second change taking place up here. On the one hand, we've got a culture of respect developing; another is a culture of achievement. We're beginning to get some things done. Again, people may not agree with some of the things that are happening, but for example, the other day I signed a Senate resolution to change the ergonomic rules. Both Republicans and Democrats came together. Some people liked it; some people didn't like it; but nevertheless, it happened quickly. It's a good piece of public policy, as far as I was concerned. It's the ability for our Government to analyze regulations and to put a cost-benefit analysis to them. And the cost in this case looked far to exceed the benefits, and therefore, Congress acted.

I believe we're going to see that happen. I believe people—that there's going to be a culture of success and results. My job as your President is to share success, is to say to both parties that are involved, "Come together and get some things done." And I'll do my best to explain to the people that you were involved.

See, there's a time for politics, and there's a time for policy. And the way I view it is, once you get sworn in, that the politics is over. In my case, it took a little longer. [*Laughter*] And now it's time to do the people's business. And I believe we're making progress.

I want to thank both the Republicans and the Democrats who are joining in this effort. I hope America's taking notice. It's the right thing to do, and it's the right way to conduct the people's business. I'm honored you let me come by to visit with you. I'm honored to be your President.

God bless you all.

[*At this point, the President was presented with a T-shirt.*]

The President. It will play good in Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:47 a.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred to Diane Everson, president, Kenneth H. Rhoades, vice president, and Jerry Tidwell, board member, National Newspaper Association; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Exchange With Reporters on Capitol Hill

March 22, 2001

Expulsion of Russian Diplomats

Q. Relations with the Russians in trouble, headed for trouble?

The President. No, the actions we took yesterday speak for themselves. I'm confident that we can have good relations with the Russians. There are some areas where we can work together. But we made the right decision yesterday.

Q. Will Moscow expel some United States diplomats?

The President. I have no idea with Moscow is going to do.

Q. Should they—is that appropriate? When will you meet with any of Russian——

The President. All I can tell you is that the actions we took yesterday speak for themselves. It's the right decision to make, and having said that, I believe we can have a working relationship with the Russians. I intend to have a working relationship with the Russians. I suspect the first time I'll have a chance to sit down with Mr. Putin is when I head overseas to the G–7-plus-1, but our Government made the right decision yesterday.

Q. Mr. President, what about concerns that this takes us back to a cold war mentality or strategy?

The President. We made the right decision yesterday. I was presented with the facts; I made the decision; it was the right thing to do. And having said that, I believe that we'll have a good working relationship with the Russians. But we did the right thing yesterday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:15 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the Dedication of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

March 22, 2001

Your Excellency, thank you very much. You will be pleased to hear, my mother is still telling me what to do. [*Laughter*] And I'm listening most of the time.

Cardinal Maida, thank you for your vision, and thank you for your smile. What a great smile. Cardinal Szocka, thank you very much for your hospitality. And Cardinal McCarrick, let me congratulate you on becoming a cardinal last month. Though we're both new to our jobs, I'm the only one who is term limited. [*Laughter*] I may be just passing through, and I may not be a parishioner, but I'm proud to live in your archdiocese. I'm pleased to join with all the church leaders and special guests here today to dedicate the cultural center. It is my high honor to be here.

When Cardinal Wojtyla spoke here at Catholic University in 1976, few imagined the course his life would take or the history his life would shape. In 1978 most of the world knew him only as the Polish Pope. There were signs of something different and deeper.

One journalist, after hearing the new Pope's first blessing in St. Peter's Square, wired back to his editors: "This is not a Pope from Poland; this is a Pope from Galilee." From that day to this, the Pope's life has written one of the great inspiring stories of our time.

We remember the Pope's first visit to Poland in 1979, when faith turned into resistance and began the swift collapse of imperial communism. The gentle, young priest, once ordered into forced labor by Nazis, became the foe of tyranny and a witness to hope.

The last leader of the Soviet Union would call him "the highest moral authority on Earth." We remember his visit to a prison, comforting the man who shot him. By answering violence with forgiveness, the Pope became a symbol of reconciliation.

We remember the Pope's visit to Manila in 1995, speaking to one of the largest crowds in history, more than 5 million men and women and children. We remember that as a priest 50 years ago, he traveled by horse-cart to teach the children of small villages. Now he's kissed the ground of 123 countries and leads a flock of one billion into the third millennium.

We remember the Pope's visit to Israel and his mission of reconciliation and mutual respect between Christians and Jews. He is the first modern Pope to enter a synagogue or visit an Islamic country. He has always combined the practice of tolerance with a passion for truth.

John Paul, himself, has often said, "In the designs of Providence, there are no mere coincidences." And maybe the reason this man became Pope is that he bears the message our world needs to hear. To the poor, sick, and dying, he carries a message of dignity and solidarity with their suffering. Even when they are forgotten by men, he reminds them they are never forgotten by God. "Do not give in to despair," he said, in the South Bronx, "God has your lives, and His care, goes with you, calls you to better things, calls you to overcome."

To the wealthy, this Pope carries the message that wealth alone is a false comfort. The goods of the world, he teaches, are nothing without goodness. We are called, each and every one of us, not only to make our own way but to ease the path of others.

To those with power, the Pope carries a message of justice and human rights. And that message has caused dictators to fear and to fall. His is not the power of armies or technology or wealth; it is the unexpected power of a baby in a stable, of a man on a cross, of a simple fisherman who carried a message of hope to Rome. Pope John Paul II brings that message of liberation to every corner of the world. When he arrived in Cuba in 1998, he was greeted by signs that read, "Fidel is the Revolution!" But as the Pope's biographer put it, "In the next 4 days Cuba belonged to another revolutionary."

We are confident that the revolution of hope the Pope began in that nation will bear fruit in our time. And we're responsible to stand for human dignity and religious freedom wherever they are denied, from Cuba to China to southern Sudan. And we, in our country, must not ignore the words the Pope addresses to us. On his four pilgrimages to America he has spoken with wisdom and

feeling about our strengths and our flaws, our successes and our needs.

The Pope reminds us that while freedom defines our Nation, responsibility must define our lives. He challenges us to live up to our aspirations, to be a fair and just society where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all are protected. And he is never more eloquent than when he speaks for a culture of life.

The culture of life is a welcoming culture, never excluding, never dividing, never despairing, and always affirming the goodness of life in all its seasons. In the culture of life we must make room for the stranger. We must comfort the sick. We must care for the aged. We must welcome the immigrant. We must teach our children to be gentle with one another. We must defend in love the innocent child waiting to be born.

The center we dedicate today celebrates the Pope's message, its comfort, and its challenge. This place stands for the dignity of the human person, the value of every life, and the splendor of truth. And above all, it stands, in the Pope's words, for the "joy of faith in a troubled world."

I'm grateful that Pope John Paul II chose Washington as the site of this center. It brings honor, and it fills a need. We are thankful for the message. We are also thankful for the messenger, for his personal warmth and prophetic strength, for his good humor and his bracing honesty, for his spiritual and intellectual gifts, for his moral courage, tested against tyranny and against our own complacency.

Always, the Pope points us to the things that last and the love that saves. We thank God for this rare man, a servant of God and a hero of history. And I thank all of you for building this center of conscience and reflection in our Nation's Capital.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. on the Catholic University campus. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, Barbara Bush; Adam Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit; Edmund Cardinal Szocka, president, Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State; and Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Vice Premier Qian Qichen of China and an Exchange With Reporters

March 22, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome our distinguished guest from China. China is a great country. China has got vast potential, and we've got common interests in China. And I look forward to discussing our interests. Our relationship, of course, will be a complex relationship; there will be areas where we can find agreement, such as trade. There will be some areas where we have some disagreements.

I look forward to committing to this distinguished leader that any disagreements we will have, we will conduct ourselves with mutual respect. I will be firm, and I suspect he will be firm, in our opinions, but we will do so in a respectful way. It is in our Nation's best interests that we have good relations with China.

And before I introduce our distinguished guest, I do want to say how much I'm looking forward to going to China. I'll be going next fall; the Government has invited me to go to Beijing. I accept the invitation. We'll work out the arrangements, but I'm really looking forward to it.

As a young man, I visited my mother and dad in China in 1975, and I look forward to my return. I can't wait to see the change, the contrast between when I was a younger fellow and now, kind of an older guy. [*Laughter*] But I'm looking forward to coming to your country, sir.

Welcome.

Vice Premier Qian. I fully agree to what President Bush just said. Indeed, China and the United States are major countries. To maintain friendly relations and cooperation between China and the United States is in the interest of Asia, the Pacific region, and the world at large.

Where we have shared interests, we can advance our relationship forward. Where we disagree, we can have very good exchange of views. Some issues can be approached in the spirit of seeking common ground, while shelving the differences.

I'm sure ways can be found to solve all the problems. I view my visit as a very successful one, because in the exchange of letters, President Jiang and President Bush already reached common consensus, which has laid a solid foundation for the growth of our relationship in the new century.

We are looking forward to welcoming President Bush in China in the coming fall.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Gao Zhan/Taiwan

Q. What do you have to say, sir, to your visitor about the detention of an American University professor and, until recently, her husband and son, who is an American citizen? And secondly, are you inclined to allow the sale of destroyers to Taiwan?

President Bush. I will echo the sentiments that the Secretary of State said today about the fact that a U.S. citizen was detained without any notification. I look forward to discussing this with our honorable guest and will do so.

We have obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act, and we'll honor those obligations. No decision has been made yet as to the sale of weapons to Taiwan.

One of our guests from the Chinese press.

President's Upcoming Visit to China

Q. Mr. President, what are your expectations for your forthcoming trip, October, to Shanghai and Beijing?

President Bush. I look forward to seeing the modernization that has taken place. I look forward to seeing the beautiful countryside that I remember so well.

But most of all, I look forward to getting to know the leaders of China. I think the best thing I can do is to—the best thing our delegation will do is to be able to sit down, face to face, and have an honest dialog.

People will find that I'm a straightforward person, that I represent my country's interests in a very straightforward way, but I will do so with respect.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything that China can say or do that would influence your decision about which weapons to sell Taiwan?

President Bush. This meeting will give me a chance to confirm the fact that I will honor our obligations under the Taiwan relations law. I look forward to explaining that as clearly as I can to our distinguished guest. If he cares to bring up the subject and wishes to make a case, I will be glad to listen, but no decision has been made yet. And I'll do what I think is in the best interests of our relationships and in the best interests of conforming to obligations we have.

Q. Mr. President, may I speak in Chinese?

President Bush. Are you with the Chinese press, because your English is perfect.

Q. Yes.

President Bush. You speak better English than I do. [*Laughter*]

Human Rights/Former President Bush

[*At this point, the journalist spoke several words in Chinese and then resumed in English.*]

Q. ——about the gathering outside of the Falun Gong. The State Department has decided to sponsor a resolution to condemn the human rights. And for the past few years it has been failed. And I just wonder, Mr. President, what are you going to try to tell the Chinese side how to improve their human rights?

And my second question is regarding—the Chinese seem very warm to your father; they come, delegation after delegation, visiting your father. Are you going to be teached by your father regarding your China policy?

President Bush. Well, the Chinese, I'm convinced, like my father because he married well. [*Laughter*] My mother is very well respected in China, as is my dad, because they spent time there, and they befriended a lot of folks who are now leaders.

It will come as no surprise to our Chinese guest that I'm a believer in religious freedom, and I will make a—state it politely and as clearly as I can that ours is a nation that respects religious freedom; ours is a nation that honors religious freedom; and that our relationship will move forward, but it will certainly be a lot easier to move forward in a constructive way when our people with whom we conduct our affairs honor religious freedom within their borders.

Q. Thank you.

President Bush. I'd like to thank the press for not violating the beeper policy. [*Laughter*]

Q. We didn't want to get Gordon [Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe] in trouble again. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Gordon became an international figure. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to scholar Gao Zhan, an unpaid fellow at American University, who has been detained in China since February 11, and her husband, Xue Donghua, and their 5-year-old son, U.S. citizen Andrew Xue, who were held separately for nearly a month. Vice Premier Qian referred to President Jiang Zemin of China. The Vice Premier spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7417—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2001

March 22, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

With the dawn of a new century, America's youth face a world of nearly unlimited possibilities. New advances in technology, medicine, and science offer the potential for great progress. We must ensure that every child has the technical skills needed to pursue success in their respective fields. However, they also require the wisdom and understanding to make sense of an ever-changing world.

As teachers, parents, and citizens, we have a responsibility to pass on more than just academic knowledge to our children. We also need to provide them with the moral strength to see them through turbulent and challenging times. An education that nurtures goodness and kindness gives direction and dignity to the lives of our young people and strengthens our communities. Humanity has long recognized such core and never-changing ethical values as vital to the well-being of a society and its citizenry.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, clearly understood the importance of fostering character. His establishment of educational, social, and rehabilitative institutions bettered the lives of people both in this country and abroad. As he once said, "All educational efforts are basically meaningless unless built on the solid foundation of good character." Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the Rebbe's birth, but his legacy of teaching that a nation's true greatness is measured by whether it produces citizens of compassion and character remains timeless.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2001, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2001. By teaching children the highest standards of ethical behavior, Americans prepare our next generation of leaders to pursue meaningful lives as members of a decent and caring society.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:47 a.m., March 23, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Salvation Army Senior Center in Portland, Maine

March 23, 2001

Expulsion of Russian Diplomats

Q. In response to the fact that the Russians responded in kind——

The President. They can make whatever decisions they deem necessary. Our country took the right course of action.

Q. What message does it send, though, do you think?

The President. It says that we will be firm and consistent in our foreign policy.

[*The tour continued.*]

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. One more question, Mr. President.

The President. Same subject?

Q. No, on tax cuts. Even if with retroactivity, the size of the package were to get bigger than $1.6 trillion, is it worthwhile if it provides more money for people up front during this slowing economy?

The President. Well, I think we can accelerate tax relief, we should accelerate tax relief, and keep the size of the tax relief package at the same level. I'm confident we can do both. And I've told those who think it ought to be smaller and those who think it ought to be bigger that it ought to be $1.6 trillion.

The key thing is to make sure that we have tax relief that's meaningful, and to get as much money in the people's pockets as quickly as possible to provide a stimulus package.

Q. But how do you do both?

The President. Well, that's what we're going to work with the Congress on, is to make sure that we come with a size of the package that fits into the budget and at the same time, get money into people's pockets as quickly as possible. There are ways to do that. You could delay one aspect of the total tax relief package for one year, for example. I mean, there are ways to get it done. The key thing is that good people are coming together to try to effect good, sound fiscal policy and to stimulate the economy.

Q. So, Mr. President, if something like what Senator Domenici has proposed happened, there would be some give elsewhere to keep it within the $1.6 trillion?

The President. I think we ought to work to keep it within the $1.6 trillion. I've sent that message. I hear Members of Congress saying, "Now we have the opportunity to load up the tax relief package for different projects," and my message is, keep it at $1.6 trillion. There are others who, of course, want to diminish it, as well. And my answer to them is, let's keep it at $1.6 trillion.

Q. Would you oppose anything like a rebate that brought it above $1.6 trillion?

The President. Well, we're working with the Congress to keep it within the bounds of $1.6 trillion. I saw what Senator Domenici said; he was talking about accelerating by about $40 billion. Well, that's a rounding number when you're talking in terms of trillions.

Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

Q. If campaign financial legislation that banned soft money from individuals and that did not include paycheck protection in labor unions reach your desk, would you veto it?

The President. Well, I'm watching the debate very carefully. My message is, I would like a bill to sign, and I want all parties involved in the debate to know that I'm anxious to sign a bill; I look forward to a bill and am confident that they will be able to come up with a bill that I can sign.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—any one position?

The President. Well, let me put it to you this way. I would—I believe they can come up with a reform that will meet the parameters that I've laid out that I can sign.

Expulsion of Russian Diplomats

Q. Mr. President, are you worried about this tit for tat with the Russians and that it could get out of hand and hurt U.S.-Russian relations?

The President. No, I believe we can have good, strong relations with the Russians. They'll just understand my administration is one that takes firm positions when we think we're right. That doesn't preclude the ability for Mr. Putin and me, for example, to meet at some point in time and have a good, honest discussion about common interests, areas where we can work together, and be able to discuss our disagreements in an open and honest way.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Are you unalterably opposed to the idea of some kind of midterm review? I know you don't like the word "trigger," but anything that takes a look to see whether surpluses really materialize?

The President. Well, it depends on what it is. There's a lot of ideas now being floated out in the Congress, and I'm openminded to any good idea. And I'll listen to what different Members have to say. The key thing is that we have meaningful, real tax relief, where everybody who pays taxes gets relief,

and where, to the best extent possible, accelerate the tax relief to get money in people's pockets to serve as a stimulus to the economy.

Q. So a trigger is not out of the question?

The President. Again, any suggestion that people give I'm willing to listen to. Obviously, one of my concerns is that a tax relief package be undone because Congress wasn't fiscally responsible in its spending. I won't support a measure that says to Congress, spend all the money you want and, therefore, diminish the tax relief plan that we've gotten passed for the people, because one way is to make sure that the surpluses don't exist is if Congress isn't fiscally responsible with the people's money.

Expulsion of Russian Diplomats

Q. [*Inaudible*]—speak to President Putin before you have a face-to-face meeting in June?

The President. Maybe. I'm not sure yet.

Education

Q. Maine's education—[*inaudible*]—worried that your plan for a national testing——

The President. I'm going to address that today. I appreciate you asking that question. The Governor is here somewhere—the Governor and I talked about that. Maine has got a very strong accountability system, and it has enabled the public elected officials to address problems. When I talk about accountability systems, I talk about those developed by States and local jurisdictions, and Maine is a perfect example.

One of the reasons I've come to this State is, not only is it a special spot in my heart because of an address down the road here, but this is a State where accountability and education go hand in hand. And in no way, shape, or form would I want Federal policy to undermine the good work that Governor King and others in Maine have done.

So when I talk about local accountability and a willingness to set standards, I think of places like Texas and a place like Maine.

Gov. Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine. We've been doing testing in the 4th, 8th, and 11th grade in Maine since 1986. We published the results on the Internet by school, by school district, and it's accountability with a capital A.

The President. Yes. I know there's—I'm aware that there was some consternation about proposals that I'm working with both Republicans and Democrats on in the Congress. People have got to remember I was a Governor, and I wasn't particularly happy when the Federal Government began to tell us what to do, particularly when it came to educating our children. And consistent in the plans that I'm working with the Congress on is that philosophy that we trust the local people. And the people of Maine have been very fortunate to have a Governor of this caliber to look after the public education system here.

And as the Governor will tell you, the whole basis of reform is strong accountability, because you don't know whether—unless you measure, you don't know whether children are learning. And anyway, I'd better save some of the remarks for the speech. That way you'll pay attention.

Governor King. I've got a motto for you, Mr. President: Does it work, and how do you know?

The President. There you go. I may copy it.

Anybody hungry? You look like a man who could use a meal. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:10 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to the Chamber of Commerce in Portland

March 23, 2001

Man, Governor, you fired them up. [*Laughter*] I appreciate so very much, Governor, your being here. I know the good people of this State appreciate how you conduct yourself in office. Like your predecessor, my friend Jock McKernan, you brought a lot of class to your statehouse. I love your style, and I really appreciate your focus, because you care about the people of this State. You care deeply about the citizens of Maine, and it's clear the citizens of Maine appreciate

your care for them. So thank you so much for being here.

Rick, thanks for inviting me. [*Laughter*] Where's the wild man? [*Laughter*] Wild lady. Thank you all for coming today. It's an honor to be here, and it's an honor to be your President.

It's an honor to be traveling with members of the congressional delegation. I had the privilege of flying from Washington to Portland with your Congressman, Tom Allen. I don't know Congressman Allen well. I know he's a smart man—maybe a little smarter if he comes around my way more often. [*Laughter*] But I respect Tom's intellect, and I respect his service to the people of Maine. Thank you very much, Congressman, for being here.

And you've got two fantastic United States Senators. Olympia and Susan are smart, capable women who aren't afraid to speak their mind, even to the President of the United States. [*Laughter*] As a matter of fact, I'm beginning to believe they're not afraid to speak their mind especially to the President of the United States. [*Laughter*] But they care about their State; they care about their country. I view them as strong allies and good friends. Thank you very much, both, for being here.

And then of course, there's your mayor. Madame Mayor, I don't know why it is every time I see you, I feel like smiling. But I appreciate your friendship. Thanks so much for being here.

Most of the time when I come to this beautiful State, you don't have to cross-country ski to get into the auditorium. [*Laughter*] But I've got, obviously, fond memories of this beautiful State. I'm hoping my mother invites me back this summer. I'd better make sure I behave. [*Laughter*]

I'm reminded of the time when I first became the Governor of Texas. I went to a dedication for those who served in the Pacific theater in World War II. It was in central Texas, a little town called Fredericksburg. My mom and dad were there, and Laura, the great First Lady of the United States, was there.

And I was really looking forward to welcoming all the World War II vets. It was a chance to say thanks on behalf of the sons and daughters of the great generation. And I said, "Mr. President,"—that was for my dad, who was the head of the parade—I said, "welcome." And everybody cheered. And I said, "Mother." Before I could get out another word, the place went wild. And I said, "Well, Mother, it's clear the people of Texas love you, and so do I, but you are still telling me what to do after 50 years." And a guy in a big cowboy hat moved out in the middle of Main Street, Fredericksburg, and cupped his hands and screamed at the top of his lungs in front of 30,000 constituents, "You better listen to her too, boy." [*Laughter*] I can assure you that the President of the United States is listening to his mother. Remember that. [*Laughter*]

The reason I thought of Mother is, I thought of the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital here at the Maine Medical Center. It is a proud moment in her life that the good folks at the Maine Medical Center dedicated the hospital for her. I can't think of a better—[*applause*]—it is a privilege—it is a privilege for her to have her name on an institution based on love and healing and care. It also reminds me of how deep our ties are to the State of Maine.

My folks love coming to Maine, and they love it a lot. And they can't wait for the snow to melt—[*laughter*]—so they can get back up here. But anyway, thanks for your hospitality.

I want to talk a little bit about budgeting and the importance of good, sound, commonsense budgeting in Washington, DC. I found it's more effective for me to kind of get out of the Nation's Capital and explain my budget face to face with folks, than to rely upon the filter to do so. Sometimes the facts get kind of distorted. Sometimes it's hard to get reality to fight through the folks.

So let me explain my budget, if you don't mind, and what we intend to do with money if we're able to bring fiscal sanity to the Nation's Capital. Step one on a commonsense budget is to set priorities. It's really important for the Governor or the President to use the executive branch to set priorities so that those who spend money stay focused. Without priorities, the tendency is to try to be all things to all people.

So the priorities in the budget I submitted are these. One, educating our children is a

priority. The biggest increase of any Department in my budget goes to the Department of Education. I want you to also understand, though, I remember where I came from. I came from a State—I was a Governor—I firmly trust local folks to run the schools. The people who care most about the children in the State of Maine are the citizens of Maine, and the Federal Government, while it increases spending, must trust the Governors and local authorities. One size does not fit all when it comes to educating children. So we increased spending. But I look forward to working with the Senators and the Congressmen of the—pass power out of Washington, to provide a maximum flexibility so that the Governors and school board folks can take money and meet and match them to the needs that exist. So step one is an accountability—step one of a education reform program is local control of schools. It is a redline for me when it comes to Federal legislation.

But I also know—and I know there is some consternation here in the State of Maine about the call to hold people accountable for results. My attitude is, if you receive Federal money, you ought to measure to determine whether or not the money is being spent properly. I strongly believed in Texas, if you received State money, you ought to measure. The good news in the State of Maine is, the Governor agrees. You've got strong accountability in the State of Maine, and the Federal Government should in no way tell the folks in Maine how to devise an accountability system, and we don't intend to do so. We trust the local people. All we're saying is, "You develop a system so that no child is left behind." How do you know if you don't measure? How do you know if you don't hold people accountable? And how do you know how to correct problems unless you do measure?

And guess what happens in a system and States without accountability? Children whose parents may not speak English as a first language just get moved through the system. It's so much easier to quit on an inner-city child. And one of the reasons we've got to insist upon accountability and work with States to develop accountability systems is so that we're able to detect problems early and solve them before the system quits on children.

Too long we've gone without saying, "Each child matters." For too long we've asked a question in our society, "How old are you? Oh, if you're 10, we'll put you here. And if you're 14, we'll put you there." Instead, we've got to start asking the question, "What do you know?" And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do early, before it's too late.

Another priority of your President is to keep the peace. In order to do so, we must boost morale in our military, and it starts with making sure our soldiers and sailors are paid better. So the budget I submitted to the Congress increases the pay and improves the housing. But morale will also be improved by having a clear mission for our military. And the mission of our United States military must be: prepare our troops to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

I believe strongly that, as the head of the executive branch, we owe it to the people and to the Congress to develop a strategic plan as to how best to spend the people's money when it comes to bolstering our defenses; that as its Chief Executive of Government, our responsibility is to develop a plan about what the military ought to not only look like today but what the military ought to look like 20 to 30 years from now, so that we can focus taxpayers' money in a responsible, planned way.

It is irresponsible to spend your money in a haphazard fashion. We must not have our defense budgets driven by politics. We must have them driven by vision and need in order to not only effectively spend your money, but in order to make sure we keep the peace 20 to 30 years from now. Military preparedness is a priority of our administration, and so is making sure we shepherd the taxpayers' money in a wise way.

Another priority is health care. The budget I submitted to the Congress doubles the Medicare budget—actually, more than doubles the Medicare budget. It says that Medicare is an important responsibility for our Government. But we also must be bold enough to reform Medicare. The Medicare system is ancient. It's meeting some needs

but not all needs. And everybody, particularly those in the State of Maine, know loud and clear that Medicare does not provide prescription drugs for our seniors. It is time to seize the moment. It is time to provide our seniors a variety of options from which to choose, all of which will include prescription drugs.

I've heard all the talk about Social Security. You can imagine, particularly all those ads on TV that said, "If George Bush becomes the President, you're not going to get your Social Security check." Well, let me tell you, the budget I submitted to the Congress sets aside all the money that's supposed to go to Social Security for only one thing: Social Security.

We're going to have a debate on Social Security, as well. The debate about where payroll taxes goes is over. Now, some may decide to try to hyperventilate on the issue, but it's over. This Congress and this President are not going to allow payroll taxes to be spent on anything other than Social Security; that's for certain. And anybody who relies upon Social Security in your State need not worry. The people who need to worry are the younger workers. Those are the folks who need to worry, the folks that are coming up that are going to have to pay for the baby boomers, like me, when we retire. And so this debate may take a while, until the Congress finishes a lot of other business. But we need to have the debate about how to make sure the Social Security system is not only solvent today but is solvent when the baby boomers begin to retire. And I'm going to strongly suggest that one way to do so is to allow younger workers, at their choice, to take some of their own money and put it in the private markets.

So we've set priorities. We double the number of folks covered at community health centers. This is incredibly important programs. I hope you've got—I'm sure you've got some in Maine. They make an enormous difference for the indigent and the poor. So in my budget, we double the number of people served over the next 5-year period. We work with the Congress to make sure the NIH budget gets doubled by the year 2003, a commitment the Senators made so we could have adequate research to help cure disease in America. We set priorities, and we fund them.

There's a lot of debate in Washington about debt, and I'm concerned about debt, too. In the budget I submitted to the Congress, we pay down $2 trillion of debt. That's the biggest debt repayment in the history of the world. It's 2 trillion over 10 years. We pay down all the debt in a 10-year period that comes due.

And if you hear anybody in Washington talking about, "Well, let's pay down all the debt," it means they want the taxpayers to pay a premium on debt repayment. It doesn't make any sense to pay down debt until it becomes due. Otherwise, taxpayers are going to have to pay a premium to do so. That doesn't make any common sense to me. It's not wise to try to accelerate debt repayment. It costs you too much money to do so. Let's pay down debt when it becomes available to be paid down. And that's what we do in this budget. So we set priorities and pay down debt.

Part of the hollering you're hearing out of Washington is the fact that my discretionary spending increases at 4 percent. And that's a lot, particularly since 4 percent is greater than the rate of inflation, and 4 percent is greater than the pay raise most working people have gotten in America. That's a big, healthy increase, particularly when you're talking in terms of billions.

But the reason why it's created some tension and friction in Washington is because it—last time around, they increased discretionary spending by 8 percent. All of a sudden, we've gotten a new Chief Executive in town that says, let's be fiscally responsible. Instead of increasing the size and scope of the Federal Government, instead of having a spending contest before we got out of town, let's be responsible with the people's money. Listen, 4 percent is plenty of growth with discretionary spending.

We also set aside $1 trillion for contingencies over a 10-year period. It could be money to help the farmer. It could be money to—who knows what it will be used for, but it's there.

Now, I know these numbers sound like a lot, but this is reality I'm talking about. We've

increased discretionary spending by 4 percent; we pay down $2 trillion worth of debt; we set aside one trillion in the budget over a 10-year period for contingencies; and guess what? There's still money left over. And that's the debate. The fundamental question is, what to do with it? And I start with this premise: The surplus, that leftover money, is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And I'll give you another premise. The best way I heard it the other day was in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A lady got up, and she said, "You know, Mr. President, I've been a mother and a grandmother, and I love to bake cookies. And every time I baked a plate of cookies and put them on the table, when my children and grandchildren went through the house, they always ate the cookies."

And that's how I kind of view tax money in Washington. If it's left on the plate—[*laughter*]—if we leave it on the platter, it's going to be spent. And so the fundamental debate is, once priorities are met, once we pay down debt, once we set aside money for contingencies, what do we do with it? Do we increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, or do we trust the people with their own money?

The last 4 months of—the first 4 months of the fiscal year, the cash coming into the Treasury was $40 billion, anticipated. This, in spite of the fact that the economy was beginning to slow down a little bit—40 billion more than projected. It sounds like, to me, that somebody is being overcharged. And so I submitted a plan to the United States Congress that remembers where the money came from, that helps with fiscal sanity in Washington, DC, a plan that will serve as a second wind to an ailing economy, a plan that says that everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief. It says to the Congress, trying to target tax relief is not fair. The role of the Congress and the role of the President is not to try to pick and choose who wins or loses when it comes to tax policy. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief.

And so we've submitted a plan that does just that. It reduces all rates on everybody who pays taxes and shrinks the number of rates from 5 to 4. It increases the child credit from $500 to $1,000. And I want to talk about two aspects of the tax relief plan.

First, the code we have now is incredibly unfair to people who are struggling to get ahead. And the example I've used over and over again is one I'm going to keep using until Congress solves the problem. And it's the single mother working hard as she can to raise two children. She's making $22,000 a year.

First of all, she's working the hardest job in America. Secondly, for every additional dollar she earns under this code, she pays a higher marginal rate than somebody who is successful in America; she begins to lose her earned-income tax credit; she gets put in the 15 percent bracket; she's paying payroll taxes.

Under this Tax Code, the people working on the fringes of the middle class, struggling hard to get ahead, pay a higher marginal rate than somebody who is successful. And that's not right. That's not what America is all about, as far as I am concerned.

America says, the harder you work, the more money you put in your pocket, and the easier it is to access the middle class. And we've got to change that, and so we dropped the bottom rate from 15 to 10 and increased the child credit from 500 to 1,000.

But I also believe strongly that we need to drop the top rate, as well. And I know there's a lot of talk about it in Washington, DC, and there's a lot of—by dropping the top rate, it creates all kinds of finger pointing and name calling. But I want Members of Congress to remember this fact about our Tax Code and about our economy and about the American Dream. There are thousands of small-business owners, thousands of entrepreneurs who are unincorporated in America, who are sole proprietors, who are Subchapter S's, that pay the highest marginal rate in the Tax Code. And when you drop the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, we're sending a clear signal that the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to become a big business.

Our Government must understand: Tax relief will provide capital for the small-business owner to be able to expand. Our Government must hear loud and clear that by far, the vast majority of job creation comes from small businesses and entrepreneurs. And we always must remember, the great hope of America, the great dream of our country is for people to own their own business and own their own home, to be an owner in our country.

One of the things I'm going to do is fight for the entrepreneurial spirit in America. And one way to do so is to drop that top rate, to encourage capital formation in the private sector and in the hands of our small-business owners all across the country.

There are two other aspects of tax reform I want to talk about. First, our Tax Code sends the wrong signal about family. We penalize marriage. It makes no sense to do so. I look forward to working with the Congress to change the marriage penalty in the Tax Code. And we also do something else that's incredibly unfair. We tax people's assets twice, once when they're living and once when they die. And that's not right. It's not right for small-business owners; it's not right for Maine farmers, Texas ranchers. It's not right to have a death tax, and it's time to get rid of it.

I know these numbers sometimes sound just like they're a bunch of numbers and a lot of talk and balance sheets and throwing around zeros like its common-day practice. And I understand that. So what I like to do is, I like to put a face on what I'm trying to talk about. I like to invite people who will be affected positively by my plans to—and I would like to introduce to you the Hanington family today. They're from way up East. You're way up there, right on the Canadian border. Willard is a small-business owner. It's a family-owned logging business. He brought his three children with him today. I want to talk about his circumstances right quick.

This good family, they're raising Kayla, who's 14, and Logan, who's 10, and Laci's 2½ years old. They work hard to get ahead. They pay $2,850 of Federal income taxes. And when Congress enacts the plan that I've submitted, this good family will save $2,150.

That's after we've grown the discretionary spending by 4 percent, after we've committed ourselves to saving Social Security and strengthening it, after we've doubled the Medicare budget, after we've provided for the military—there's money left over. And the fundamental question, folks, is who do you want spending that $2,150? That's what the debate is all about. And I submit to you, it's better for our country to trust this good man and his wife to spend their $2,150 than the Members of the United States Congress. I appreciate that.

And that's my budget, and that's my vision. It's based upon, who do you trust? I trust the people of this country. If you were in my position, you'd trust them, too. I travel—everywhere I go, the people of this country are fine and decent and honorable people.

The Governor and I and Senators and the Congressmen just came from the Salvation Army. It's a place based on something Government can't create, which is love and concern and deep compassion. No government can help. We can spend money, but we cannot put hope in the hearts of people. The great strength of this country comes as a result of people loving their neighbor and asking the fundamental question, "What can I do to help? What can I do to make my community a better place?"

Oh, this is a fabulous nation. That's why it's such an honor to be your President. I think we're making progress, not only on issues, but the culture is beginning to change some, in Washington, for the better. It's a culture of accomplishment, a culture of achievement.

Recently the Senate and the House moved a piece of legislation which I supported. I understand good folks may not agree. But there was excessive regulation getting ready to be placed on large and small businesses through what's called ergonomics. And the Congress and the Senate took a look at it and said the cost benefits just doesn't make sense. Let's change it and come up with more realistic policy.

The reason I bring that up is, it was a good, sound debate. Both Republicans and Democrats supported the measure. It made it to my desk; I signed it. But there's a sense of accomplishment, a sense of what we can do

together for the good of the country that's beginning to become a part of the culture in Washington. There's a culture of respect developing in Washington.

I hope in my comments you understand that the Congressman may not agree with what I'm trying to do, and I may not necessarily agree with every vote. But I respect the man. And we need more of that in our Nation's Capital. We need to send the signal that good folks can disagree, that there is time for politics and there's time for doing what's right for the American people. And I'm going to continue to focus—[*applause*].

And finally, I hope that we're beginning to develop a culture of responsibility in the country. Those of us who hold high office, like your Governor, myself, and others, have a responsibility to the people, a responsibility to uphold the honor of the office, but that's just the beginning. That if we're blessed, we have the responsibility to help a neighbor in need. That we must send the signal to our children, make the right choices, be responsible for the decisions you make in life.

No, I think we're making good progress. There's a lot of work to do. But it starts with trusting the people. And we're always remembering, the great strength of this land lies in the hard-working, good hearts of the American people.

Thank you for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at Merrill Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; Richard L. Bisson, Jr., chairman, Greater Portland Chambers of Commerce; and Mayor Cheryl Leeman of Portland, ME.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 18

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, from Camp David, MD.

March 19

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles S. Abell to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maureen Patricia Cragin to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Burnham Ensenat to be Chief of Protocol of the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Walter Kansteiner to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Sampson to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate David S.C. Chu to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark D. Weinberg to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public Affairs.

March 20

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Langley, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter F. Allgeier to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linnet F. Deily to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative with the rank of Ambassador

March 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Orlando, FL, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah J. Daniels to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jimmy Gurule to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kay Cole James to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Timothy J. Muris to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission for a 7-year term beginning September 26, 2001.

The President announced his intention to nominate Susan B. Neuman to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven A. Perry to be Administrator of General Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Pierre-Richard Prosper to be Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis X. Taylor to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert D. Blackwill to be Ambassador to India.

The President announced his designation of Susan Walthall as Acting Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration.

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on March 5–7.

The President amended the Maine emergency declaration to extend the area struck by record/near record snow on March 5–7.

March 22

The President had a telephone conversation with Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani of Qatar congratulating him on the peaceful territorial dispute with Bahrain.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Tutwiler to be Ambassador to Morocco.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eric M. Bost to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tom C. Dorr to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate J.B. Penn to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce Marshall Carnes to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jessie Hill Roberson to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tom Scully to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Angela Styles to be Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Otto J. Reich to be Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The White House announced that President Ricardo Lagos of Chile will be in Washington, DC, for a working visit on April 16.

March 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Portland, ME, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC where he met with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol D'Amico to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Vocational and Adult Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis S. Blake to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda J. Fisher to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude A. Allen to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dave D. Lauriski to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charlotte L. Beers to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lorne W. Craner to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Withdrawn March 19

The following persons to the positions indicated, which were sent to the Senate on January 3, 2001:

Bonnie J. Campbell,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice George G. Fagg, retired.

James E. Duffy, Jr.,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Cynthia Holcomb Hall, retired.

Barry P. Goode,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Charles E. Wiggins, retired.

Roger L. Gregory,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, a new position created by Public Law 101–650, approved December 1, 1990, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Kathleen McCree Lewis,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Cornelia G. Kennedy, retired.

Enrique Moreno,
of Texas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice William L. Garwood, retired.

Helene N. White,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Damon J. Keith, retired.

Sarah L. Wilson,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Loren A. Smith, term expired.

James A. Wynn, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice James Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

The nomination of the following person, which was sent to the Senate on January 4, 2001:

Alston Johnson,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice John M. Duhe, Jr.

The nominations of the following persons, which were sent to the Senate on January 5, 2001:

James V. Aidala,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Lynn R. Goldman, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Nina M. Archabal,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Nicholas Kanellos, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James H. Atkins,
of Arkansas, to be member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2004, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Geoff Bacino,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for the term of 6 years expiring August 2, 2005, vice Norman E. D'Amours, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Betty G. Bengtson,
of Washington, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Ramon A. Gutierrez, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Allen E. Carrier,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring May 19, 2004, vice Duane H. King, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Ron Chew,
of Washington, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Robert I. Rotberg, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Edward Correia,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002, vice Michael B. Unhjem, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

George Darden,
of Georgia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for the term expiring December 17, 2003, vice Zell Miller, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Dennis M. Devaney,
of Michigan, to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission for a term expiring December 16, 2009, vice Thelma J. Askey, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James F. Dobbins,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs), vice Marc Grossman, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James A. Dorskind,
of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, vice Andrew J. Pincus, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Bill Duke,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Charles Patrick Henry, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Michael V. Dunn,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring October 13, 2006, vice Marsha P. Martin, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Fred P. DuVal,
of Arizona, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2002, vice Ann Brownell Sloane, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Ross Edward Eisenbrey,
of the District of Columbia, to be member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2005, vice Stuart E. Weisberg, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Jayne G. Fawcett,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring May 19, 2006, vice Alfred H. Qoyawayma, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Toni G. Fay,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring

October 6, 2001, vice John Rother, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Anita Perez Ferguson,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2006, vice Maria Otero, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Donald L. Fixico,
of Kansas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Alan Charles Kors, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gregory M. Frazier,
of Kansas, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Hsin-Ming Fung,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Speight Jenkins, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Henry Glassie,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Martha Congleton Howell, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James John Hoecker,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2005, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Paulette H. Holahan,
of Louisiana, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2004, vice Mary S. Furlong, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Elwood Holstein, Jr.,
of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice Terry D. Garcia, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Mary D. Hubbard,
of Alabama, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Theodore S. Hamerow, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Timothy Earl Jones, Sr.,
of Georgia, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years, vice Marie F. Ragghianti, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Arthenia L. Joyner,
of Florida, to be a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of one year (new position), to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate

John R. Lacey,
of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2003, vice Delissa A. Ridgway, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Miguel D. Lausell,
of Puerto Rico, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2003, vice John Crystal, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Edwin A. Levine,
of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice David Gardiner, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Robert Mays Lyford,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2002, vice Harvey Sigelbaum, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Sheryl R. Marshall,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2002, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Marilyn Gell Mason,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2003, vice Joel David Valdez, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Laramie Faith McNamara,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2001, vice John R. Lacey, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Allan I. Mendelowitz,
of Connecticut, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2007, vice Bruce A. Morrison, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Susan Ness,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 1999, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Naomi Shihab Nye,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Bev Lindsey, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

David Z. Plavin,
of New York, to be a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of one year (new position), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Donald L. Robinson,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2002, vice Gary N. Sudduth, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Peter F. Romero,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Inter-American Affairs), vice Jeffrey Davidow, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Vicki L. Ruiz,
of Arizona, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Harold K. Skramstad, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Barbara J. Sapin,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2007, vice Benjamin Leader Erdreich, resigned, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gerald S. Segal,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2003, vice Shirley W. Ryan, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Islam A. Siddiqui,
of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, vice Michael V. Dunn, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Beth Susan Slavet,
of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, vice Benjamin Leader Erdreich, resigned, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Kenneth Lee Smith,
of Arkansas, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, vice Donald J. Barry, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Isabel Carter Stewart,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice David Finn, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Shibley Telhami,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Dennis P. Walsh,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2004, vice Sarah McCracken Fox, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Judith A. Winston,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Education, vice Marshall S. Smith, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Submitted March 22

Michele A. Davis,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Michelle Andrews Smith, resigned.

Tim S. McClain,
of California, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, vice Leigh A. Bradley, resigned.

Andrew S. Natsios,
of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice J. Brady Anderson, resigned.

Faryar Shirzad,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Troy Hamilton Cribb, resigned.

Larry D. Thompson,
of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, vice Eric H. Holder, Jr.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. and Mexico Agree on Framework for Delivery of Rio Grande Water

Announcement: Meeting With Women Business Leaders; Meeting with employees at the CIA

Released March 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 21

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Chilean President to Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Appointment of Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli and

Four Public Members to Represent the United States at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

Fact sheet: Administration's Surplus Estimates

Advance text of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice's remarks to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Understanding Risk and U.S. Economic Security

Released March 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 20

S.J. Res. 6 / Public Law 107–5
Providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, relating to ergonomics

Remarks Prepared for Delivery to a Friends of Ireland Luncheon

March 15, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Taoiseach,* Secretary of State for Northern Ireland John Reid, First Minister David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, Secretary Powell, Majority Leader Lott, other Members of Congress, thank you.

I thank the Speaker for the invitation to come here to celebrate the shared history and heritage that unite Ireland and America. It is a great honor. And I promise that my remarks today will be briefer than the last time I spoke on Capitol Hill.

Some of you may be aware that I don't attend a lot of formal lunches like this. But I had a change of heart when I saw that the Speaker's menu included Tex-Mex food. I just couldn't pass up the chance to try a green burrito.

On Saint Patrick's Day, we all get to be Irish for a day. There has been a lot of speculation about whether I'm part Irish. I must be. People say I talk like James Joyce writes.

Today I will speak plainly about an extremely important topic, peace in Northern Ireland. The United States will remain unwavering in our support of peace. We will remain unwavering in our support for all parties who show courage and leadership on behalf of peace. And we will remain unalterably opposed to anyone who would destroy peace by preaching or practicing violence.

Much of the progress toward peace in the past several years has been aided by the engagement of the United States. As I told Prime Minister Blair—and as I will tell Prime Minister Ahern tomorrow—the United States stands ready to continue that engagement. The reason is simple: Peace in Northern Ireland is in America's strong national interest.

The peace that holds today has many authors, from President Clinton to leaders from Britain, Ireland, and Northern Ireland to American political leaders, such as Senator Mitchell. The Good Friday agreement remains the best hope for lasting peace for the people of Northern Ireland. The goal of the United States is to see that agreement fully implemented.

There are two reasons for this. First, this is what the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland voted for back on May 22, 1998. And they did so by a very large margin. Second, the Good Friday agreement embodies principles of fundamental fairness without which peace will never breathe.

What are those principles? First, as stated in the agreement itself, "it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts . . . to exercise their right to self-determination on the basis of consent." The second principle is that of territorial integrity, that borders should never be changed through violence. Third, that terrorism is always and every where wrong. And fourth, there is the principle of equality of representation and equal treatment regardless of religion, race, or ethnicity.

The progress the parties have made in putting these principles into practice has made a difference—a big difference. And no one knows this better than the people of Northern Ireland themselves. Trade, investment, and jobs are up. Violence is down from previous levels. More people are moving into Northern Ireland than are moving out. In most places on most days for most families, life is normal. They don't have to worry when they get on a bus, go to a store or church, or send a child to school. And no one can put a price on that peace of mind.

But no one can or should take this progress for granted, no one on either side of the border, either side of the Irish Sea, or either side of the Atlantic. It may be tempting for

the parties to think they face a choice between further progress and the status quo. But in fact, the actual choice is probably between progress and a return to violence, because extremists on both sides still seek to destroy the agreement. Delay and impasse create a vacuum that they will try to fill. We must not let them.

The talks that Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern convened in Belfast last week created an opportunity to restore momentum toward resolving these issues and fully implementing the Good Friday agreement. Keeping the process moving forward will mean compromise, hard work, and trust. Trust is critical to resolving tough issues facing the parties: building a police force that has the respect of all the people; putting arms finally and forever beyond use; achieving a normal security presence throughout the society; making sure the new political institutions are here to stay. Now is the time to act—as Yeats said, "Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking."

The parties in Northern Ireland, many of whose leaders are represented here today, have shown themselves capable of rising to the occasion and moving forward with wisdom and confidence. And as you do so, know that the United States will be ready to help in any way the governments and the parties find useful.

It's been said that Ireland is a place where "the inevitable never happens and the unexpected constantly occurs." Three years ago, the parties unexpectedly gave us the Good Friday agreement. Weeks later, citizens in all parts of the island defied all expectations by voting to approve the agreement in overwhelming numbers. This year on Saint Patrick's Day, let us all resolve to push for peace, a lasting, real, and needed peace.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President delivered the remarks at approximately noon in the Rayburn Room at the U.S. Capitol. In the prepared text, the President referred to First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland Executive; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and former Senator George J. Mitchell, who chaired the multiparty talks in Northern Ireland. This text was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 23. The remarks as delivered were not released. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Honoring Greek Independence Day

March 23, 2001

Your Eminence, thank you very much, sir. It's always an honor to be in your presence. I think the last time we were together was at the church service right after I had the honor of being sworn in as the President. And I appreciate so very much you being there.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Niotis, Ambassador Philon, Ambassador Marcoullis, Director Tenet, distinguished guests from Greece, as well as from America, welcome. This is a beautiful room to hold an important ceremony.

I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank Congressman Mike Bilirakis, as well as Senator Olympia Snowe, who is not with us today. I know where she is since I flew her up to Maine earlier. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you both for organizing the events. And it's interesting to note that I have been in your State and her State within the last week. All is well. [*Laughter*]

When I became President, I inherited the responsibility to safeguard one of America's oldest and most sacred friendships—that of the Government and people of the United States with the Government and people of Greece. We must keep that relationship vibrant, as it has been for 180 years.

It was 180 years ago that Greece proclaimed its independence—yet another example of Greece's contribution to the cause of human liberty. Few nations in the history of the world have done more to contribute to democratic self-government.

A Chinese scholar, hoping to foster an appreciation of Western thought in his country, recently translated the works of Homer into Chinese. He mastered ancient Greek in order to produce the most accurate translation possible and explained it this way: "If one wants to understand Western civilization, one has to search back to its roots, and the roots lead to ancient Greece."

Greek ideals had an enormous influence on the American Founders. James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, wrote this: "Among the confederacies of antiquity, the most considerable was that of the Grecian Republics."

We respect the ancient influence of Greece, and we value its modern friendships. Greece and America have been allies in the great 20th century struggles against nazism, Soviet communism, and Iraqi aggression. Our two nations are bound by history, by trade, by mutual respect, by common ideals, and one of the world's most important alliances.

We in the United States consider Greece to be a friend, a strong ally, and a powerful force for good in the world. And all the world will see this in vivid display when Athens hosts the Olympics of 2004. We're all looking forward to the great event.

I'm very pleased with the strong and expanding relationship between the United States and Greece. Our trade has increased by 16 percent in the last year. Tourism and high level contacts between the United States and Greece have also increased.

I want you to know that the United States stands ready to help Greece and Turkey as they work to improve their relations. I'm also committed to a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus dispute. My administration fully supports the U.N. Secretary-General's efforts to bring peace and prosperity to all Cypriots. Our goal is an early resumption of the U.N. process.

The greatest gifts of Greece, however, to this country are the immigrants it's sent, men and women who enrich our Nation with their spirit. They're the models of community and enterprise, of family, of education and public service. And we honor Greek independence. And as we honor Greek independence, I also want to honor the Greek contribution to our national character.

So it's my pleasure to welcome you, Your Eminence, our distinguished guests, to this celebration of Greek Independence Day.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the the Indian Treaty Room in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America; Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Grigoris Niotis of Greece; Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Philon; Cypriot Ambassador to the U.S. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis; and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

March 23, 2001

President Bush. Good afternoon. It's my honor to welcome the Secretary-General to the Oval Office. My administration thinks he is doing an excellent job as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and therefore, we heartily endorse his second term as the Secretary-General.

I appreciate your willingness to serve a second term, Mr. Secretary-General, and I'm looking forward to working not only to make sure that you serve a second term, but once that's done, work closely with you to keep the peace and to make the world more prosperous.

So, welcome.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much. Mr. President, I'm also looking forward to working with you. And I'm very happy to be here. We have many issues to work on together, and I'm looking forward to our discussions this afternoon. We will go over a whole range of issues, including HIV/AIDS, poverty, the Balkans and African issues.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Thank you, all. Have a great weekend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Situation in Macedonia

March 23, 2001

The United States joins its allies and the United Nations in strongly condemning the

violence perpetrated by a small group of extremists determined to destabilize the democratic, multi-ethnic Government of Macedonia. The United States and its allies have a longstanding commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Macedonia.

The insurgents in Macedonia claim to be advancing the cause of the Albanian minority. They are not. In fact, their violent methods are hurting the long-term interests of ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, Kosovo, and throughout the region. We support instead those political leaders in Macedonia and the region who have rejected violence and terror in favor of democracy and dialog as a way to achieve political change.

I strongly support the efforts of President Trajkovski and the Macedonian Government to uphold democracy and the rule of law. We encourage the Government to act with restraint and to work closely with elected representatives of the Albanian community to address legitimate concerns, while taking the necessary steps to prevent further violence.

The United States is working with its allies and friends in the region to assist the Macedonian Government in countering the violence perpetrated by the extremists. We support NATO's effort to assess Macedonia's immediate security needs. We are already providing surveillance information to the Macedonian Government, and our Defense Department is dispatching Predator unmanned aerial vehicles to assist in this effort. KFOR patrols have been increased along Kosovo's border with Macedonia in order to improve border security and curtail the insurgents' activities.

Macedonia is a close friend, a partner country of NATO, and a successful example of a democratic, multi-ethnic state in the Balkans. As the United States knows only too well, perfecting such a state—and addressing the legitimate concerns of minorities—is a continuous process. It can only be done through dialog and democracy—and never through violence. That is why we call on all those who seek political change in Macedonia to work through the democratic political process.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
March 24, 2001

Good morning. Just over 2 weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed a large part of my tax relief plan. Now the House is about to vote on my budget, the funding we provide for the needs and goals of our Government. I have sent the Congress a budget plan that reflects our values as a people.

My budget is compassionate. It dedicates $238 billion to Medicare next year alone, enough to fund all current programs and to begin a new prescription drug benefit for low income seniors. It protects all 2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and for Social Security alone. It increases spending on education substantially. It provides tax credits to help low income people buy health insurance. It adds funding for medical research, and it gives our men and women in uniform a $1 billion pay increase.

My budget is also responsible. It pays down the national debt faster than any country has ever repaid its debt before. It establishes a contingency fund for unexpected needs, and it provides a reasonable 4-percent increase in discretionary Government spending; that is, 4 percent after we have paid every promised dime for Social Security and Medicare. Then, after meeting all these priorities, we return about $1 out of every 4 in the surplus to the American taxpayer.

Some in Washington do not think a 4-percent spending increase is enough. They want Government to take a much larger part of the surplus. But think about it. For the past few years, average hourly wages have risen at a rate of about 4 percent. If the taxpayer can get by on a 4-percent raise, the tax collector ought to be able to make do with 4 percent, as well.

There's a lot at stake here. Last year Federal discretionary spending grew at a massive 8 percent. If this spending spree were to continue, we would drain the surplus by funding a permanently larger Government. This would be bad for the taxpayer and bad for

the economy. It would make significant debt reduction and tax relief much more difficult.

My budget plan doesn't slam the brake on spending; it slows the growth of spending. It makes our increases in spending more realistic and reasonable. All in all, my budget will provide the Government with 100 billion more to spend in 2002. Even by Washington standards, this is a lot of additional money, and it is enough.

This debate illustrates a point I've been making for a while: When money is left in Washington, there is a tremendous temptation for the Government to use it. The point is simple: If you send it, they will spend it. And this is why we need a balanced approach of moderate spending growth, debt reduction, and meaningful tax relief.

This is the plan the Congress is now considering, and I hope you'll give it your support.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:22 p.m. on March 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Exchange With Reporters in Kansas City, Missouri

March 26, 2001

National Economy

Q. Are we in the middle of an economic downturn?

The President. We'll let the numbers speak for themselves. I'm concerned about our economy. I'm confident, however, if we do the right things, we can have economic growth, the likes of which we've had in the past. We'll watch the numbers carefully. The numbers will speak the truth.

The last quarter of last year was a very slow-growth quarter, and we'll see how it is in the first quarter of this year. I think a lot of experts believe that it's going to be slow.

Q. Do you believe in Ari's formulation, that we're in the middle of an economic downturn?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. Do you agree with your spokesman's formulation, that we're in the middle of a downturn?

The President. It has slowed down, and we better do something about it. And that's one of the reasons I'm here in Kansas City, to talk about tax relief as part of an economic stimulus package. And by the way, you looked very sharp the other night. Where did you rent it? [*Laughter*]

Airline Strikes

Q. Mr. President, are you going to intervene in the Comair strike?

The President. The National Mediation Board did not make—did not rule. In other words, they did not give me the right to move in on the strike, therefore, the parties are going to have to settle it themselves.

Q. Are you still determined to prevent a season of airline strikes, sir?

The President. I am worried about what the airline shutdowns could do to the economy. I would urge that all parties come to quick resolution on the matters that—you know, on the table. Yes, I'm concerned about what airline strikes could do.

Q. But your hands are tied in this case?

The President. In this case they are, as you know.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:49 a.m. at the First Watch Restaurant. A reporter referred to Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Employees of Bajan Industries in Kansas City

March 26, 2001

Elson, thank you very much for your hospitality. It was interesting, you said the name of this company is a reflection of his heritage, and that's true. But this company is also a reflection of the American Dream, as well. And I'm so thankful for the invitation to be here. I'm also thankful for your willingness to dream and to create jobs. This is what America is all about. This is what I call the lifeblood of the country.

I also took notice of the fact that you were quick to introduce your wife. [*Laughter*] Smart man. [*Laughter*] But I'm so thankful for you all to let us come. Senator, thank you very much for traveling with me. I appreciate Senator Bond's leadership. I believe he's got his priorities absolutely straight, and they include the people of—they include the good people of Missouri, right at the top of the list. And I appreciate being able to call him an ally.

Earlier today, I was proud to travel with a newly elected Congressman, Sam Graves. We went to his district to say hello to folks in the district. And Sam, thank you for your willingness to serve. It's good to see Congresswoman Karen McCarthy. Thank you for your hospitality, Karen. And Congressman Dennis Moore, I've had a chance to visit with Dennis in the past, and I appreciate him at least giving me a chance to make my case. [*Laughter*] Mayor, thank you very much for your hospitality. Thanks for greeting me here today.

I want to talk about a subject that's on my mind—part of my job is to put it on your mind if it's not—and that's how to make sure we treat your money wisely in Washington and what do we do if we have any of it left over. First, let me talk about budgeting. Elson has to budget. And his plant manager has to budget. And one of the key components of budgeting is to set priorities. We're in Washington; sometimes there are no clear priorities. You have to prioritize with the people's money, and we have set priorities in my budget.

A major priority is education. The biggest increase of any department is in the Department of Education. But I also want you to know, even though we're asking for more money to be spent in Washington, I'm not asking for more power. As a matter of fact, I want there to be less power in Washington, because I strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe that Washington ought to trust the local people to make the right decision for the schools. People closest to the problem are those best able to address—[*applause*].

You've heard a lot about some issues that relate to schools in this area. Don't be looking for Washington for the solutions. We may be able to help with some funding, but the government that is closest to the people is that more likely to be able to address problems. And as a former Governor, I understand one size does not fit all when it comes to education. The issues between Texas and Missouri are different, and they darn sure were different within my own State. And so we need more flexibility at the local level, less power in Washington.

But I also believe in results. I know Elson believes in results. He's a results-oriented man. And I believe public policy ought to be results-oriented. So my attitude is, if we increase spending at the Federal level and align authority and responsibility at the local level, we also ought to ask the question, what are the results? We ought to say to local school districts, "If you receive Federal help, you measure and you show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract, so that we know—so that we know—whether school systems are quitting early on children."

And I've seen what happens when school systems quit early on children. Guess who gets quit on: children whose parents may not speak English as their first language, inner-city children. And to me it makes sense that if you receive help, you've got to measure. I don't want there to be a Federal test. I don't want the National Government to undermine local control of schools. But I do think society ought to ask the question, are the children learning? And if they are, we ought to applaud and thank principals and teachers. But if not, we ought to correct the problem early, before it's too late. It's time for a new attitude when it comes to the education of our children, particularly starting in Washington, DC.

And I think we're making good progress. There's a new spirit of accomplishment in Washington, DC. And I think we're making good progress on an education bill. Both Republicans and Democrats are coming together to adhere to a set of principles that will encourage educational excellence.

Another priority of mine, of course, is how best to keep the peace. And so part of my budget was to ask Congress to spend more money on the men and women who wear the uniform, to increase the salaries of our

troops and to make sure they're housed better. I'm worried about morale in the military. And one good way to start rebuilding morale is to pay people better, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

But I also have the responsibility of laying out a strategic plan for the military, for how best to spend the taxpayers' money beyond pay increases. We have the responsibility in the executive branch to take a full review of where money ought to be spent in the future, so we can better keep the peace. Before we ask Congress to spend money on weapons systems, our view is, let's make sure the weapons systems are needed. As we think about research and development money, let's make sure it fits into a strategic plan so that the United States can keep the peace not only today but 20 to 30 years from now.

Another priority is health care. And we've got a lot of money in my budget for health care. We double the money for Medicare. We double the amount of folks who will be served at community health centers. We provide money in the budget to help the working uninsured be able to purchase insurance. We focus on health care.

And we also do something else in the budget—and I know there's a lot of talk, and there's a lot of ways to justify keeping your money in Washington, but one of the old ways of justifying keeping your money in Washington is left. It's no longer relevant. Some may continue to try to frighten people with it—and that's the issue of Social Security. We're taking all the payroll taxes and dedicating them only to one thing, and that's Social Security. The day of trying to frighten seniors in America to be against something is over with.

This is a budget that sets priorities: Defense is a priority; education is a priority; health care is a priority. I readily concede we don't try to be all things to all people in our budget, however, but we do increase discretionary spending by 4 percent. And this creates the rub in Washington. There are some who think 4 percent is too small. I can understand why, because during the last budget cycle the Congress spent—raised the discretionary spending by 8 percent.

Now, remember, inflation is less than 4 percent. Most people aren't getting 4 percent pay raises, and yet asking our Government to live on a 4 percent increase in discretionary spending has created some tension. It made people nervous, has created all kinds of noise in Washington.

But I think it's realistic to ask the Federal Government to keep its spending at a rate a little more than the rate of inflation. I think that's a realistic expectation, and it shouldn't surprise any of you all. I said, if you give me the chance to be the President, I'll work to be fiscally responsible with your money. The days of spending orgies in order to get people out of town are over with, as far as I'm concerned. I'm going to set priorities and strictly make sure that your money is spent wisely and that we don't have a bidding contest in Washington, DC.

We've also paid down a lot of debt. There's a lot of discussion about debt at the national level, and ours is a budget that pays down $2 trillion worth of debt. Now, there are some who may want to pay off more debt. But the 2 trillion is the only amount that's coming due over the next 10 years, and it doesn't make much sense to pay down debt prematurely. It will cost the taxpayers additional money to do so.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, I've taken a commonsense approach to your money. We've set priorities. We've increased the budget by 4 percent. Admittedly, it's not 8 percent, but 4 percent's plenty for the Federal Government to live on. We pay down $2 trillion of debt.

Incredibly enough, we also set aside one trillion more dollars, over 10 years, for a contingency. But you know what, there's still money left over—about $1.6 trillion. And that's where the big debate—that's what we're talking about, what to do with the money. I start with this premise, that that surplus is not the Government's money. It's the hard-working people's money. It's the money of the entrepreneur. It's the hard-working—it's the people's money; that's whose money it is.

And as we're thinking about what to do with it, I hope the Congress always remembers whose money it is. I love the idea we're going to give the people their money back. You know, I say that myself sometimes. I just don't think we ought to take it in the first

place. After we meet priorities, I think we ought to let you have it. So I've submitted a tax relief plan. The debate no longer is whether or not we're going to have tax relief. It is how much money is going to be passed back to the people and how quickly. And that's a good sign for the hard-working Americans who are paying taxes.

I'd like to explain some of the principles of the tax relief plan. First of all, you hear a lot of talk about targeted tax relief. Those words basically mean that Congress gets to pick and choose who gets tax relief and who doesn't get tax relief. But that is not my vision of fair Government. Our vision of Government says that if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief, that the idea of trying to pick and choose who does and who doesn't isn't right. So we lower all rates for everybody who pays taxes. The largest percentage tax relief goes to the folks at the bottom end of the economic ladder.

We understand—or I understand, and proponents of my plan understand, that if you're on the outskirts of poverty, struggling to get ahead, the Tax Code is incredibly unfair. It's unfair because as some taxpayers make more money, they pay a higher marginal rate than successful people do. If you start losing your earned-income tax credit and you go into the 15 percent bracket for the first time, and you pay payroll taxes, the marginal rate on every additional dollar you earn is higher than somebody making $200,000. That's the current Tax Code today, and that's not right.

One of the major principles in the tax relief plan says, the harder you work, the more money you ought to be able to make and keep; the harder you work, the more money you ought to have in your pocket. And so this is a plan that recognizes the code is unfair. That's why we drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

We also drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. And this is where some of the folks in Washington would rather holler than listen to the facts. It's easier to say some things about, maybe certain folks shouldn't be getting tax relief. But I want people to understand this about dropping the top rate. A major beneficiary of dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent are small-business owners. Thousands of small businesses pay taxes at the top personal rate. The limited liability corporation, just like this company, pays taxes at the high personal rate. The unincorporated small-business owner pays taxes at the high personal rate. The sole proprietor pays taxes at the high personal rate.

Elson, you'll be pleased to hear, I hope, that I believe the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. And one way to do so is to provide meaningful tax relief for the unincorporated businesses all across America. By dropping the top rate, we're enhancing the cash flow of the major new job creators in the country. I've come to this plant—[*applause*].

Oh, I've heard the rhetoric, but the reality is, the Elson Seale of the world—his company benefits, which makes it easier for him to employ the good folks he's employing here. Tax relief for small businesses is vitally important. It's vitally important to make sure that the entrepreneurial—the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes in America. It's also vitally important as our economy slows down.

We've got to remember who the major job creators are. New jobs are created by small-business people and entrepreneurs, and we should not let the rhetoric of a few in Washington cloud the issue. And the issue is, how do we get more money into the coffers of the small businesses like Elson's in America? And that's what this tax relief plan does.

So when you hear them saying they're against dropping the top rate, you can translate that to the people saying, "We just don't appreciate entrepreneurship or the small-business creation in this country."

There's two other issues I want to talk about. One is that the marriage penalty is unfair. It's an unfair part of our Tax Code. And I urge the House and, ultimately, the Senate to do something about that.

And I tell you something else unfair in our Tax Code, the death tax. That's unfair. I think Elson ought to be allowed to pass his business from one generation to the next without being taxed twice. I don't know what your plans are to do with your business, and I'm not going to get you to declare right now—

[*laughter*]—particularly in front of your son and daughter, but I do know that if part of your dream is to pass your asset base on to your kin, you ought to be allowed to do so. He pays taxes during—when he makes money; that's one time. Why should he pay taxes on his death? It doesn't seem to make sense to me. If part of the American experience is realizing a dream and building up your own asset base, an equally important part of that is passing your asset base on to your kin, to your son or your daughter. It's part of the American Dream. It's time to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code.

Not only does today give me a chance to talk about the benefits for a company like Elson's, I'd like to introduce some folks that I got to meet at a restaurant over there, the Edwards family. Robert's a manager at Bob Evans Restaurant, and Jennifer's an accountant at a real estate firm. They've got Quentin and Ian with them. Quentin is 3½; Ian is barely hanging on at one—[*laughter*]—looking for a nap. [*Laughter*] Mom probably is, too, right about now. [*Laughter*] The reason I asked them to come, because I want to just describe their circumstances quickly. This good family works hard. They pay $1,750 in Federal income taxes. And under the plan, when fully implemented, if Congress passes it, they'll end up paying no Federal income tax. They'll end up saving $1,750. And I've asked them to come because it gives me a chance to vividly make this point, and it's this: Once the Government has met its basic needs, and we've grown the discretionary budget by 4 percent, and paid down $2 trillion of debt, set aside a trillion for contingencies, what do we do? I would much rather have these good folks spend the $1,750 than the Congress. In all due respect, I think we ought to trust these people with their money. It is your money to begin with.

And that's the fundamental debate, and that's the debate that's going to take place. It's taking place in the House. It's going to take place in the Senate. Who do we trust? This debate, as far as I'm concerned, is a matter of trust. Do we trust the Elson Seales of the world, or do we trust the Government to make the decisions? Once priorities are met, once we have increased discretionary spending, once we have made sure Social Security is safe, once we have doubled Medicare, who do we trust with the people's money? Ask the people.

I would much rather have this man and his wife making the decisions what to do with that $1,750 than the appropriators in the United States Senate and the United States House. And that's the issue during this campaign—and that's the issue during this debate.

And so if you like what you heard, I urge you to use the old e-mail—[*laughter*]—or the telephone or the letter. It's amazing how effective people can be when it comes to convincing their elected officials to listen to a different point of view.

I'm honored to be able to come out and make my case. It's important for me to get out of the Nation's Capital and get in front of as many people as I can. Sometimes the filter may not say it exactly the way I'd like it to be said, if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*] Sometimes the message doesn't get delivered directly, and this gives me a chance to do so. It gives me a chance to say that ours is a plan that meets priorities but doesn't want to grow the size of the Federal Government relative to the size of people's pocketbooks.

There's a lot of talk about debt at the national level. I urge the Senators and the Congress to remember there's a lot of debt at the personal level, too. And there's a lot of talk about, oh, this assumption, that assumption. But one thing we're certain of is that energy bills are going up for people. We're certain of that. And at the very minimum, we ought to share some of the people's—not take the people's money in the first place, so they can manage their new energy account—their increased energy accounts.

Now, we need to hear the people of this country. We need to listen to them. We need to understand the entrepreneurial spirit. We need to trust families with their own money, because the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of the American people. That's the great strength of this country. The great strength of the country happens when a neighbor turns to a neighbor in need and says, "What can I do to help. Brother, you got a problem; what can I do to help?"—

acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis.

No, the true strength of the country is when somebody says, "I think I want to teach some values to a child," and becomes a Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader or Boys or Girls Club leader. The true strength of the country comes when a mother or dad understands their most important job is not what they're doing during the day, but loving—if they happen to have a child—loving their children with all their heart and all their soul. That's the true strength of this country.

I know we've lost some wealth in the stock market recently, but the real wealth of America is the creative energy of our folks. And tax policy ought to unleash the creative energy of Americans and trust Americans with their own money. I'd like your help. I'd like your help. This isn't for me. This isn't help for a political party. This is help for doing what's right for America. This is important for our economy, but it's also important for the families and hard-working people all across the country. And we can afford it.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the factory. In his remarks, he referred to Elson Seale, owner, Bajan Industries, LLC, his wife, Delores, and their children Jamal and Janine; and Mayor Kay Barnes of Kansas City.

Remarks at the Tractor Supply Company and an Exchange With Reporters in Billings, Montana

March 26, 2001

The President. I want to thank—Fred, thank you for having me, and I want to thank you all for coming. I look forward to talking about American agriculture with you. The issues that relate directly to Montana farmers and ranchers are issues that relate to Texas farmers and ranchers, too. Agriculture is an incredibly important part of our Nation's economy.

I'm going to tell you a couple of things, then I'm going to listen. But I am going to tell you that when it comes to negotiations and trade agreements, we will treat agriculture as an important, integral part of our strategy. We won't kind of hold agriculture out and then maybe try to get a good deal or not. Agriculture is an important part of our country's economic future.

Secondly, I'm—we'll have regulations based upon sound science.

Thirdly, I'm worried about energy; I know you all are, as well. Energy is driving up the cost of farming. It's not only driving up the cost of, obviously, what it takes to run your vehicles; it also drives up the cost of fertilizer. And I understand that.

And fourthly, I look forward to discussing with you some of the conversations I've had with our Canadian friends to the north in regards to labeling and wheat policy and timber policy, as well. So I'm honored that you all gave me a chance to come by and visit. It's my first time I've ever been to the State of Montana. But I suspect I'm going to find—good folks here in this State are kind of like the folks where I came from, hard-working, God-fearing, family-loving people who are worried about how to make a living in the agriculture sector. Thank you all for giving me a chance to be here.

Agricultural Assistance

Q. Mr. President, do you see a need for a farm rescue package along the—[*inaudible*]—of last year's?

The President. It's too early to tell, but we've got contingency money set aside. We've got contingency money set aside in case that needs to happen.

Q. And do you see a need for a permanent change in the farm—[*inaudible*]?

The President. It's too early to tell. What we don't know yet is whether or not the new risk management programs that have been put in place achieve their desired effect.

Montana Drought

Q. Montana farmers are worried about drought, Mr. President. What can you do to help them?

The President. Pray. Pray for rain. [*Laughter*] We have just come through a tough drought in my State of Texas, and I understand what drought does to a farmer. The only thing we can do is hope moisture comes, and we've got to call upon the good Lord.

In the meantime, we've got disaster payments and risk management programs at the Federal level.

Thank you.

Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what led Mr. O'Neill to go ahead and give his stock options back?

The President. You need to talk to Mr. O'Neill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. in the warehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Fred Booth, Presidential designee to head the Montana office of the Farm Service Agency. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Community in Billings

March 26, 2001

Thank you all. This is my first time in your beautiful state, and I want to thank you for the warm welcome.

Before I begin and say the thanks, I do want you all to join me in a moment of silent prayer for the two soldiers, men who wore the uniform of America, who lost their lives in Germany today, and two of our pilots who are missing over Great Britain. Would you please join me in a moment of silent prayer, please?

[*A moment of silence was observed.*]

Thank you. God bless them. God bless their families, and God bless America.

I first want to say thanks to my friend, your former Governor. It seems like you still remember who he is. I, of course, know who he is. I had no stronger ally, a good man, as you know and, gosh, maybe one of these days we might convince him to get his political uniform back on.

I appreciate so very much getting to know your current Governor. The first time I met her was at the White House. We had a pretty fancy dinner. It was the first fancy dinner we had at the White House. I invited all the Governors over, and she came and did just fine, I want you to know. [*Laughter*] Now, her husband, on the other hand—[*laughter*]—I don't know where he rented his tux, but he looked quite handsome. At any rate, it was an honor to know your Governor. People say the kindest things about her. She's a good, strong leader, and I know you're proud to call her Governor and proud to call the Lieutenant Governor, Lieutenant Governor. I want to thank them both for being up here today. Thank you all for coming.

I'm particularly proud to be here with the Montana congressional delegation. Fine Americans. Fine Americans, all starting with the senior member of the delegation, the senior Senator who is a man who's got enormous power in Washington. He's the kind of man who has got enough power that if he likes what I have to say and you like what I have to say, I'm confident he'll get it done. We're counting on you.

And I flew into town today with Senator Burns, a man who is not a very shy, retiring fellow. [*Laughter*] After all, he was an auctioneer. But I'm looking forward to having his vote when these bills start hitting the floor. He looked in, and there we were, about 35,000 feet, and he said, "President, you're doing the right thing."

And we already know how this man is going to vote. We've had a couple of tough votes on the floor of the House, and Congressman, thank you for your strong support. You did the right thing for the people in Montana.

I want to talk a little bit about the budget. There's a lot of talk about the budget, and I found it's much better for me to take my case directly to the people. Sometimes the word coming out of Washington gets filtered. Sometimes it's hard to get a direct message to the people. So I found the best way to get the message out is to travel the country. And it's pretty healthy to do so, too. Sometimes some of us in Washington forget where we come from. And that's why it's good for the President to get out and remind people of who matters. And the people that matter are the hard-working people of America who pay this Nation's bills, that's who matters.

I'd like people to know my perspective of how we're going to spend your money. I'd like to characterize it as a commonsense way of spending the people's money, which means we start with priorities. Anytime you

set a budget, it's important to set priorities. I'd like to explain a couple of the priorities in my budget.

Education is a priority in my budget. Our education budget—the Department of Education received the largest increase of any Department in our budget request to the Congress. It's one thing to ask for more money, but it's always important to remember where you come from.

I used to be the Governor of a great State. I used to—there you are. [*Laughter*] You obviously are not checking passports at the border. [*Laughter*] Thank you for waving those flags. And the reason I said that is because I remember how I really didn't like all the Federal rules and strings, the Federal Government centralized authority telling the people how to run the school system. That's why we're asking for more money. We're also asking Congress to free up local folks to make the right decisions for the children. The people who care more about the children in Montana are the citizens of Montana.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to educating our Nation's children. So, on the one hand, we're asking for more money; on the other hand, we're asking for power to be passed out of Washington, DC, with as much flexibility and authority so the good Governor and Lieutenant Governor and legislators and school board officials can help chart the path of excellence for every child.

But in our budget and in our plans for education reform, we also ask this: We ask that in return for getting help, that you, the people of Montana, or the people of any State, develop an accountability system that says to the good taxpayers, "Our children are learning," an accountability system that will tell us whether or not progress is being made.

See, I think it's important for us to be a results-oriented nation, a nation that measures progress, and as importantly, a nation that determines whether children need help early, before it's too late. Our mission in America is to make sure that we reform schools where reform is needed, so that not one child in America is left behind as we go into the 21st century.

I mentioned the military, and one of our priorities in this administration is to strengthen the military; it's to lift the morale of the military. And so in my budget, we ask Congress to increase the pay for the men and women who wear the uniform, to make sure they're better paid and better housed. A priority is a strong military. But it's one thing to spend more money. It's also important to have a Commander in Chief who sets a clear mission for the military of the United States. And the mission is this: Be prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

There are new threats that face our Nation. Ours will be an administration that is realistic, that brings common sense to our foreign policy. We'll address the threats as we see them. I'm concerned about rouge nations and leaders that may try to hold the United States or our allies hostage.

Not only must we make sure that our men and women are trained well; we must make sure we have the equipment necessary to keep the peace, the research and development to make sure we have the systems that says to those who may try to hold our Nation hostage, "Don't try it. Don't dare." We need a missile defense system that prevents the world from being held hostage by terrorism.

The budget we've submitted to the Congress doubles the Medicare budget over a 10-year period of time. It also increases the number of folks who will be served at community health centers. It provides money for the working uninsured, so they can buy health insurance. No, we focus on the health care of the citizens of this country.

The budget I submitted ends, for once and for all, the old, tired, stale political rhetoric that says somebody like Bush is going to come along and affect the Social Security of our Nation's seniors, the old scare tactics politics that for too long has dominated the political scene.

I hope, once and for all, Republicans and Democrats will quit all this business about trying to frighten people, because in the budget I submitted to the Congress, it sets aside all the money aimed for payroll taxes for only one thing, social—I mean, all the money from payroll taxes aimed for Social Security, for only one thing and one thing only, Social Security.

No, I know, there are some who want to keep all your money in Washington, and

they'll say what they have to say to do so. But don't get fooled by this rhetoric about Social Security being threatened. Those days are over with—those days are over with. Those who need to worry about Social Security are not those who rely on Social Security today or those near retirement. The folks that better hope we have a Congress and a President who's willing to think differently on Social Security are the younger workers who are going to have to pay for us baby boomers when we retire.

The debate will happen later on in the year, but I'm going to have Congress take a hard look at letting younger workers take their own money and manage it in the safety of managed savings accounts, investment accounts. Those are our priorities.

Paying off debt is a priority. In the budget I submitted to the United States Congress, we pay down $2 trillion worth of our debt. In a 10-year period, we pay down 2 trillion. People say, "Why not more?" Well, because we'd have to pay a premium to pay down any more debt. That's all the debt that's coming up to be paid off in a 10-year period. It makes no sense, certainly not any common sense, to pay a premium for debt that hasn't come due yet. So this administration isn't going to do that, but we do pay down $2 trillion of debt. It's a significant payment down of our nation's debt. We set priorities, and we pay down debt.

But part of the problem is that I only grow discretionary spending by 4 percent. Now, by the way, 4 percent is greater than the rate of inflation; 4 percent is a bigger increase than most people's paycheck increased. Surely, Congress can keep the spending down to 4 percent. It's going to require a new mentality, though, you see, because discretionary spending at the end of last year increased by 8 percent.

It's like they had a bidding contest to see how—the guy who spent the most got out of town first. And that's not the right way to deal with your money. We need fiscal sanity in Washington, DC. We need to set priorities. We need to make sure that we don't overgrow the Federal budget.

And by bringing fiscal discipline to Washington, by having the discretionary budget that increases at 4 percent, not at 8 percent, there's money left over. And the big debate is, what to do with it. Now by the way, before I tell you what I think we ought to do with it, before I tell you what we think we ought to do, I want to also tell you that within our budget, over a 10-year period there's $1 trillion for contingencies.

So, set priorities; set aside payroll taxes for Social Security; we double the Medicare budget; we increase discretionary spending at 4 percent; we set aside money for contingencies. One contingency may be a continuing problem in our agricultural sector. There's money set aside for contingencies. There's still money left over, and that's where the clash of wills is coming in Washington, DC.

Let me tell you the principles that I made my decision. First of all, that money left over—we call it the surplus—that money is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. The Government didn't earn that money; you earned the money.

In the first 4 months of this year, the cash flow coming into the Treasury exceeded expectations by $40 billion, in spite of the fact that our economy has been sputtering a little bit. During the first 4 months of the fiscal year, $40 billion excess cash came in. It sounds like, to me, somebody is being overcharged. And we need to ask for a refund.

And that's what I'm here to talk about. I'm here to talk about the tax relief plan that I have submitted to the United States Congress. It starts with this. It says, let's reduce all rates. I know there are some in Washington who like to talk about what they call targeted tax cuts. Let me tell you what that means. That means that the folks in Washington get to decide who the winners are and who doesn't win when it comes to tax relief.

That's not our view of Government, folks. Our view of Government says, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. We simplify the code. We try to make this cumbersome Tax Code easier for folks to understand. This Tax Code of ours is patently unfair. It's unfair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're a single mom in the State of Montana, trying to raise two children—by the way, you'd be working the toughest job in the State of Montana, the toughest job. If you're on the edge of poverty, if you're

working hard and you're making $22,000 a year, under this Tax Code, incredibly enough, for every additional dollar that hard-working woman makes, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is successful. Under the Tax Code today, for every additional dollar the single mom making $22,000 a year earns above $22,000, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone making $200,000 a year. And that's not right. That's not the vision we have for America. So I'm asking Congress to drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. I think everybody pretty much agrees with that. Let me tell you something. Let me tell you something else. I'm advocating dropping the top rate, as well, from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, and let me tell you why. Oh, I've heard all the rhetoric; you've heard it, too. You know, this is the plan only the wealthy people benefit.

I want to remind the people all across America that there are thousands of small-business owners who are unincorporated in America who pay the 39.6 percent rate. I want to remind people that there are hundreds of thousands of sole proprietors in our country who are working hard every single day to realize the American Dream of starting their own business, of employing people, who pay at the high rates in our Tax Code.

No, we've heard all the rhetoric. But the truth of the matter is, the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur and small-business owner can flourish in America. And dropping that top rate sends a clear signal: We want you to have more cash flow so you can expand your business when this economy is slowing down; we want you to have more money in your pocket so you can continue to employ more hard-working people in the great land of America.

The marriage penalty is unfair in our Tax Code. It doesn't make sense to tax marriage disproportionally to those folks who aren't married. That's not right. We ought to encourage families to stay together. We ought to have a Tax Code that welcomes families.

I had the honor of meeting with some farmers and ranchers from your good State. And it leads me to my final point on tax fairness and tax relief. The death tax is unfair. It's unfair to ranchers; it's unfair to farmers; it's unfair to the family business owner that works his or her heart out to be able—and wants to leave it to a family member. It's not right, folks. It's not right to tax a person's assets twice. It's time to get rid of the death tax in this Tax Code.

You've heard them all over there. They say, "This isn't enough." We've got some people that are saying, "Let's make it bigger," and some people saying, "Let's make it smaller." Our message we've got to send the United States Congress is the plan I've laid out is just right. It's just right for the small-business owner. It's just right for the person struggling to get ahead in America. It's just right for the rancher and farmer. It's just right.

And let me tell you another reason why we need tax relief. I was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a grandmother stood up, and she said, "You know, Mr. President,"—behave yourself—[*laughter*]—she didn't say behave yourself. She said, "Mr. President," she said, "I baked a lot of cookies in my day." She was talking about the budget and money in Washington. She said, "I baked a lot of cookies in my day. And I've seen children and grandchildren go through my house more times than you can possibly imagine. And every time I left cookies on the plate on the table, they were eaten." That's how I feel about your money in Washington. It's a fundamental difference about once we meet priorities, who gets the money? Where does the money go?

Today I've asked the Palmers—there they go, right over there where it says, "Tax Relief Now." That's Mike Palmer; that's Kathy Palmer; that's Joe Palmer and Jacob Palmer. And I want to thank you all for coming. Mike works for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Kathy is a teller at Wells Fargo Bank. Joseph is 12, and Jacob is 9. This good family, they pay $2,900 in Federal income taxes. Once Congress puts the plan I've just described to you in place, these good folks will save $1,700. That's not a lot for some, they say. It's a lot for them. It's 1,700 more dollars in their pocket.

You know, there's a lot of talk about national debt. I want people to remember in

Congress, there's also debt at the private level. There's a lot of folks who have got credit card debt. They thought they could manage the debt okay, until the fact that our Nation didn't have an energy policy caught up with us.

People's energy bills are going up. People are having trouble making ends meet in America. We've met priorities. We've got money left over. And the fundamental question is, do you want the Palmers to spend the money, or the Government? I want the Palmers to spend the $1,700.

This is a matter of trust. It's a matter of trust. Who do you trust with that extra money? Who do you want to spend it? That's the question I'm asking the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the question I hope you join me in asking. Once we've met priorities, once we've paid down debt, I want to trust the Palmers and the hard-working Americans. It's your money to begin with. It's not the Government's money we're talking about; it's the people's money.

And it's so important to trust the people of this country. It's so important to trust our fellow Americans. The strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's the strength of America. It doesn't lie in our halls of Government. And we have a great form of government. But the true strength of America is in our citizenry and our neighborhoods, where somebody puts their arm around a neighbor in need, and says, "Brother or sister, what can I do to help?" No, the great strength of this country is because good-hearted citizens say, "I want to teach a child some values and become a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout leader or a Boys and Girls Club leader." The true strength of the country is in our churches and synagogues and mosques, places of worship that teach us—that teach the scholar lesson.

I trust the people of this country. That's what makes our Nation unique and strong and compassionate. The best thing I can do besides arguing for good public policy and to sign good law is to begin by changing the culture in Washington, by working to establish a culture of respect.

It's important for the rhetoric in Washington, DC, to be dialed down a couple of notches—that needless partisanship that goes on. We ought to be talking about the people of the country. We need to be talking about disagreeing in an agreeable way. There's a time for politics. Thankfully, we finished that. Now it's a time for good public policy. And a good public policy always begins by trusting the people and listening to the people and remember whose money we're spending when it comes to setting the budgets of the Federal Government.

We have a solemn obligation in Washington to do the people's business. So I believe we're beginning to develop a culture of accomplishment in Washington, as well. I was pleased to sign a bill that would have—that got rid of needless regulations, unnecessary, burdensome, cumbersome, costly regulations on what they call ergonomics.

We can come up with better policy, but it's the system of accomplishment. Things are beginning to happen. It requires a President who can set an agenda, work with members of both parties, and share credit when positive things happen. And that's so important. I want people to look at Washington and not see finger pointing and name calling and bickering but accomplishment.

And finally, I believe we have an opportunity in America to usher in a culture of responsibility, a signal that says loud and clear to our country that each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if we've got an issue in Billings, Montana, don't hope that the Federal Government will wave some magic wand and solve—[*applause*].

All of us in positions of authority must uphold the offices that we occupy. All of us with responsibility must understand that it all starts with those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to say we're a mom or dad. It all starts with loving our children with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. No, the greatness of the country lays ahead of us, when we usher in a period of personal responsibility, when we understand loving a neighbor like we like to be loved ourselves is an important part of the American experience, where we have a hopeful nation, a nation that holds up hope for everybody who is fortunate enough to be called an American.

I see a great day ahead for this country. But it all counts on the people. I'm here to ask for your help. You're only an e-mail away from influencing public policy, only a phone call.

It is such an honor to be here. Marc was right; I was incredibly inspired not only when I saw the beautiful countryside but when I saw the hundreds of citizens who took time out of their day to come by and wave. And I'm honored that so many folks came here today. It makes me feel great. I'm honored to be your President. It's a huge, huge honor. I won't let you down.

God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. at the MetraPark Expo and Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Marc Racicot, Gov. Judy Martz, and Lt. Gov. Karl Ohs of Montana; and Harry Martz, husband of Governor Martz.

Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibilities Related to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

March 22, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Responsibilities Related to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301, of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the following functions vested in the President:

(1) the functions of the President contained in section 594 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–429);

(2) the functions of the President contained in section 1511 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, to exempt Serbia and Montenegro from the sanctions specified in that section, and to waive or modify the application of those sanctions;

(3) the functions of the President contained in section 1(c) of Public Law 102–420, to restore normal trade relations status for goods produced in Serbia or Montenegro by certifying that Serbia or Montenegro, as the case may be, has ceased armed conflict with other ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia, has agreed to respect the borders of the republics that comprised the former Yugoslavia, and has ceased all support for Serbian forces inside Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Any reference in this memorandum to provisions of any act related to the subject of this memorandum shall be deemed to include reference to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

The functions delegated by this memorandum shall be exercised in consultation with the National Security Council, Department of the Treasury and other agencies as appropriate, and may be redelegated as appropriate.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 27.

Remarks at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan

March 27, 2001

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I am honored to be back here in Kalamazoo. The last time I came, I think I went to the school right down the street, if I'm not mistaken. And it is a thrill to be back. It's an honor to be with my friend the Governor of the great State of Michigan, a man who I really enjoy being around. That guy's done a fabulous job as being your Governor, John Engler.

It's good to be with the Lieutenant Governor, Dick Posthumus. Good to see you,

Dick. Candice Miller. It's great to be here with Dr. Floyd.

I got to know Dr. Floyd last summer. I was impressed by him then; I'm doubly impressed by him now. He does a fabulous job for this important institution. Thanks for having us, Dr. Floyd. I'm honored to be in your presence again.

I want to thank the leaders of the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce, Kevin McCarthy. I'm honored that you would have me here. I'm here to talk about a subject that's dear to our collective hearts, our Nation and its economy.

Before I do so, though, I want to thank all of the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I see Upton, Fred Upton, is here, and Peter Hoekstra, Vern Ehlers, Nick Smith, Joe Knollenberg, and Mike Rogers. I'm honored to be in your presence. I would spend more time talking about you, except we're flying back to Washington on Air Force One. It will give me ample time to visit with you about where I think we need to be heading. [*Laughter*]

But the good news is, with those that are here, I have no doubt that they're going to do the right thing. We've had a chance to see them in action before. I submitted my bill a month ago to Congress to reenergize our economy. And this Michigan delegation, at least these folks here, stood strong for the working people of Michigan and voted for real, meaningful tax relief for the people of this important State. And I want to thank you all.

Important elements have passed the House and are now before the Senate. We have made progress. But there's a lot of work to be done. And I'm here to ask for your help. If you like what you hear, you're only an e-mail away from letting two Senators know what you think.

I find it's important to get out of town—at least out of the Nation's Capital—to take my message directly to the people who matter. You see, oftentimes, what I try to say in Washington gets filtered. Sometimes, my words in Washington don't exactly translate directly to the people, so I've found it's best to travel the country. I'm coming in from Billings, Montana. We had about 12,000 people show up last night to hear my—gave me a chance to talk about what tax relief means and what commonsense budgeting will do for our Nation.

You see, it's the President's job to look for warnings of economic trouble ahead and to heed them and to act. I got elected because the people want the President to act, and that's exactly what I'm going to do. My approach is based upon common sense, and here it is: We must put more money in the hands of consumers in the short term and restore confidence and optimism for the long term; we need an immediate stimulus for our economy and a pro-growth environment for years to come.

Some in Congress want America to choose between these goals, to think of the moment and not the future. But lasting prosperity requires long-term thinking. And if we face facts and act boldly, I'm confident we can build the long-term prosperity we seek.

The American economy is like a great athlete at the end of the first leg of a long, long race, somewhat winded but fundamentally strong. We pioneer new technologies in new industries. The dollar is as respected in Kiev as it is in Kalamazoo. The world's shrewdest investors put their money in America. The world's best students come to study in America. And the world's most ambitious people come to work in America. This is an economy that has done amazing things, and it's on the verge of even greater accomplishments and achievements.

Individuals make it happen. That's what we've got to understand. The future just doesn't happen; individuals make it happen. And the right public policy empowers individuals in America. My policies face reality as we found it and lay the foundation for future growth.

As many Americans know firsthand, U.S. stock markets have been declining steadily for more than a year. The NASDAQ peaked a year ago last March. The Standard & Poor's 500 did the same. The Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked 15 months ago in January of 2000. Since those peaks, the Dow has lost nearly 20 percent of it's value, the S&P more than a quarter of its value, and the NASDAQ more than half of its value. These declines have hurt almost all investors, and they've surprised and worried many new investors.

In the final quarter of 2000, the American economy grew at a sluggish 1.1 percent pace. In that same quarter, there was no growth at all in new business investment. Industrial production began dropping last October, and almost every week brings us reports of layoffs, especially in manufacturing. Michigan has been hit especially hard. According to the latest figures, unemployment has risen more in Michigan over the past year than in any other State of the Union. Some regions of America, and some industries, are doing better, but the trend is clear, and the need for action is urgent.

In the short term, the American consumer needs a hand. About 25 million families are carrying more than $10,000 in credit card debt. Many families have tried to reduce their debt by tapping into their home equity, and partly as a result, the average home owner's equity share in his or her house declined in the 1990's. More than a few consumers counted on their earnings in the stock market to help them carry their obligations. They need tax relief fast. In fact, they need it yesterday. So I strongly support the idea of backdating tax relief to get cash into the consumer's hands as swiftly as possible. And I applaud the Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, who have come forward to endorse quick action on tax relief.

Yet, our economy needs more than a pick-me-up, more than a one-time boost. Our economic health depends on people feeling comfort and confidence about long-term decisions to start a new business, to invest in a new idea, to buy a new home. And the people who make those decisions don't care only about this year's tax rate; they care about next year's rate and the year after that.

Immediate tax relief is good news. But tax relief that gets yanked away next year is not such good news. Lower rates do not stimulate much economic activity unless people can rely on them for years down the road. We must rebuild business confidence and market confidence and consumer confidence through a permanently improved business environment. Lower tax rates mean a new home will be more affordable, not just the first year but every year. Lower rates mean that a new investment will have a better chance of success, not just the first year but every year. Lower rates mean that a startup company will keep more of its earnings in not just the first year but in every year.

The long-term growth of our economy also depends not only on real, meaningful tax reductions but also on increasing productivity. America has prospered more than any other major economies in recent years because our productivity has grown faster than that of other major economies and faster than we, ourselves, once believed possible. Since 1995, in fact, productivity has grown nearly twice as fast as it did between 1975 and 1995.

What makes productivity go up? Well, you know as well as anybody, it's education and investment. If our productivity is to continue to grow, our people must know more tomorrow than they know today. They must read better. They must calculate faster and more accurately. They must understand science more deeply. So our education policies must insist upon results. We must be bold enough to measure our children's progress. We must hold schools accountable. And we must give parents and children better options if our schools fail to teach and will not change.

And if our productivity is to continue to grow, our tools and machinery and equipment must work better and faster. Our present Tax Code discourages investment by small business and entrepreneurs. The vast majority of American businesses—the vast majority of American businesses—pay tax on the personal schedule, not the corporate schedule.

It's important for Congress to hear this. The number of unincorporated businesses and sole proprietors are huge. But they're the backbone of economic vitality in America. Back in 1990 they faced a top rate of 28 percent. Today, the unincorporated business can face a maximum Federal rate of nearly 40 percent. Those taxes come right out of cash flow, making it harder for small-business owners to make investments that raise productivity, boost incomes, provide benefits to their workers.

High taxes discourage potential entrepreneurs from taking the risk of starting a new business in the first place. Small business generates approximately 75 percent of America's net new jobs. High tax rates are weighing those businesses down. And so I've

submitted a plan that not only reduces the rate at the bottom end of the economic spectrum but raises the top rate, as well, to give small businesses the lift they need to continue providing the job base that will keep America strong.

Oh, I know you've heard the rhetoric about only certain kinds of people are going to get relief if you reduce all rates. But I want to talk about two things, two principles: One, if we're going to have tax relief, everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief; and secondly, it's important to always remember the role of the Federal Government—or any government for that matter—is not to try to create wealth; the role is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which a small-business owner can grow to be big businesses.

So it's important to send a message to the Members of the United States Senate to be fair and principled and always remember the role that the small-business owner provides in America. Dropping that top rate makes good, strong economic sense for the future of this country.

My plan also will encourage the saving that makes investment possible. The marginal tax rate on savings can reach 68 percent when the impact of the death tax is combined with that of personal income tax. The death tax is unfair. It taxes a person's assets twice. It discriminates against savings, against investment, and against growth. And my plan repeals the death tax.

And my plan reforms Social Security so that every worker can be a saver and an owner. There is no human dream stronger than the dream of having something you can call your own. It is the promise of America, the promise of independence and dignity. And we must reform the Social Security system to give workers the option of directing some of their payroll tax contributions into personal retirement accounts, give every—every—working American an opportunity to be an owner, not just a wage earner.

We will protect those who rely on Social Security. We'll also strengthen our Nation's greatest social program by making it a powerful source of saving and investment, more money in people's paychecks in the short-term, greater incentives for work and saving in the long-term.

Tax relief is central to my plan to encourage economic growth, and we can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative. They already assume an economic slowdown in the year 2001.

Even if the slowdown were to turn into a recession similar to that of 1990 and '91, the Congressional Budget Office projects that the 10-year surplus would shrink by only 2 percent, from a little more than 5.6 trillion to a little less than 5.5 trillion. Of course, there's more to economic growth than just taxes and budget. An industrial economy runs on energy, and we must have a strategy to keep the wheels turning and the lights burning.

I know you've seen the news. The lights are dimming in California. Consumers and businesses in California, the West, and all over our Nation are paying sharply higher energy bills. And as we compare our future energy needs to the currently projected domestic energy supply, we see an ominous growing gap. Our people are paying a high price for years of neglect, and the time to act is now.

I directed Vice President Cheney to lead a task force that will produce the comprehensive energy strategy this Nation needs and has lacked for many years. The energy problem wasn't created overnight, and we won't solve the problem overnight. But we will at last start down the right road, so that the shortages we face today will not recur year after year.

We'll not solve the energy problem by running the energy market from out of Washington, DC. We will solve the energy problem by freeing the creativity of the American people to find new sources of energy and to develop the new technologies that use energy better, more efficiently, and more cleanly.

The tests for any energy policy are simple. Does it increase supply, and do its incentives encourage conservation? A policy that fails to meet these tests is bad public policy, and that is why this administration does not and will not support energy price controls. Price

controls do not increase supply, and they do not encourage conservation. Price controls contributed to the gas lines of the 1970's, and the United States will not repeat the mistake again.

And there's another mistake we won't repeat, the mistake of putting artificial barriers in the way of world trade. When economy slows down, protectionist pressures tend to develop. We've seen this happen before, and it could happen again. So I want to say this as clearly as I can: Trade spurs innovation; trade creates jobs; trade will bring prosperity. If our trading partners trade unfairly, they'll hear from us. This administration will always speak for American interests, but free and open trade is in our national interest. The world will know this, that I strongly and my administration strongly supports free trade.

Twenty years ago hundreds of millions of human beings were walled off from the global economy by the policies of their own Government. And those walls are coming down. And people in Mexico and the Americas and Asia and Africa and eastern Central Europe are being set free to join the world, to understand the promise of market-oriented systems. It's a big change, and change isn't always easy. But trade lifts lives, and trade furthers political freedom around the world. And it will build the wealth of our Nation.

I believe this. I believe I must speak straight with the American people. The American economy began slowing last summer, but we know how to emerge from trouble. I like to look at what my predecessors did in the past. John F. Kennedy supported tax cuts to jump-start a sluggish national economy in the early 1960's. Ronald Reagan used tax cuts to break us out of stagflation in the early 1980's. And I strongly believe that meaningful, real tax relief can ignite another generation of growth, a tax plan that doesn't play favorites, a tax plan that cuts taxes permanently, a tax plan that not only gets money in people's hands quickly but a tax plan that stimulates investment and enterprise and entrepreneurial growth. That's the tax plan I submitted.

You know, some in the Congress are saying, "Well, Mr. President, your plan is too little," and some are saying, "It's way too big." But after careful thought, I can look you in the eye and say, "I think it's just right," and I hope you'll join me.

I remember campaigning here in the great State of Michigan—I think John might remember this—and people kept saying, "Well, it just doesn't seem like your tax plan is getting much steam. Nobody seems interested." And I said, "Well, I think you miscalculated our campaign. It's not one that's based upon polls or focus groups. The campaign I wage and the administration I'll run is one based upon doing what I think is right. I'm worried about hard-working people in America. I worry about the man or woman who goes to work every single day and has high energy bills to pay and credit card debt to worry about. I worry."

I also understand this basic premise of America, though, that we've got to trust the people of the country to make decisions, that the whole fundamental concept of America is based upon individual freedom, and our Government must trust people. And it starts with understanding that the surplus—it is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And we ought to trust them with their own money.

And that's the fundamental debate in Washington, DC. If you listen carefully, the people up there will use every excuse in the book to increase the baselines of Government. At the end of last year, the discretionary spending in Washington, DC, increased by 8 percent. It's vastly larger than the rate of inflation. So the new administration came to town and said, "Why don't we focus and set some priorities and slow the discretionary rate of spending down to 4 percent?" And I must confess, it created some to squawk and holler.

But we submitted a budget that sets priorities. It doubles Medicare. It sets aside all the payroll taxes for Social Security. It focuses in education. It pays the people who wear the uniform of the military more money. But I think it's important—we pay down $2 trillion of debt. There's $1 trillion set aside over the next 10 years for contingencies, and there's still money left over. And I strongly urge the United States Senate to remember where that money came from. It's the people's money, and we need to send

it back to the people who pay the bills in this country.

Now, this is an issue about trust, as far as I'm concerned. Who do you trust? And I want you to know, I trust the people of this country. I not only trust them to spend their own money more wisely than the Federal Government will spend it, but I trust the people to provide a compassionate tomorrow for our fellow citizens.

You see, I understand the great strength of this country is not in the halls of Government, faraway capitals; it's in the neighborhoods of Kalamazoo, Michigan. It's in the churches and synagogues and mosques that dot this landscape.

We'll debate budgets and line items and all that, but one thing that can't be debated is the true strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of citizens who hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they would like to be loved themselves. The true strength of the country takes place in acts of kindness that no Government official probably has ever heard of, where somebody walks across the street and says, "What can I do," to somebody who needs a hand or that Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader who dedicates time to teach a child values or the afterschool program run by a Girls' Club or Boys' Club, where somebody says, "Gosh, I'd like to help somebody understand somebody loves them." Now, that's what America is all about.

And our Federal Government not only must trust people with their own money; we must empower the great compassion of America by trusting Americans all across the country. It begins by working on changing the culture of the Nation's Capital, and I think we're making good progress. There's a culture of responsibility beginning to become a part of our Nation's Capital that each of us understand if we're given the awesome tasks that we're responsible for upholding the offices we hold. There's a culture of respect beginning to take hold in the Nation's Capital, where good people can disagree but on respectful terms. The American people are sick and tired of finger pointing and name calling to try to tear somebody down to build themselves up. It's time to have good public policy become the focal point of this Nation's Capital.

And I'm convinced that by changing the tone of Washington and by setting lofty goals and remembering where the great strength of this country comes from, that this land of ours can achieve anything we set our mind to; that not only will this economy come roaring out of its doldrums, but we'll be a land where the fabric is made up of groups and loving centers that really say to somebody, I want you to succeed; that the American hope belongs to everybody who lives in this great land.

I love being your President. I'm honored you're here. Thank you for giving me a chance to state my case, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Michigan Secretary of State Candice S. Miller; Elson Floyd, president, Western Michigan University; Kevin McCarthy, first vice chair, Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce; and State Senator Mike Ross.

Message to the Congress Reporting on the National Emergency With Respect to Angola

March 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 27, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

March 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting covering calendar year 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 27, 2001.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

March 28, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. I want to thank the leadership of the House and the Senate for coming up. Today's a big day. The House is going to take up a budget, a budget that is a commonsense budget, one that meets priorities, one that grows discretionary spending by 4 percent, a budget that protects Social Security, a budget that funds Medicare. It's also a budget that recognizes that this Nation needs a tax relief package to stimulate our economy.

I want to thank you for coming, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you, Chairman Thomas, for working with Members of the House to get the package moving quickly. Later on this week you'll be taking up, as I understand, the child credit and the marriage penalty and, later on, the death tax. And I appreciate your leadership.

I've been very encouraged to see that Members on both sides of the aisle have been talking about the need not only to have immediate stimulus to the economy but certainty in our country, by having rates reduced. But reducing just one rate is not enough. In order to encourage the growth of our small businesses and enhance the entrepreneurial fervor of America we need to cut all rates, so that there's certainty in our economy when people plan. And I'm confident we can get this done. It's in the best interests of our country that we do so.

I want to thank the Senators who are here. We've got a big vote coming up next week on the budget. The chairman is here of the Budget Committee. He's a man who understands the importance of tax relief to stimulate growth. I appreciate you, Mr. Chairman, for your hard work. And we look forward to working with you.

Thank you all for coming.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Mr. President, on campaign finance reform——

The President. I'm talking about the budget today. There will be ample time to talk about bills in progress. Today I want America to hear, we're going to get a good budget out of the House, and we'll get a good budget out of the Senate. And it's in the best interests of the working people that we do so.

Q. Will you say if there's——

The President. I'm talking about the budget today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, and Senator Pete, Domenici, chairman, Senate Budget Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Meeting With Crewmembers of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*

March 28, 2001

Well, it's my honor to welcome to the Oval Office some of our leading scientists and entrepreneurs, space entrepreneurs. Ken, thank you very much for coming.

These five folks represented our Nation well in space. They represent the best of the country—very capable, strong, smart citizens who understand that our Nation must always be exploring space. And I'm glad you all are here. Thanks for coming.

Thank you very much, sir, for being here, as well.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:56 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mission Commander Kenneth D. Cockrell, pilot Mark L. Polansky, and Specialists Thomas D. Jones, Robert L. Curbeam, Jr., USN, commander, and Marsha S. Ivins. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Meeting With Technology Industry Leaders

March 28, 2001

Thanks for coming. I appreciate that warm welcome. And welcome to the people's house. It's a nice place to live. [*Laughter*] And I'm glad I'm living here.

I want to thank Lezlee for all her hard work in putting together this group of leaders from around the country. I want to thank the members of the Cabinet who are here, some of whom you'll hear from in a little bit. Elaine Chao and Spence Abraham and Paul O'Neill and Don Evans really represent the best of the country, and I really appreciate the fact that they've left their—left the private sector to serve the country. We've got a really good Cabinet. One of the lessons I learned in the private sector was it's important to set an agenda and to delegate to good, honest people. And I have done so.

I was going to say, thanks for all the Members of the Congress who are here, but I see Members of the Senate who are here. Thank you all for coming. Senator Hatch, Burns, and Allen are some of the very best public servants our country has got to offer, and I want to thank you all for coming. I'm looking forward to working with you on the budget. [*Laughter*]

I first want you all to know that this administration has great confidence in the future of our technology industry. We recognize, like you do, that the stock market may be sending a little different message right now, that people have suffered losses and there are some difficult times for some of the companies in the high-tech world. But the accomplishments of the industry are rock-solid. The future is incredibly bright.

You've changed the way we work and communicate, and you've changed the way we learn. You've done for America—economic leadership in the 21st century—what heavy industry did for America in the 20th century. And all the difficulties you face today really don't cloud a future that is so optimistic and bright.

The social benefits from the tech industry are as sweeping as the economic potential—telemedicine for the sick, distance learning and assistive technology for individuals with disabilities, for example. Your companies symbolize the innovation and optimism of this great Nation. Your success fills us all with confidence in the continued growth of our economy.

You make us all a little prouder to be Americans. You've done so much for your country, it's time for your country to do something for you. I oftentimes say that the role of Government is not to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can continue to flourish.

First things first: We've got to restore consumer confidence. We can help in Washington by returning tax money to the people who pay the bills this year. We can restore investor confidence by building a better business environment for years to come, starting with having a realistic, sound energy policy, a policy that says, of course we can conserve better, but we need new supplies. We need to aggressively seek new supplies. And not only do we need new supplies of natural gas, for example, we need new pipelines to move natural gas. We need new powerplants. We need an aggressive, forward-thinking energy policy that balances the needs of our environment with the needs of the people of the country.

We can also help by having a world of free trade. You know that one of the concerns is if the economy were to slow down like ours, the protectionist sentiments around America might start bubbling to the surface. Ours is an administration dedicated to free trade. I hope the Congress gives me trade promotion authority as soon as possible, so I can negotiate free trade agreements. We should not try to build walls around our Nation and encourage others to do so. We ought to be tearing them down. Free trade is good for America, and it will be good for your industry, as well.

And finally, we need to have lower taxes, instead of bigger Government. We're having a big debate here, but one thing you can't debate is, this is an administration that has put together a progrowth tax relief agenda, the first one in a long period of time. I mean, not only do we need to get money in consumers' hands as quickly as possible, we need to reduce all rates so that entrepreneurs can plan. I can't think of anything worse than to say, "We'll get money into consumers' hands quickly, and then kind of change the rate structure."

And so I want to reduce all rates: the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent; the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. People say, "Why would you want to drop the top rate?" Well, let's start with this simple fact that thousands of small businesses pay taxes at the highest rate. The businesses who are unincorporated, the sole proprietorships, the companies that have started in somebody's garage pay at the 39.6 percent tax rate. And by dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we will send a clear message that the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. By cutting the top rate, we'll provide more cash flow for small businesses to provide more employment.

You know, I've heard all the rhetoric, but the truth is, dropping all rates will be good for our economy, good for planners, good for those who want to think long term. And we can afford it. That's the thing that Congress and the people must hear: We can afford it. There's a lot of issues with the budget, starting with this—that you now have a President who believes in fiscal sanity when it comes to the people's money; that we've increased discretionary spending by 4 percent in our budget. Now, that may sound like a lot to a lot of you all who are now managing your cash accounts and managing your cash flow. After all, a 4 percent increase is greater than the rate of inflation. A 4 percent increase in a budget is greater than most working—the raises working people have gotten this year.

Except the problem is, here in Washington, it's half of—exactly half of what was increased—how the discretionary accounts increased last time. You see, they had a bidding contest, a bidding war last time. It was like, the person who bid the highest got to go home. And therefore, the discretionary accounts increased by 8 percent, and we can't afford that kind of spending in Washington, DC.

So a President and an administration has come along and says, "Let's set priorities, and let's focus, and let's always remember whose money we're spending. It is not the Government's money; it's the people's money." And for those who say we can't afford meaningful, real tax relief that will stimulate the economy, they're the ones who want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. They trust the Government to spend people's money, and that's not the philosophy of this administration.

Once we've set priorities, we trust the people to spend their money. We trust the entrepreneurs with enhanced cash flow. We trust the working people to manage their own accounts. And that's the debate here in Washington, and I'm asking for your help. I would like for you to e-mail your Senators. You don't have to worry about the Members of the House. And by the way, you don't have to worry about—don't e-mail these three; they're solid. [*Laughter*]

I'm optimistic. I'm very optimistic. The terms of the debate have somewhat shifted. I can remember campaigning in your neighborhoods, and people would say, "Well, he's just talking about tax relief, and he really might not mean it. People don't want tax relief." The debate is no longer whether or not we're going to have tax relief; the debate is how quickly and how big. And I'm optimistic we can get a good package.

Today the House is voting on the budget. Next week the Senate will vote on the budget. It's going to be a tough vote, but all of us are working hard on behalf of the working people of the country and the entrepreneurs and small-business people of the country, to get a good budget out of the Senate.

Today, as well, I'd like to announce that—a cochairman of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. He is here with us, his name is Floyd Kvamme. And I'm honored, Floyd, that you take on the position.

Science and technology have never been more essential to the defense of the Nation

and the health of our economy. I will hear the best scientific and technological advice from leaders in your field. And I can think of no better coordinator than Floyd. He is an entrepreneur. He is a risk taker. He understands risk and reward. But more importantly, he knows the players, the people that can bring good, sound advice to this administration, and I'm honored to have you on board.

As well, I've got some good news, and you may have been watching the Senate Banking Committee. But after a lot of work with industry leaders and the administration and Members of the Senate, the Export Administration Act, a good bill, passed the Banking Committee, 19–1.

The technology that you all have helped develop, obviously, gives us an incredible military advantage, and that's going to be important. And it's an advantage, by the way, that we tend—want to develop, to make sure we can keep the peace, not just tomorrow but 30 years from now. We've got to safeguard our advantages, but we've got to do so in ways that are relevant to today's technology, not that of 20 years ago.

The existing export controls forbid the sales abroad of computers with more than a certain amount of computing power. With computing power doubling every 18 months, these controls had the shelf life of sliced bread. They don't work.

So in working with the Senate, we're working to tighten the control of sensitive technology products with unique military applications and to give our industry an equal chance in world markets. And I believe we've got a good bill. It's a bill that I heard from you all during the course of the campaign. The principles we discussed are now a part of this bill. I want to thank Senator Phil Gramm for his hard work in working with us and industry and some Members of the Senate to make sure the bill that has been crafted is a good bill. And I urge the Senate to pass it quickly.

Likewise, we want the R&D credit to be permanent, and we're working with Members of the Senate to do so. A lot of us in this administration have been in the world of taking risk. We understand that one of the most important parts about Government policy is that there be certainty in the policy. And I think making the R&D credit a permanent part of the Tax Code is part of creating certainty, so people can more wisely make investments with cash flow in their capital accounts.

And finally, we have a word about education. We're making great progress in education. I know it's a subject dear to you all's hearts. It should be. Your industry thrives on not only capital, dollars and cents, but it also thrives on human capital. And our Nation must do a better job of educating all children.

The principles inherent in the reform package that we're moving through the Senate and the House are these: One, we expect there to be high standards in public education. To put it this way, every child can learn, and systems that don't believe so need to be changed.

Secondly, I strongly believe in aligning authority and responsibility at the local level. I know full well when you disassociate the two, it provides convenient excuses for failure. A school district will say, "Oh, gosh, I would have done it differently, but the centralized authority made me do it this way." It's time to get rid of all the excuses for failure inherent in our school systems. And one way to do so is to pass power out of Washington, to trust local folks to set the path for excellence for the children in the districts in which they live, in which the local folks live. What I'm trying to say is, the Government closest to the people is that which works best.

And finally, we need to have a results-oriented system all around the country. Here's the way I'm doing it. I'm saying if you receive Federal money, you've got to measure. If you receive help at the Federal level, you, the local district or the State, must measure third through eighth grade. And Sandy Kress will describe what we're trying to do.

But the point is pretty simple. How do you know if children are learning unless you test? The accountability systems are not designed to punish folks. It's designed to make sure children just simply are—are not simply shuffled through the system. We've got to end that practice of giving up on children early.

And so we start early; we measure early; we provide money for remedial education.

Every child counts, and every child can learn. And the whole crux of reform is accountability. And when we measure and find success, we'll praise it. But by measuring, you also—one can also detect failure, and that becomes the catalyst for reforms at the local level. We're going to make good progress on education.

And finally, I believe we're making progress in Washington about changing the culture up here. There is now a—people are beginning to be able to debate in a respectful tone. The country isn't interested in the old style—at least, the politics of the past, where the person who screamed the loudest or had the cutest sound byte was the one that appeared to be the most effective. The country wants there to be a level of respect in our debate. And this is an administration that is working hard to provide that.

We're not always going to agree, but we'll agree to be—we'll disagree in an agreeable way, in a way that brings pride to the system. There is also becoming a culture of accomplishment in Washington. Things are getting done. I signed some legislation that had been incredibly onerous for small businesses and large business, alike. When the Congress moved quickly to get rid of an ergonomics regulation that just—the cost far outweighed the benefits. It would have been harmful to the private sector. It would have been harmful to those who want to employ people. And they got the people's work done quickly and got it through.

Slowly, but surely, we're beginning to get people to focus on results. You see, I know there's a time for politics, and there's a time for policy, and now is the time for good public policy on behalf of the citizenry of the country.

And finally, I hope we'll be able to start a culture of responsibility, that all of us in this country must be responsible for the communities in which we live. I see Barksdale sitting over here. He is a person who sent a clear signal about what it means to be a responsible citizen by supporting public education, and I know many of you all in the audience feel the same way.

But responsibility is not only sharing the wealth that has been generated in important programs, but it's also being responsible as a mom or a dad; responsible for activities that say to a child, "Somebody loves you;" responsible for encouraging mentoring programs in your companies or in your neighborhoods or in your churches or synagogues or mosques. And we're making good progress in the country. And the reason why is, because this is a fabulous country, that's why. This is a country that has got great heart, great spirit, great vision, and great compassion. And I'm proud to be the President.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lezlee Westine, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison; Sandy Kress, Senior Education Adviser, Domestic Policy Council; and Jim Barksdale, partner, The Barksdale Group, and former president and chief executive officer, Netscape Communications Corp. The President also referred to R&D credit, the research and development tax credit.

Proclamation 7418—Cancer Control Month, 2001

March 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 2001, an estimated 1.2 million new cases of cancer will occur, and more than half a million individuals will die from the disease. Standing alone, the figures are discouraging. However, a recent decline in the rates of new cases, as well as cancer-related deaths, offers us hope. The 5-year survival rate has improved for all cancers, and 8.9 million Americans are cancer survivors.

Thirty years of investment in the National Cancer Program following the National Cancer Act of 1971 have accelerated the pace of cancer research. The investment in research has yielded great dividends in the areas of cancer prevention, early detection, better treatments, and improved quality of life for people with cancer. These advances are remarkable, but much remains to be done.

Healthy behavior can greatly reduce the risk of cancer. About 45 million Americans have already quit smoking, but this most

preventable cause of cancer continues to damage public health. Tobacco use causes nearly all cases of lung cancer and more than one-third of all cancer deaths. Children can become addicted to tobacco in a very short time, placing a serious responsibility on adults to help young people stop smoking, or ideally, never start.

Other weapons remain formidable in the fight against cancer. Since 1991, the 5 A Day for Better Health program has spread the message that eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily can improve health and prevent disease. Over the past 15 years, increasing numbers of women have been screened for breast cancer. Continued emphasis on screening for cancer, including colon cancer, can play a vital role in saving countless lives. Clinical trials of new drugs may reveal which ones are most effective in treating cancer. The Cancer Information Service, a free public service of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institutes of Health, operates as a national resource for information about cancer. Americans may contact the organization at 1–800–4–CANCER or visit its Internet address at *http://www.cancer.gov.*

Cancer takes a terrible toll on our country. I encourage all Americans to make healthy choices in their personal behaviors. Together, we can help stop cancer and improve the odds of survival for people of all ages.

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103) requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2001 as Cancer Control Month. By reaffirming the importance of controlling cancer, concerned citizens, government agencies, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and other interested groups can work toward the day when this devastating condition is finally eradicated.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:40 a.m., March 28, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 29.

Proclamation 7419—National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2001

March 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every child deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family. Regrettably, abuse and neglect continue to threaten the well-being of many young Americans. Each year, more than 800,000 confirmed incidents of maltreatment of children and more than 1,000 abuse-related child fatalities plague our country. We can, and must, do more to fight these tragedies and to protect our children from harm.

Prevention remains the best defense for our children. State Community-Based Family Resource and Support programs sponsor activities promoting public awareness about child abuse and information on how to stop it. Additional initiatives offer education and training to mothers, fathers, and other caretakers. Collaboration among schools, government agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, community groups, and law enforcement play an important role in helping such efforts to succeed.

During the month of April, let our Nation and her people reaffirm the commitment to making a positive difference in ending child abuse and neglect. Each individual needs to help. Organize or join a community group that offers information or assistance to parents and families. Be vigilant for signs of abuse exhibited by young people in your community. Encourage trust in and support for law enforcement agencies. By speaking out against child abuse and neglect and cultivating an environment that nurtures and

strengthens families, we can give boys and girls the safe, stable, and loving homes they need. They will be able to enter the classroom each day ready to learn, with improved self-esteem. They will be encouraged to reach their full potential as individuals and as members of our society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2001, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to join in the vital task of protecting young people from harm, and I commend the many dedicated parents, educators, social workers, and other concerned citizens who lead by example in doing right by our children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:40 a.m., March 28, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 29.

The President's News Conference

March 29, 2001

The President. Good morning. I first want to say how pleased I am that the House yesterday passed on a realistic, commonsense budget to the Senate. I appreciated the vote. They did the right thing. It's a budget that meets our Nation's priorities. It's also a budget that leaves ample room for meaningful, real, long-lasting tax relief. I look forward to working with the Senate to get a budget passed.

I'm also deeply concerned about the escalating violence in the Middle East. It is claiming the lives of innocent civilians on both sides. The tragic cycle of incitement, provocation, and violence has gone on far too long.

Both sides must take important steps to calm the situation now. The Palestinian Authority should speak out publicly and forcibly, in a language that the Palestinian people—to condemn violence and terrorism. It should arrest those who perpetrated the terrorist acts. It should resume security cooperation with Israel.

The Government of Israel, for its part, should exercise restraint in its military response. It should take steps to restore normalcy to the lives of the Palestinian people by easing closures and removing checkpoints. Last week Prime Minister Sharon assured me that his government wants to move in this direction, and I urge Israel to do so.

I'll be meeting with Egypt's President Mubarak next Monday, and Jordan's King Abdullah the week after, to seek their help in defusing the tensions. Egypt and Jordan are two of our most important partners in the region, and their role is crucial.

I've asked Secretary Powell to call Chairman Arafat today and contact other leaders to urge them to stand against violence. Our diplomats in the region are fully engaged in this effort.

Our goal is to encourage a series of reciprocal and parallel steps by both sides that will halt the escalation of violence, provide safety and security for civilians on both sides, and restore normalcy to the lives of everyone in the region. A lasting peace in the region will come only when the parties agree directly on its terms.

This week I vetoed an unbalanced U.N. resolution, because it tried to force the adoption of a mechanism on which both parties did not agree. My approach will be to facilitate the party's work in finding their own solution to peace. We seek to build a stable foundation for restoring confidence, rebuilding security cooperation, and resuming a political dialog between the parties.

I'll be glad to answer some questions.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

Q. Mr. President, the Senate, as you know, is finishing up legislation to ban all soft money. What do you think of the bill, particularly the ban on individual contributions that you forcefully opposed in the campaign? And specifically, sir, would you sign it?

The President. This is a bill in progress. It's a bill that continues to change, and I'll take a look at it when it makes my desk. And if it improves the system, I'll sign it. I look forward to signing a good piece of legislation.

Q. Could you sign a bill that bans individual soft money contributions?

The President. I'll look at the whole bill, and I'll make my determination as to whether or not the bill improves the situation. And I appreciate the hard work that's being done on the legislation. And I'm going to wait until I see the final version.

Yes, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

Q. Mr. President——

The President Sorry.

Russia/Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Mr. President, is your administration reviewing U.S. aid to Russia to stop the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons? Are you considering reducing that aid, and if so, why?

The President. Well, we're reviewing all programs, those related to de-escalating potential nuclear problems. We want to make sure that any money that is being spent is being spent in an effective way—have the obligation to the taxpayer is to make sure that the money, for example, going to the Russian program, part of Nunn-Lugar, for example, is effective. And so we're putting a full review on the programs.

And we fully intend to continue to cooperate with the Russians. It's in our Nation's best interest to dismantle—work with Russia to dismantle its nuclear arsenal. I was pleased to see that Senator Nunn, one of the authors of the Nunn-Lugar bill, agreed with our approach to take a look to make sure the programs are efficient. And we will continue to do so.

Helen.

Environmental Regulations

Q. Mr. President, in the last few weeks you have rolled back health and safety and environmental measures proposed by the last administration and other previous administrations. This has been widely interpreted as a payback time to your corporate donors. Are they more important than the American people's health and safety? And what else do you plan to repeal?

The President. Well, Helen, I told people pretty plainly that I was going to review all the last-minute decisions that my predecessor had made, and that is exactly what we're doing. I presume you're referring to the decision on arsenic in water. First of all, there had been no change in the arsenic—accepted arsenic level in water since the forties. And at the very last minute, my predecessor made a decision, and we pulled back his decision so that we can make a decision based upon sound science and what's realistic. There will be a reduction in the acceptable amount of arsenic per billion after the review in the EPA.

Q. How about stopping the black lung benefits for families? This is sort of—to increase some of the benefits of these miners?

The President. We will work with members of the delegation and make sure people are properly treated. Ours is going to be an administration that makes decisions on science, what's realistic—commonsense decisions.

For example, circumstances have changed since the campaign. We're now in an energy crisis. And that's why I decided to not have mandatory caps on CO_2, because in order to meet those caps, our Nation would have had to have had a lot of natural gas immediately flow into the system, which is impossible. We don't have the infrastructure able to move natural gas.

We need to have an active exploration program. One of the big debates that's taking place in the Congress, or will take place in the Congress, is whether or not we should be exploring for natural gas in Alaska, for example, in ANWR. I strongly think we should in order to make sure that we've got enough gas to be able to help reduce greenhouse emissions in the country. See, gas is clean, and yet there is not enough of it. And we've got pipeline capacity problems in the country. We have an energy shortage.

I look forward to explaining this today to the leader of Germany as to why I made the decision I made. We'll be working with Germany; we'll be working with our allies to reduce greenhouse gases. But I will not accept

a plan that will harm our economy and hurt American workers.

John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Stimulus Package/Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, new figures out today show that the economy grew at an annual rate of one percent for the last 3 months of the year 2000. My question to you, sir, is, what are you prepared to do to immediately stimulate the economy? Because it would appear that your long-term tax package does not do it, yet you dismiss out-of-hand attempts from the Hill to give back a rebate of some $60 billion this year unless it's tied to longer-term tax relief. Why can you not sign a short-term package and then pursue your long-term package separate to that?

The President. Well, John, first of all, I support the efforts on the Hill to provide immediate tax relief. I've been calling for immediate tax relief. I think it makes sense to do so. But we've got to have long-term relief, as well. Part of building confidence in our economy is not only give the consumers a boost but to have a plan that reduces rates for the long term, so that people who make investments—small-business owners, the entrepreneurs—will have certainty that the cash flows of the future will be enhanced, so they can expand their job base and make new capital purchases.

I appreciate very much what the leadership in the Senate have—Tom Daschle, for example, talked about immediate tax relief or immediate rebates, plus reducing rates permanently. We just need to reduce more rates than the ones he suggested.

There is a debate going on here in Washington, and it's really, do you want to increase the size of the Federal Government, or do you want to give—let people keep their own money? And there's a philosophical divide. And I'm going to continue to stand on the side of the people, and make it as clear as I can that we've met our priorities in the budget I submitted, and it's not only good for the economy, though, to give people their money back, it's good for working families, so they can have more money to manage their own accounts.

There's a lot of focus about national debt in Washington. But it's important for Congress not to forget a lot of folks have got consumer debt, as well. And when you couple high energy prices with consumer debt, a lot of folks are in a squeeze. And I look forward to continuing to make the case.

Q. But with respect, sir, as this debate continues, consumers are not seeing any more money back in their pockets.

The President. That's exactly right. And you've got a good point—consumers haven't seen any money back in their pockets. That's why it's important for the Senate to act quickly on the budget. I hope there's no delay next week when it comes to the budget considerations. I look forward to working with both House Members and Senate Members, once the budgets have been passed, to get tax relief enacted quickly and to get money as quickly as possible into the people's pockets.

Yes, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Q. Mr. President, you're no longer negotiating with yourself on tax cuts. There are a lot of other approaches that are out there. Why not say today exactly what you're willing to do to appease both moderate Republicans and Democrats who fear that those projected budget surpluses won't materialize, and they want some way to cut off a tax cut, if that's the case, if we can't afford it? What will you do?

The President. Listen, I'm anxious to talk to Members of the Senate about the so-called look-back provisions. But I'm going to remind people that one-way budget surpluses will not materialize is if Congress overspends. And so any look-back procedure has got to make sure that there are restraints to Government spending. The surest way to eat up the surplus is to have the kind of spending that took place during the last fiscal year, when the discretionary spending increased by 8 percent.

And by the way, I'm still negotiating with myself. People keep—I get a suggestion from here and a suggestion from there. So-and-so suggests something. And good Americans, such as yourself, are trying to get me to negotiate with myself.

Q. Can I just——

The President. Yes, you may.

Q. Let me just bring up another suggestion. [*Laughter*]

The President. Another chance to negotiate with myself?

Q. Will you sign or veto tax cuts that exceed $1.6 trillion, even if it would result from—that increase would result from an immediate stimulus to the economy this year?

The President. David, I hope that Congress does not diminish the size of the tax relief package that I've sent up there nor increase the size of the tax relief package I've sent up there. The 1.6 is the size that I think is right. We've had a lot of discussion here in Washington about whether it's too big or too small. Nothing has changed my opinion as to whether or not—about the size of the package I sent. It's the right size.

Don't worry about the beeper violation. [*Laughter*] It's a new approach. Gordon [Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe] taught me a lesson.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. On the Middle East, sir. For a couple months, both you and officials in your administration have indicated you wanted to step back from constant involvement of the U.S. and the President in the conflict and in the peace process. Was that a mistake, given the escalation in both violence and the rhetoric over there? And is what you're doing today essentially an admission that the involvement of the United States and the President of the United States publicly and personally is necessary for the parties to succeed?

The President. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], I have said all along that this Nation will not try to force a peace settlement in the Middle East, that we will facilitate a peace settlement. It requires two willing parties to come to the table to enact a peace treaty that will last. And this administration won't try to force peace on the parties. That's what the U.N. tried to do the other day. They tried to force a situation in the Middle East to which both parties did not agree. That's why I vetoed their suggestion.

We have been fully engaged in the Middle East. We're on the phone all the time to the leaders. I'm welcoming leaders to come. In order for there to be a peace, this country must develop a—what I call a broad foundation for peace. That means we've got to have good, strong relations with the Egyptians and the Jordanians and the Saudis.

As you may remember, the Secretary of State went to Syria to sit down with Bashar. And we've got a lot of work to do in order to build that foundation for peace, but we're going to make a full-time effort to do so.

But our fellow citizens have got to realize that in order for there to be a peace, there has to be two willing parties. And we will continue to try to convince the parties to become willing to sit down and negotiate a lasting peace. But this country cannot impose a timetable nor settlement on the parties if they're unwilling to accept it.

Q. But merely to contain the violence, sir, do you personally need to get more involved? Is that what you're doing today?

The President. I am involved on the telephone. I met with Prime Minister Sharon. I'm talking to our allies and friends in the Middle East. I've instructed the Secretary of State to call Mr. Arafat. And implicit in your question is the first step, and that is the violence must cease in order for there to be any meaningful dialog in the Middle East. And so we're in the process of trying to bring calm to the region, and it's going to require more than just one voice.

Obviously, our voice is an important voice for bringing calm to the Middle East; so are other nations. And I look forward to visiting with President Mubarak and King Abdullah to lend—to rally them to try to convince, particularly in their case, Mr. Arafat to speak out against violence in a language that the Palestinians can understand.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge/Energy Resources

Q. You have mentioned today that there is an energy crisis——

The President. Yes.

Q. ——and yet the budget resolutions that have passed the House and are due to be considered in the Senate next week do not include any revenue from the drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I have talked to the people who have made that decision, and they said it is a political fight, they

believe unwinnable, that you could not, nor could they, create the majorities in either the House or the Senate to bring about drilling in ANWR—your number one solution—or one of the top solutions to dealing with the energy crisis. Does this not represent a rejection from your own party in dealing with the energy situation?

The President. Well, Major, first of all, there are other areas in the United States on which we can find natural gas. I think it's important for us to open up ANWR. Whether or not the Congress sees it that way is another matter. That's not going to deter me from having, for example, the Interior Secretary look at all lands that are not—not to be fully protected, for exploration. We've got a plan to make sure that gas comes—flows freely out of Canada into the United States. I talked to the Prime Minister about that.

What I find interesting is that I think—we have meaningful discussions about exploration in the Northwest Territories, right across the line, admittedly miles away, is ANWR. But nevertheless, it's a big, vast region of natural gas. And it's important for us to explore, encourage exploration, work with the Canadians to get pipelines coming out of the Northwest Territories to the United States.

I've talked to the President of Mexico about a policy. There's going to be a lot of areas where we can find natural gas in America other than ANWR. It would be helpful if we opened up ANWR. I think it's a mistake not to. And I would urge you all to travel up there and take a look at it, and you can make——

Q. On energy——

The President. Let me finish please—and you can make the determination as to how beautiful that country is.

Q. If I may follow up.

The President. Yes, Major.

Q. If the American people, looking to you to deal with the energy crisis, and you cannot look to your own party to deal with what you and your own advisers have said is a crucial area in which to explore, how can the American public have confidence in your ability to deal with Congress to address the situation you have called today a crisis?

The President. There's a lot of other areas we can explore, Major, and one of them is to work with the Canadians. There's gas in our hemisphere. And the fundamental question is, where's it going to come from? I'd like it to be American gas. But if the Congress decides not to have for exploration in ANWR, we'll work with the Canadians.

I'm interested in getting more energy supply so that businesses can grow and people can heat their homes. We've got a shortage of energy in America. And it doesn't matter to me where the gas comes from in the long run, just so long as we get gas moving into the country, so long as we increase supply of natural gas.

And we also need to have clean coal technologies, as well. And we need a full affront on a energy crisis that is real in California and looms for other parts of our country if we don't move quickly.

Senator John McCain

Q. Mr. President, as I'm sure you've been aware, there are stories consistently about tensions, persistent tensions between you and Senator John McCain, dating back to your rivalry in the primaries. I wonder if you could address that, not just on the campaign finance reform bill but also on the Patients' Bill of Rights, which McCain supporters believe you don't want to sign a Patients' Bill of Rights with McCain's name on it.

The President. Well, look, this is Washington, DC, gossip, is how I view it. I respect John McCain. I like him a lot. That doesn't mean we're going to agree 100 percent of the time. Obviously, we've got some differences; that's what a primary was all about, airing our differences. But I respect John. I realize—it's a game in Washington to try to create tension between John McCain and me, and I'm not going to let it happen.

I can't control the stories that seem to be popping up all the time—faceless aides that are out there trying to stir the pot. I can just give you my perspective. I like him. He's a good man. We have some differences, and I think the idea, for example, of having a $5-million cap on punitive damages is just not the right public policy. But that shouldn't surprise you. After all, I've signed a bill in the State of Texas with a $750,000 cap on

punitive damages. That's nothing personal, just a difference of opinion. And the idea of the President laying out a framework for debate and some guidelines is perfectly acceptable practice in Washington, DC.

Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

Q. Just to follow on that. When you sent the signal, and your aides did, to Congress that they could not count on you to veto a campaign finance reform bill, what message were you sending? A lot of people interpreted it that you're saying to Congress, if you don't like it, kill it, because I won't.

The President. No. As I said, I look forward to signing a bill that makes the process better. Sometimes the legislators will say, "Oh, don't worry, we've got the President." I'm not sure exactly what that means, except if a bill that improves the system makes it to my desk, I'll be inclined to sign it. I, of course, reserve all options to bills that are forever changing, and those who follow the process know, but I'm going to—I will make my decision once the bill makes it to my desk.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Can I ask about the Palestinians, sir? Why is it that you have not decided to invite Yasser Arafat here? Have you concluded that he's part of the problem, not part of the solution?

The President. Well, we're going to work with all parties. As I mentioned, the Secretary of State is calling Chairman Arafat today to urge him to stop the violence and to call upon those over whom he's got influence to stop the violence. I've got quite a crowded calendar of leaders who are coming to see me, and I'm looking forward to visiting with President Mubarak and King Abdullah.

Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

Q. I'm sorry, can I follow, sir?

The President. No. Just teasing. Go ahead. Just testing. [*Laughter*]

Q. The Palestinians think you're sending them a signal. Are you?

The President. The signal I'm sending to the Palestinians is, stop the violence. And I can't make it any more clear. And I hope that Chairman Arafat hears it loud and clear. He's going to hear it again on the telephone today. This is not the first time the message has been delivered. It's so important, in order for there to be any kind of discussion about peace, that we stop the violence in the Middle East.

Foreign Relations

Q. Mr. President, allies of the United States have complained that you haven't consulted them sufficiently on your stance for negotiations with North Korea, Kyoto treaty; we have deteriorating relations elsewhere. If you read the international press, it looks like everyone is mad at us. Mr. President, how do you think that came to be, and what, if anything, do you plan to do about it?

The President. Well, I get a completely different picture, of course, when I sit down with world leaders. I'm looking forward to sitting down with Mr. Schroeder here in about 30 minutes. I've had very honest and straightforward visits with many of the world's leaders. There's—I'm sure there were some concerns initially, because they didn't know me. And they heard all kinds of rumors about what our administration would be about. And I now have the chance to sit down and talk to them, face to face.

I'm a pretty straightforward fellow, Mike. I don't mind making my case, and it's important. It's important for world leaders to know exactly where the United States is coming from.

On missile defense, for example, I've assured our allies that we will consult with them. But we're moving forward to develop systems that reflect the threats of today. I mean, who knows where the next terrorist attack is going to come from, but we'd better be ready for it. And I believe I've got the opportunity to convince our friends and allies that our vision makes sense. It brings a lot of common sense to an old, stale debate, the old arms control debate.

In terms of the CO_2 issue, I will explain as clearly as I can, today and every other chance I get, that we will not do anything that harms our economy, because, first things first, are the people who live in America. That's my priority. And I'm worried about the economy. I'm worried about the lack of an energy policy. I'm worried about rolling blackouts in California. It's in our national

interest that we develop a strong energy policy, with realistic, commonsense environmental policy. And I'm going to explain that to our friends.

It is in their interest, by the way, that our economy remain strong. After all, we're a free trading administration. We trade with each other. People are beginning to learn what my administration is like. And they're going to find we're steadfast friends. But a friend is somebody who's willing to tell the truth, and if there's a disagreement, to be able to state it clearly, to make it clear where we disagree.

But for those who worry about our willingness to consult, they shouldn't worry. We are. We're going to be openminded, and we'll have open dialog.

Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President, you gave me the floor.

The President. You're next. No, next to next. Let me rephrase it: You're last. [*Laughter*]

Q. No problem.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Just to clarify on tax cuts, I wanted to clarify the linkage that you feel is necessary. You have said that you want to have a tax cut rate reduction, and you also support the efforts to try to do a quick retroactive tax cut. When you speak of those two things, will you insist upon one package of bills that includes the rate reduction and any kind of quick short-term stimulus, or would you except some kind of verifiable promise that they'll get to your tax cuts later?

The President. That's the old "trust me". [*Laughter*] Look, it is in our Nation's best interest to have long-term tax relief. And that has been my focus all along. I'm confident we can have it—get it done. I believe not only can we get long-term tax relief in place, since there were countries running some surpluses in spite of the dire predictions about cash flow; I believe we have an opportunity to fashion an immediate stimulus package, as well. The two ought to go hand in hand.

Those who think that they can say we're only going to have a stimulus package, but let's forget tax relief, misunderestimate—excuse me, underestimate—[*laughter*]—just making sure you were paying attention. [*Laughter*] You were—[*laughter*]—underestimate our administration's resolve to get this done.

Q. Can I ask a followup real quick?

The President. No. [*Laughter*] Go ahead.

Q. Just quickly. The Democrats have demonstrated some flexibility on reducing the lower end of the tax rate reductions. How do you feel about the top? There's talk about the top rate not being as big as you proposed——

The President. Of course we ought to talk the top rate. But see, you're trying to do what Gregory tried to get me to do, which is negotiate with myself again.

Q. What's wrong with that?

Q. I negotiate with Gregory over this——

The President. Please do. When you all come up with a solution, let me know. Gregory is in the top one percent. [*Laughter*] If not, you should be, David.

Last question.

Free Trade in the Americas

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, you spoke about free trade at the last press conference. You've mentioned it today. You'll be meeting tomorrow with the President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso. He is the one person—at least Brazil is the one person in the continent, or the one country, who is not in a rush to come to a free trade agreement. They prefer Mercosur, the free trade agreement in South America. Is your administration interested in getting the free trade agreement by 2003 year instead of the 2005 year that's been agreed? And how do you expect to convince Mr. Cardoso tomorrow to follow that?

The President. Well, I—the sooner we can get a free trade agreement in the hemisphere, the better. As to whether or not it's 2003 or 2005, that's—we'll just have to see if we can't convince our friends in South America of the wisdom of doing it as soon as possible.

The meeting tomorrow is going to be an important meeting. Brazil is a huge country. It's got a significant role in our hemisphere, and it's got a very bright future. To the extent that the country is skeptical about our intention to have free and fair trade, I have a

chance to undermine that skepticism, and I'm going to. I'm going to look the man in the eye and say, "We are free traders."

I will work with, and I'll have Bob Zoellick work with his counterpart to assure him that trade with America will be done in a free and fair way. I think we can make some progress, but we'll see after the meeting.

Thank you all. See you tonight, right? Look, I'm just testing a few lines on you by the way. [*Laughter*]

Q. Let's hear a few.

The President. You just heard one, but you'll see when you hear me. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President's fourth news conference began at 10:32 a.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; former Senator Sam Nunn; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and an Exchange With Reporters

March 29, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the German Chancellor here to the Oval Office. We've just had a very constructive lunch. The briefers told me that the Chancellor is a very straightforward person. They were right, and for that I am grateful, because we were able to get to the point.

And the first point we made—and you'll see this in the joint communique we issued—is that our countries are strong friends. I assured the Chancellor that my administration will work to keep our relations strong.

We agree on many, many issues; there's a few we didn't agree on. But as good friends, we can disagree and, yet, still be friends. I appreciate the leadership of the Chancellor. I appreciate so very much Germany's role, for example, in trying to keep the peace in Macedonia. By working together, we can stabilize that region. The Government of Macedonia is a government made up of different factions. We, of course, are working together to make sure that the legitimate rights of all people in Macedonia are recognized.

Germany has done more than just work the diplomatic side; they've also provided troops in the KFOR, along with the United States, to enforce the border. And as a result of our joint efforts, there is good hope that the region will be stable. And for that, Mr. Chancellor, thank you for your leadership. It's an honor to welcome you here, sir.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for those very kind words. Ladies and gentlemen, now let me share with you how very pleased, indeed, I am, that after having two phone calls so far, I now had an opportunity of finally meeting the President in person.

Let me also share with you that it was a very, very pleasant impression I had, indeed. It was wonderful to see the degree of openness that we had, the frankness we had in the meeting, and also the level of agreement that there was between us.

Mr. President is very right, indeed, when he emphasizes the fact that the ties between the United States of America and Germany are very, very firm. They're very friendly ties which are, in fact, based on joint values that we share and that are deeply rooted in each of our Constitutions, too.

Now, we have obviously addressed a wide range of international topics, questions, and international political affairs. There was a lot of agreement. I can agree with Mr. President; we agreed on practically everything, except, obviously, for one thing, and that was no surprise to you, the Kyoto Protocol.

But here, yet as well, we have different opinions, and we are happy to admit to you that we hold different opinions regarding this. We were also happy to admit to one another that we had different positions on this. But here, too, we very much would like to see to it that we, hopefully, jointly act on other fields in and around—on climate policy. We have addressed the subject of solar energy, for example. We have said that there would be ways of energy efficiency, of more efficient use of energy as such. So we will be conjointly looking at some topics that could all contribute to a better climate in the future.

And to all of that, yet again, we have done on the basis of this very, very friendly spirit that reigned between us; a basis is not only one that can take the strain of this, but it will, indeed, and happily so.

In a nutshell, one last thing I would like to say. We are both firmly convinced that it is a prime aspect of both of our jobs to make sure that the economies in our respective countries are going well and strongly, and we have to keep them robust. And where that is not the case, we have to get them back on track.

President Bush. We'll take two questions from the Americans and two questions from the German press, alternating.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Mr. President, on the Kyoto Protocol, the friendly atmosphere here is not matched in some statements in the German Government in Berlin and in other capitals. What's your reaction to the criticism that you've abandoned the effort to contain global warming? And what in particular don't you like about the Kyoto Protocols?

And Mr. Chancellor, what practical, pragmatic effect will this difference of opinion have on the effort against global warming?

President Bush. Well, first, I explained this as clearly as I could to the Chancellor, and I'm glad to do it again to you. I did so earlier in a press conference, as you may remember.

Our economy has slowed down in a country—in our country. We also have an energy crisis. And the idea of placing caps on CO_2 does not make economic sense for America. And while I worry about emissions—and we'll work together to achieve efficiencies through new technologies, and I'm confident we can do that—I'm also worried about the fact that people may not be finding jobs in America.

And I will consult with our friends. We will work together. But it's going to be in what's in the interest of our country, first and foremost, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News]. And the idea that somehow we're supposed to get enormous amounts of natural gas on line immediately, in order to be able to conform to a treaty that our own Senate sent a very overwhelming message against and many other countries haven't signed, makes no economic sense; it makes no common sense.

So I'm worried about our economy. I'm worried about our own domestic energy situation. But I'm confident we can find new ways to think about reducing greenhouse gases. And I look forward to working with a country like Germany. Germany is on the leading edge of technology. They've got some of the greatest engineers in the world. And together we can work together to come up with new efficiencies.

Chancellor Schroeder. Obviously, those are all the fields of cooperation which the President just mentioned and which I, obviously, very highly welcome.

Regarding the Kyoto Protocol, we have the pleasure of hosting the successor conference to the one in The Hague, in Germany this year. And, well, when it comes to that, His Excellency, the President, and his government will be called upon to take a decision as to how they, to put it casually, want to play it with protocol and with the ongoing conference in Germany. Whether they will, on the one-hand side, which would be a possibility, give an opportunity to others to still continue with what they think is right by not voting against it or to not do so.

Now, obviously, this is an issue for the President and his country to decide. But we very strongly have agreed that the conference, as I just said, is going to take place, I think, in June or July, in Germany, that our respective staff are going to get together and talk about the issue.

President Bush. Somebody from the German press?

Q. How are the 14 EU heads of state going to feel about the reaction that you just stated to the Kyoto problem and to the President's attitude about it? I would have so clearly expected you to be against it and speak up against it, obviously, so how are they now going to feel?

Chancellor Schroeder. No, I certainly have no headache about that whatsoever. I have heard what the President has said regarding this matter. Not only I have heard it, people in Europe have heard it, too. And some of the European governments have heard it and have criticized it, obviously. That

is a normal process in politics. And we'll take it on from there. Obviously, we'll continue discussing these issues.

National Missile Defense/European Strike Force

Q. Mr. President, did military matters come up today, specifically, missile defense, European strike force?

President Bush. Missile defense came up, you bet. And we'll talk about the European strike force after you clear the room. But I'm looking forward to it. Our joint communique addresses a lot of these issues.

I explained this to the Chancellor, that we want to help folks think differently about the post-cold-war era, and we want to develop defenses that are capable defending ourselves, defenses that are capable of defending others, who so choose to, against the true threats of the 21st century. Russia is not our enemy. The true threat of the 21st century is the extremists who can't stand what Germany or America believes in. They resent our freedoms. They resent our successes. They resent our prosperity. And I look forward to working with our friend as we move down the road toward assessing and addressing the true threats that face us.

I'll let the Chancellor speak for himself on his view. But I've found there to be somebody who is at least interested in our point of view, and for that, I'm grateful.

Chancellor Schroeder. Here, too, yet again, I can say that I cannot recommend taking a lump-sum view, a generic view, at whatever we're talking about. And we shouldn't have a generic view regarding NMD or missile defense, either.

Now, obviously, I think in assessing such a comprehensive topic we also have to look at things like the defensive potential that lies within a potential system. We have to see the potential upside in terms of disarmament opportunities that might be in there.

Obviously, we'll also have to look into lots of technical aspects, such as the threat scenario that is behind the whole system. Is it technologically feasible? Can we truly implement it? Who is going to be covered under the shelter? Who's going to be invited to be included by the shelter that we're going to build? What are going to be repercussions for the global disarmament process? What are going to be the repercussions on Russia and on China, for example?

Those are all things that I think we need to think about and talk about in an ongoing process. And I can only say how very pleased, indeed, I was to see that the President declared himself ready for an open, ongoing discussion about all of these things.

President Bush. Okay, since Terry asked two questions, it's over. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. President, were you able—concerning the U.S. defense system, would Europe and Germany, as part of Europe, be able to contribute and to participate in? Was that something you were able to offer and assure the Chancellor of?

And Mr. Chancellor, would you be able to say that you'd be willing to participate when the time comes?

President Bush. Well, first of all, it's my first chance to sit down with the Chancellor and explain our philosophy about how we're trying to shape the thinking in the post-cold-war era.

I did explain to him what I've explained to the American people, that not only do we need to develop defenses, but we're also going to reduce our own offensive capability. And maybe people will follow; maybe they won't. But we're going to move, anyway, once the Defense Department puts a thorough review as to what we need to keep the peace.

In terms of whether or not we develop a technology that will help make Europe more peaceful or America more peaceful or the Middle East more peaceful, whatever it is, I'd be more than willing to discuss the technologies and share technologies with our friends.

But we haven't gotten—you know, today was the first step toward me making the rationale as to why I took the position I took. And the positive development I thought was that the Chancellor was listening and understood—I believe understood the philosophy and the peaceful philosophy inherent in our strategy.

Chancellor Schroeder. I think it would be wrong at this point in time to assume that what we're trying to do here is that we're kick-starting an armament process for the whole of the world. My personal perspective

is that I think the contrary will be the case. And I think the debate about involvement and who does what in the process is one that will come subsequent to having discussed the general, basic things.

But then, certainly, when it comes to the involvement and also participation in terms of industrial policy, certainly we'll be interested.

President Bush. Nice to see you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:53 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on a Transatlantic Vision for the 21st Century

March 29, 2001

The United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany are linked by a deep friendship. Our meeting today opens a new chapter in our close relationship. At the beginning of the 21st century, we reaffirm our common commitment to the lasting principles which are at the basis of the Transatlantic community of values—freedom, democracy and human rights. On this basis, we are resolved to strengthen and further develop the partnership between the United States of America and Europe. In the age of globalization we want to give it a new quality.

We agree that our cooperation within the Atlantic Alliance continues to be of decisive importance for the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic region and that this includes an adequate military presence of the United States in Europe. The Atlantic Alliance has adapted itself to the historic changes in Europe after the end of the Cold War and today also plays an important role in promoting stability in the states of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. The openness of the Alliance for new members and its offer of a comprehensive partnership to the new democracies on the European continent contribute to peace and security in all of Europe. They are directed against no one.

We share the view that Russia can make an important contribution to maintaining peace and stability in Europe and the world. We encourage the Russian government to further pursue a policy of democratic reforms and offer our cooperation to this end.

We will be partners for the states in Southeastern Europe on their way into a peaceful future. War, aggressive nationalism and extremist acts of violence must belong to the past. We will lend our support to the process of stabilization and democratization in the Balkans, continuing to act in close consultation and jointly. In these efforts, the Stability Pact will continue to play a central role.

Both our countries have long-standing commitments to the territorial integrity of Macedonia. We strongly condemn the violence perpetrated by a small group of extremists trying to destabilize that country's democratic, multi-ethnic government. Their violent methods are hurting the long-term interests of ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, Kosovo, and throughout the region. We strongly support President Trajkovski and the Macedonia government in taking proportionate steps to prevent further violence and urge that they work closely with elected representatives of the Macedonian Albanian community to address legitimate minority concerns. We welcome steps being taken by NATO, the European Union, and the OSCE to help Macedonia contain the insurgents as well as to facilitate a political solution.

We are convinced that the uniting Europe will enrich Transatlantic relations. From the beginning, the United States of America has offered its support to European unification, for a Europe that is strong and capable lies in the interest of the United States just as much as Europe needs a strong American partner. Therefore we view the development of a European Security and Defense Policy as an important contribution to sharing the burden of securing peace which will strengthen the Atlantic Alliance.

The United States and Germany welcome the efforts of the European Union to assume greater responsibility for crisis management by strengthening capabilities and developing the ability to take actions where NATO as

a whole chooses not to engage. In this regard, the United States welcomes the European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), aiming at making Europe a stronger, more capable partner in deterring and managing crises affecting the security of the Transatlantic community. This involves:

- Developing EU capabilities in a manner that is fully coordinated, compatible, and transparent with NATO;
- The fullest possible participation by non-EU European NATO members in the operational planning and execution of EU-led exercises and operations, reflecting their shared interests and security commitments as NATO members;
- Working with other EU members to improve Europe's capabilities and enables the EU to act where NATO as a whole is not engaged.

Together we are resolved to undertake new efforts in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and increasingly sophisticated missiles for their delivery. We agree on the need for substantive bilateral consultations, as well as close consultations with other allies and interested parties. We will work together toward a post-Cold War strategy that increases our common security and that encompasses the appropriate mix of offensive and defensive systems, and that continues nuclear arms reductions and strengthens WMD and missile proliferation controls as well as counter-proliferation measures.

We are resolved to increase our efforts to abolish barriers impeding trade between the European Union and the United States of America. In areas where we have differences of opinion we will strive to bring our positions closer together.

In the framework of G–7/8 we will contribute to helping the poorest countries in drawing more benefit from technological development, in particular in the field of information technology. Together we will also increase our efforts towards bringing about a stable global finance system. This will also be of help in overcoming hunger, poverty, and disease in large parts of the world that represent a challenge to all of us.

We share a common concern about global climate change. We openly note that we differ on the best way to protect the earth's climate. The Federal Republic of Germany, host of the Climate Change Conference in Bonn in July, emphasizes that the targets to reduce greenhouse gases agreed in Kyoto are indispensable to combat global climate change effectively. The United States opposes the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts many countries from compliance and would cause serious harm to the American economy. Both sides, however, are prepared to work constructively with friends and allies to solve the problem. In this context they deem it necessary to develop, among other means, technologies, market-based incentives, and other innovative approaches to meeting the challenge of global climate change.

We attach particular importance to the fight against HIV/AIDS. We want the G–7/8 to intensify their efforts to ease the suffering of millions of people who are inflicted by this disease. We consider it to be of particular importance for the pharmaceutical industry to take additional measures so that HIV/AIDS patients in affected developing countries can be supplied with medication at affordable prices.

We welcome the agreements on the establishment of the German Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future for compensation payments to former forced laborers. We note with great satisfaction that the German companies now have made available their total share in the Foundation. We call for a swift implementation of the agreements on all-embracing and enduring legal peace so that payments to the aged former forced laborers can begin as soon as possible.

German-American friendship constitutes a pillar of Transatlantic relations. It must continue to be based on broad popular support in the new century. To this end, we will, on both sides of the Atlantic, encourage even more contacts among members of the younger generation.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks to African-American Leaders

March 29, 2001

Thank you all. The legislative branch is always trying to take something from the executive branch. [*Laughter*] Thank you, J.C., for helping set up this meeting. And thank you all for coming. It's my honor that you're here, and I want to welcome you to the people's home.

Before I begin, I do want to make mention of the fact and ask you to join me in a moment of silence—a Member of the United States Congress passed away today, Norm Sisisky from the State of Virginia. I know you'll join me in asking God's blessing on Norm, as well as on Rhoda and his four sons and seven grandchildren.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

Amen. Thank you very much.

Secretary Paige, thank you very much for being here. I've known Rod a long time. You may remember, at one time I was the Governor of the great State of Texas. [*Laughter*] And we had a superintendent of schools in our largest school district who insisted that every child could learn. And he caught my attention by saying that—and then not only did he insist that, he worked hard to make sure that that was the case. And it's such an honor to have Rod make the sacrifice of moving from Texas up here and becoming the Secretary of Education. People are going to be proud of the job he does. It doesn't matter what your political party is; you'll be proud of the job this man does. Thank you, sir.

I know the Lieutenant Governor of the great State of Colorado is here, Joe Rogers. And I don't know if Kenny Blackwell is here from Ohio. We've got elected officials, I know, from Oregon and Nevada and all around the country. Thanks for coming.

I love the old words of Jackie Robinson—he one time said when President Kennedy did something he disagreed with, he said: "The President is a fine man, but he reserved the right to change his opinion." [*Laughter*] Every President, whatever his party, is judged not only by the words he speaks but, more importantly, by the work he leaves behind. And that's what I hope my administration is judged on—by the work we leave behind.

I will constantly speak for the values that unite our country: personal responsibility, equal justice, equal opportunity for everybody. These are important common values. And I've set this administration to the work of putting those values into practice and into law.

The work begins where opportunity usually begins, and that's in the schoolhouses. I have made public education the number one priority of this administration for a reason, because when we get it right, when every child learns, America will be a much more hopeful place.

Today, all the children—there was a day when all the children couldn't enter schools. Some of you may remember that. I'm not trying to age you. [*Laughter*] As a result of a lot of hard work, that has changed. All children can enter schools, but the fundamental question now is, once in school, will all children learn? And that's the question all of us must ask, and if not, we must insist on change—we must insist on change. I've asked Congress to spend more money on education. But I've also asked that we expect more in return.

A good education system is one that's based on some fundamental principles. One is, high expectations for every child. You all know, those of you involved with education know, if you lower the bar, if you have low expectations, you get those kind of results. If you assume certain children can't learn, certain children won't learn. So, inherent in any good reform system is one that sets high standards.

Secondly, it's so important to trust the local folks, is to set power out of Washington so as not to provide convenient excuses for failure. We must align authority and responsibility at the local level. There's nothing worse than having a school system where centralized authority says you must do it this way, and when there's failure, somebody says, "Oh, we would have succeeded except somebody told me to do it the way we didn't want to do it." Authority and responsibility must go hand in hand.

And finally, at the center of reform, something Rod and I worked hard on in Texas, is to measure, is to insist upon accountability. There's a lot of fear about accountability in the education system. People view it as a way to punish. That's not our vision. We view it as a way to correct.

How do you know if a child isn't learning unless you measure? So it's so important that Congress gets the message that in return for Federal help, States and local jurisdictions must develop accountability systems that measure third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. It's important that we disaggregate those results, so that we treat each child as an individual. It is important that we post the results so people know and, as importantly, when we find success, thank the teachers and principals that are working hard. But when we find failure, instead of accepting the status quo, do something about it. That's why it's important to start measuring early.

I've got a reading initiative in front of the Congress that starts with those in kindergarten. It basically says, in order to access the money, you must develop diagnostic tools so that we can determine early whether a child needs extra help, extra time on task. It says, we'll use curriculum that works, not fancy, feel-good theories, but curriculum that actually can take a child from illiteracy to literacy. It says, if need be, teach reading all day long until you get it right, because literacy, as our friend, Phyllis Hunter, said in Houston, Texas, "Is the new civil right."

And so this is an education program that's based upon principles. I firmly believe that when implemented, that when it's in place, that we'll begin to achieve the goal and dream that we all want, and that's an educated tomorrow.

I also know that—the importance of our Historically Black Colleges. I know it well, because in our State of Texas, many of our finest citizens have been educated at those places of higher learning. And therefore, in the budget I've submitted to the Congress, I'm asking for an increase of 1.4 billion over a 5-year period of time. I hope Congress doesn't blink. I hope they join us in this important mission.

And people say, "Well, is there money? Do you have enough money in Washington to be able to make those kinds of commitments?" Let me talk about my budget, because there's a lot of discussion about budgets. And I want to thank the House for passing what I call a commonsense budget. It's a realistic budget. It's a budget that has set priorities. One of the priorities is education. In the budget is the amount of money I've just spoken to. It's a budget that sets aside all the payroll taxes for Social Security and only Social Security.

That old style, that old tired debate hopefully will be put to rest now forever, so they don't try to scare folks away from good public policy. The budget doubles the Medicare budget. That's over a 10-year period of time we double the Medicare budget. It's a budget that increases the—doubles the number of folks who will be served in the community health centers over the next 5 years. I don't know if you know what the community health centers are. They're places where folks living on the edge of poverty, maybe the newly arrived, can get good primary care in the health care system.

It's a budget that talks about how do we enable the working uninsured to purchase health insurance. It's a budget that grows by 4 percent in the discretionary side of things.

Now, 4 percent is greater than the rate of inflation; 4 percent is greater than most people's paychecks have increased. But for some, 4 percent isn't enough. I happen to think it's just right, because by focusing and by having a budget that's realistic, it leaves more money left over. And with this economy beginning to sputter, we need to send some money back to the people who pay the bills. We need to have meaningful, real tax relief.

And we can afford tax relief. We certainly can afford tax relief. And that's the debate. Can you afford tax relief, or do you want bigger Government? And after setting priorities—and, by the way, paying down $2 trillion of debt over a 10-year period and setting aside money for contingencies—I firmly stand on the side of letting people keep their own money. It's not only good for the economy, it's good for people, more importantly.

The crux of the issue is, who do you trust with the money? And I trust the people. It's their money to begin with. This surplus is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And so we've submitted a plan that I think makes the code more fair, eminently more fair.

If you're a single mother in America, let's say, trying to raise two children—if she's at the income level of $22,000 and makes an additional dollar, she will pay a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who makes $225,000 a year. The way our Tax Code is structured is that for every additional dollar above the level of 22,000, in this case, for this particular woman, she starts losing her earned-income tax credit. She pays the 15 percent bracket for the first time, and she pays payroll taxes.

Our code is structured so that somebody struggling to get ahead, somebody working the hardest job in America, pays a higher marginal rate than successful folks—Wall Street bankers. And that's not right, and that's not fair. So one of the things we have done is, we work with Congress to drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and doubled the child credit from $500 to $1,000, making the middle class easier to access than the current code. The code is more fair.

I also drop the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent. My attitude is that everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief. I get nervous when I hear we're going to have targeted tax cuts. I guess that's okay, just so long as you're not targeted out—[*laughter*]—just so long as the target is fixed in the right way. I don't believe in trying to pick or choose winners and losers in good public policy. I think everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief.

But I have been reminding people around here about the benefits of dropping the top rate, and it's important for you all to hear this. By far, the vast majority of small businesses are unincorporated businesses, sole proprietorships, maybe Subchapter S corporations, all of which pay taxes at the highest marginal rate.

There's a lot of discussion, and rightly so, about how do we encourage ownership in all communities in America. Well, one way to do so is to have an environment for the growth of small businesses in America. It turns out there are many hundreds of African-Americans who are starting their own business. And public policy people got to think about how to create an environment so that those businesses can flourish. And one way to do so is to let people keep more of their own cash flow so they can reinvest it. Seventy-five percent of the new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And 100 percent—100 percent—of the great hope of America comes when somebody owns a company. And that's what it's all about.

So I urge Congress not to get trapped in the—the kind of the rhetoric of class warfare, and think about the positive benefits that come by encouraging the growth of the small-business sector of America.

I see many of my friends here who are involved in the faith community, and I want to thank you all for coming. As you know, there's been a lot of discussion about a faith-based initiative. My attitude is that Government can pass laws, and we can work on matters of justice—and by the way, we will. Racial profiling is wrong. I've instructed the Attorney General to come up with a plan to end it, and he's following through.

But what Government cannot do is cause people to love one another. I wish we could. We would sign the bill. J.C. will sponsor it—[*laughter*]—I think. Won't you? And I will sign it. [*Laughter*] But love comes as a result of a higher calling, in many cases. Love comes from hearts. And our job in America is to gather the great compassion of America.

You know, we were talking about, earlier—I remember my friend, Tony Evans, gave a speech outside of Dallas, in Greenville, Texas. And he talked about the greatest welfare programs are on every street corner in America, because there are houses of worship where people have heard the universal call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved, themselves, people who spend their days trying to help a neighbor in need.

Government can't make people do that. We've got to recognize the limitations. But what Government can do is encourage faith-based programs and their mission. What Government can do is fund an individual who

we'd like to help and let that individual make a choice as to whether or not they want to find help in a secular program or in a faith-based program. Government can do that.

And we can do that without offending the process-oriented people who worry about church and state. We shouldn't breach the line of church and state, but we should welcome faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs that use a powerful, powerful way of changing people's lives. That's called the power of faith. You change somebody's heart, you change their lives. And Government shouldn't fear faith-based initiatives. As a matter of fact, we ought to welcome them.

And I want to thank those in the room who have been on the forefront of change, of helping us change Government attitude toward a policy that I'm absolutely convinced is going to positively affect the lives of thousands of people. One such initiative that we've asked for Congress to fund is a mentoring program for boys and girls whose mom or dad may be in prison.

And so these are some of the goals that we're working on here in Washington. I cannot do it alone. One, I've assembled a great team of people, of good people, like Rod and others. I was, today, with the Chancellor of Germany, and I was at the Oval Office, there in the little dining room. And sitting next to me were Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, as we were effecting foreign policy that affects the world. And I've got a great team of people around me.

As you can tell, I welcome good, strong folks—I think that's the sign of a chief executive officer who knows what he's doing—and I empower them, and I work with them. But we can also do some other things. We can help work to change the culture of Washington and to kind of tone down, dial down the rhetoric and dial up success. I'm doing my very best to stop the name calling and the finger pointing, to say that good people can disagree in an agreeable way. It's so important that we have mutual respect in the Nation's Capital. The issues that I've talked about, I don't particularly—I don't think are necessarily Republican issues. I think they're good policy issues. I think these are issues that are best for everybody in the country. Otherwise, I wouldn't be promoting them. And I know we can do a better job. And I hope the country's beginning to get a sense that there is now a culture of respect in Washington, DC, and as importantly, a culture of accomplishment, that we're getting some things done.

And not everybody's going to agree with every detail, but we're getting things done. And that's important, because, after all, those of us who have assumed the high offices we hold must understand we have a responsibility to those offices. We have a responsibility to conduct ourselves in ways in which somebody will say, "I'd like to serve." Public service is a noble calling. Public service is important to this Nation.

But you don't have to be a President or a Congressman or a Secretary of a Cabinet to affect people's lives in a positive way. And that's a message I'm also trying to spread, that the true strength of this country really isn't in the halls of Government or in the White House; it's in the hearts and souls of people who live all across America, without Government, without a President saying to go do this—just walk across the street and say to somebody in need, "What can I do to help?"

And that's why I'm so optimistic about America and so optimistic about our future and so thankful that you are here to give me a chance to talk about our vision.

Thanks for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative J.C. Watts, Jr.; Representative Sisisky's widow, Rhoda, and sons Mark, Terry, Richard, and Stuart; Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell; Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative; Anthony T. Evans, senior pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, and president, The Urban Alternative; and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany.

Statement on the Situation in the Middle East

March 29, 2001

I am deeply concerned about the escalating violence in the Middle East. It is claiming the lives of innocent civilians on both

sides. The tragic cycle of incitement, provocation, and violence has gone on far too long.

Both sides must take important steps to calm the situation now. The Palestinian Authority should speak out publicly and forcefully in the language of the Palestinian people to condemn violence and terrorism. It should arrest the perpetrators of terrorist acts, and it should resume security cooperation with Israel.

The Government of Israel for its part should exercise restraint in its military response. It should take steps to restore normalcy to the lives of the Palestinian people by easing closures and removing checkpoints. Last week Prime Minister Sharon assured me that his government wants to move in this direction, and I urge Israel to do so.

I will be meeting with Egypt's President Mubarak next Monday and Jordan's King Abdullah the week after to seek their help in defusing the tensions. Egypt and Jordan are two of our most important partners in the region and their role is crucial. I have asked Secretary Powell to call Chairman Arafat and contact other leaders to urge them to stand against violence. Our diplomats in the region are fully engaged in this effort.

Our goal is to encourage a series of reciprocal and parallel steps by both sides that will halt the escalation of violence, provide safety and security for civilians on both sides, and restore normalcy to the lives of everyone in the region. A lasting peace in the region will come only when the parties agree directly on its terms.

This week I vetoed an unbalanced U.N. resolution because it tried to force the adoption of a mechanism on which both parties did not agree. My approach will be to facilitate the parties' work in finding their own solution for peace. We seek to build a stable foundation for restoring confidence, rebuilding security cooperation, and resuming a political dialog between the parties.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the Radio and Television Correspondents Association Dinner

March 29, 2001

Thank you all very much. Well, Lew, thank you very much. Laura and I are thrilled to be here. I appreciate the members of the press. I think you serve a very useful purpose, especially tonight.

As you know, we're studying safe levels for arsenic in drinking water. [*Laughter*] To base our decision on sound science, the scientists told us we needed to test the water glasses of about 3,000 people. [*Laughter*] Thank you for participating. [*Laughter*]

It's good to see so many Members of the Congress here, my fellow Texan Tom DeLay, here at the head table. Lew asked me a little earlier if Tom ever smiled. I said, "I don't know, I've only known him 9 years." [*Laughter*]

Senator Lieberman is here. We all know Joe is an Orthodox Jew, so he does no work from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday. This has so impressed me I, myself, am thinking of converting—[*laughter*]—So I don't have nothing to do from sundown Saturday to sundown Friday. [*Laughter*]

Most of you probably didn't know that I have a new book out. Some guy put together a collection of my wit and wisdom or, as he calls it, my accidental wit and wisdom. [*Laughter*] But I'm kind of proud that my words are already in book form. So like other authors, I thought I'd read from it tonight. [*Laughter*] It's like the thoughts of Chairman Mao, only with laughs and not in Chinese. [*Laughter*]

Here's one from the book—and I actually said this. [*Laughter*] "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully." [*Laughter*] Now, that makes you stop and think. [*Laughter*] Anyone can give you a coherent sentence, but something like this takes you into an entirely new dimension. [*Laughter*]

Here's another: "I understand small-business growth; I was one." [*Laughter*] You know, I love great literature. [*Laughter*]

I actually said this in New Hampshire: "I appreciate preservation. It's what you do when you run for President. You've got to

preserve." [*Laughter*] I don't have the slightest idea what I was saying there. [*Laughter*]

Or how about this one: "More and more of our imports come from overseas." [*Laughter*]

Now, most people would say, in speaking of the economy, we ought to make the pie bigger. I, however, am on record saying, "We ought to make the pie higher." [*Laughter*] It is a very complicated economic point I was making there. [*Laughter*] But believe me, what this country needs is taller pie. [*Laughter*]

And how about this for foreign policy vision: "When I was coming up, it was a dangerous world, and we knew exactly who the 'they' were. It was 'us' versus 'them'. And it was clear who the 'them' was." [*Laughter*] "Today, we're not so sure who the 'they' are, but we know they're there." [*Laughter*]

John Ashcroft, by the way, attributes the way I talk to my religious fervor. In fact, the first time we met, he thought I was talking in tongues. [*Laughter*]

Then there is my most famous statement: "Rarely is the question asked, is our children learning?" [*Laughter*] Let us analyze that sentence for a moment. [*Laughter*] If you're a stickler, you probably think the singular verb "is" should have been the plural "are." But if you read it closely, you'll see I'm using the intransitive plural subjunctive tense. [*Laughter*] So the word "is" are correct. [*Laughter*]

Finally, let's see you wordsmiths out there diagram this sentence: I said—this may sound a little west Texan to you—"but when I'm talking about myself and when he's talking about myself, all of us are talking about me." [*Laughter*]

Now, ladies and gentlemen, you have to admit, in my sentences, I go where no man has gone before. [*Laughter*]

But in closing, the way I see it is, I am a boon to the English language. I've coined new words, like, "misunderstanding" and "Hispanically." [*Laughter*] I've expanded the definition of words themselves, using "vulcanized" when I meant "polarized," "Grecians" when I meant "Greeks," "inebriating" when I meant "exhilarating"—[*laughter*]—and instead of "barriers and tariffs," I said, "terriers and bariffs." [*Laughter*]

And you know what? Life goes on. [*Laughter*] My wife and my daughters still love me. [*Laughter*] Our military still protects our shores. [*Laughter*] Americans still get up and go to work. [*Laughter*] People still go out and have fun, as we're doing tonight.

I don't think it's healthy to take yourself too seriously. But what I do take seriously is my responsibility as President to all the American people; it's the office I hold. And that is what I came tonight to tell you.

Thank you for inviting me, and thank you for your "horspitality". [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 p.m. in the National Ballroom at the Hilton Washington and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Lew Ketcham, chairman, Radio and Television Correspondents Association.

Remarks Honoring Members of the Baseball Hall of Fame

March 30, 2001

The President. Well, thank you very much. Laura and I are delighted to welcome you all to the people's house. The Vice President is delighted to welcome you to the people's house, too. [*Laughter*] This is an exciting day for my administration and all the baseball fans that live here in Washington.

I first want to thank the commissioner for coming. Mr. Commissioner it's good to see you again, sir. You're doing a great job in shepherding our national pastime through some pretty tough times. And I appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate your friendship.

Speaking about Wisconsin, I'm glad to see my Cabinet Secretary is here. [*Laughter*] Thank you for coming, Tommy; and Mel Martinez, as well. I appreciate you all being here.

We've got some huge fans, baseball fans here. Billy Crystal, I'm honored you're here. I appreciate the movie you're making. I'm looking forward to maybe getting to see it here in the White House. If you would let us do that, it would be such an honor. I don't know if Costas is here yet.

Bob Costas. Here, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. Where is he? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Costas. Sometimes it's hard to see me, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. Representing all the traditionalists in America. [*Laughter*]

Secretary Abraham, I'm sorry—a fine Detroit Tiger fan. Congressman Boehlert, whose district is the Hall of Fame.

I also want to thank Jane—it's good to see you again. I remember coming up to the induction ceremony when my friend Nolan Ryan got inducted. So your hospitality is great. And, Dale, thank you for thinking of this.

One of the great things about living here is, you don't have to sign up for a baseball fantasy camp—[*laughter*]—to meet your heroes. It turns out, they come here. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the players, the former players, the managers, and the wives who are here. I think we're going to have a great day.

There are some familiar faces here, but none more beloved than Yogi Berra. Yogi's been an inspiration to me—[*laughter*]—not only because of his baseball skills but, of course, for the enduring mark he left on the English language. [*Laughter*] Some in the press corps here even think he might be my speechwriter. [*Laughter*] I don't know if you know, Yogi, but I quoted you when I went to the Congress the other day to deliver my budget address: "Relieved you made it. We were afraid you might have taken the wrong fork."

And of course, Big Texas here, and Ruth, thank you all for coming—friends of ours who remind us of glorious days we had in baseball. The reason I like to keep Nolan around is, he is a reminder that when we got done with the Sammy Sosa trade, there was still some talent left on the Rangers. [*Laughter*]

But along with Nolan, we've got people like Sandy Koufax and Bunning and Ford and Gibson and Marichal, some of the greatest arms in the history of the game. Seeing all the pitchers here brings to mind Lefty Gomez's definition of a complete pitcher. They asked Lefty once to share his secret. He said, "It's easy, clean living and a fast outfield." [*Laughter*] And we had some pretty fast outfielders behind us, too.

I'm sorry that Ted Williams couldn't be here today. One time I had the opportunity to watch a batting practice at an All-Star game, sitting right behind Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams. For a baseball fanatic, it was an unbelievable moment. It might sound funny to you, but at that moment, I said, "Well gosh, all three of us have something in common. We wanted to be big league stars. One of us peaked a little early." [*Laughter*]

I know that we all join together in wishing Ted the very best as he struggles to overcome his illness.

Five decades of baseball are represented here in the White House, from Bob Feller to Duke Snider to Dave Winfield to Robin Yount. I'm just a little biased toward those of you who played back in the fifties. It was my prime as a baseball card collector in the fifties.

Monte Irvin is here. And I remember very clearly, seeing him at the first baseball game I ever went to. He was standing in the Polo Grounds, I might add, on grass. Monte, you probably didn't see me because I was up in the stands with my Uncle Buck. But I'll never forget it. And as I recall, Red Schoendienst was there, as well.

And gentlemen, if you're half as excited to be at the White House as I was that afternoon, I'm really glad to repay the favor. Everyone who loves baseball can remember the first time he saw the inside of a real Major League park, with real big league players. It stays with you forever, the greenness of the grass, the sight of Major Leaguers in uniform, the sound of big league swing meeting a big league pitch. And when you're a kid and you actually meet one of your baseball heroes or get an autograph on a ball, that's a big deal, too. It means a lot.

Each one of the stars who are here has been a part of that. Each one has given that gift to millions of children for generations. And speaking for all of the millions of boys and girls, I say, thank you.

When I was growing up, there were the Mantle kids—like Crystal and Costas—and there were the Mays kids. You'd think that with Mickey Mantle coming from Oklahoma, which is next door to where I was raised, that I would have been a Mantle kid. But no, for some reason I was a Mays kid, and I was really proud of it, by the way.

Years later when I went to work with the Rangers, I got to meet both of those players, and got to meet a lot of other good folks, like Nolan Ryan. And I began to appreciate what the life of a famous ballplayer is like, what a responsibility it is when so many youngsters look up to you. So much is expected of you, whether you're in uniform or not in uniform.

It isn't always easy to be worthy of a kid's devotion or a teammate's trust. But the folks behind us tried. They were successful, and that's what made them great. Baseball isn't just in the stats, though of course, that's part of it. It isn't just the money. It really isn't who makes the Hall of Fame. As much as anything else, baseball is the style of a Willie Mays, or the determination of a Hank Aaron, or the endurance of a Mickey Mantle, the discipline of Carl Yastrzemski, the drive of Eddie Mathews, the reliability of a Kaline or a Morgan, the grace of a DiMaggio, the kindness of a Harmon Killebrew, and the class of Stan Musial, the courage of a Jackie Robinson, or the heroism of Lou Gehrig.

My hope for the game is that these qualities will never be lost. Whatever else changes, even if the same nine innings run longer and the flyballs farther and the grass isn't always grass like it should be, those values are still what makes the boys and girls and the fans and players into legends.

In a small way, maybe we can help to preserve the best of baseball right here in the house that Washington built. After we moved in, I pointed out to a great baseball fan, the First Lady, that we've got a pretty good-sized backyard here. [*Laughter*] And maybe with the help of some groundskeepers, we can play ball on the South Lawn. She agreed, just so long as I wasn't one of the players. [*Laughter*] So, for the next four seasons, we're going to invite kids here from the area to play teeball on the South Lawn of the White House.

And so, my congratulations are to not only the new crop of inductees of the Hall of Fame—Winfield, Puckett, to the family of Hilton Smith, and Bill Mazeroski—but congratulations to the Hall of Famers who have made the game what it is. It is such an honor for us to welcome you here. Thank you for coming, and I hope you enjoy the lunch as much as I know I'm going to.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan H. "Bud" Selig; entertainer Billy Crystal; sportscaster Bob Costas; Jane Forbes Clark, chairman, and Dale Petroskey, president, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; and Ruth Ryan, Nolan Ryan's wife.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil and an Exchange With Reporters

March 30, 2001

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome our friend from Brazil. Mr. President, we are honored—we're honored to have you here. We've got a lot in common. Brazil is a vast nation. It's a democracy. It's a country with a huge economic potential. It's a Government run by a good man.

We've had a good, frank discussion about a lot of subjects. There's no question in my mind that we'll have good relations over the next years. And there's no question in my mind that as we cooperate together, the people of both our countries will benefit.

We've discussed a lot of topics, including trade. We've agreed to work closely together to see if we can't come up with a way for our nations to continue to interface with each other. This country invests a lot of money in Brazil, because Brazil's a safe place to invest money. And we're going to keep it that way, keep our relationship strong. So Mr. President, welcome, glad to have you here.

President Cardoso. Thank you very much, sir. Let me say that I am very glad to be here, be with you. I knew your father. Now I'm very glad to see the way you are. As I said yesterday, I will put—take out my glasses to see your eyes, because you said that you would like to see my eyes directly.

President Bush. That's right. [*Laughter*]

President Cardoso. I must say that it was a very pleasant conversation about several issues. And I do agree with you, sir, on the sense that Brazil and the United States have to be close and close not just in terms of

trade but in terms of the hemisphere in general, in terms of security, in terms of democracy. We have shared values; so why not work together?

And also because we know our responsibilities across the world. We know that the world is uneven, and it's necessary to work—to do a lot of things to offer more perspective to the world, to the hemisphere, to Africa and other parts. And the United States and Brazil can work together. We will work together.

I also see that you are a very informal kind of people, as I am, so I am very glad.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Cardoso. If you allow me now, I speak a little bit in Portuguese because there are lots of Brazilians over there.

[*At this point, President Cardoso spoke in Portuguese, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. We'll have one question from the American press, one question from the Brazilian press, and then everybody can go home for the weekend.

Slobodan Milosevic

Q. Mr. President, there seems to be an effort underway in Belgrade to arrest Mr. Milosevic. Does the United States support this? Will the United States contribute in any way to getting it done? What do you think should happen to him?

President Bush. Well, we've always said that Mr. Milosevic ought to be brought to justice. I had a visit with the Secretary of State about this very matter. We're watching it very carefully. We will cooperate in any way that we're asked to do so.

Brazil-U.S. Trade Relations

Q. Mr. President, in terms of trade, have you, Mr. President, President Cardoso and President Bush, have you been able—do you think that you are going to be able to bridge the differences between the two countries? Are you ready as free traders to fight the protectionists in each of your respective countries?

President Bush. Absolutely, we can work together. We had a very good discussion about trade. The President and I have made a decision that we'll work closely to iron out any differences that may exist. Obviously, each of us have got different issues that we have to deal with within our own borders. I'm mindful of that; so is the President.

But the thing that's important is the spirit of cooperation. There are no differences when it comes to the desire to cooperate. I'm confident we'll have a very fruitful relationship. It's in our Nation's best interests that we have close relations with Brazil.

For those of you who have never heard me say this, good relations in our neighborhood is not going to be an afterthought for our foreign policy in America. The best foreign policy starts with making sure that relations in our own hemisphere are very positive. And the fact that the President would come here to Washington and have a fruitful dialog with me is an indication that not only are we interested but so is the President. For that, I'm very grateful.

President Cardoso. That's true. I do agree with the President. I believe that—we have, of course, from time to time some difference. That's normal between nations. Yesterday the President said, American—to be American first. Well, I would say the same, to be Brazil first. That's normal. But then let's see how to cooperate.

And the point is that regarding trade—you asked what about trade—our problems are going—are being discussed in several meetings. We have been making progress toward a more free trade. Of course we're going to have to take into account the situation in Brazil, Brazilians' interests, and we'll have to see how to solve, eventually, what can be a conflict of interest. But very localized interest, very specific interest. We cannot generalize as if American and Brazil will clash.

No, by being one point to have the difference. So let's try to work together to solve the difference. That's the way.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 26

In the morning, the President traveled to Kansas City, MO, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Billings, MT.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Richard Blankenship to be Ambassador to the Bahamas.

The President announced his intention to nominate Howard H. Leach to be Ambassador to France.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vicki A. Bailey to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and Domestic Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Rosenfeld to be President of the Government National Mortgage Association.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jon M. Huntsman to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

The President announced his intention to nominate former Senator Howard Baker, Jr., to be Ambassador to Japan.

March 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Kalamazoo, MI, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nora Mead Brownell to be a Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Henry Wood III to be a Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark Kent Ervin to be Inspector General of the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Leo S. Mackay, Jr., to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

March 28

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark B. McClellan to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate John E. Robson to be President of the Export-Import Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anna Maria Farias to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

The President announced his intention to nominate Earl Floyd Kvamme to be Cochair and member of the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology.

March 29

The President announced his intention to nominate Grant D. Aldonas to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Gerry Myers III to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Manning to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shinae Chun to be Director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carl W. Ford to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeanne L. Phillips to be Representative of the U.S. to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced the designation of Larry Massanari as Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

March 30

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robin L. Higgins to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Carlos M. Ramirez as Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the International

Boundary and Water Commission for the U.S. and Mexico.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 27

Argeo Paul Cellucci,
of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

Submitted March 28

Daniel J. Bryant,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Robert Raben, resigned.

John D. Graham,
of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, vice John T. Spotila, resigned.

Submitted March 29

Charles S. Abell,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Alphonso Maldon, Jr.

Grant D. Aldonas,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, vice Robert S. LaRussa.

Brenda L. Becker,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Deborah K. Kilmer, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 26

Released March 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Escalation of Violence in the Middle East

Released March 29

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Wilmington, DE

Released March 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, April 6, 2001

The President's Radio Address

March 31, 2001

Good morning. This week the House of Representatives approved my budget plan, and next week the Senate will vote on it, as well.

My budget is shaped by a simple commitment: We can address our country's needs and still be responsible with taxpayers' money; and we can fund our priorities without expanding Government beyond the bounds of responsibility.

Today I want to give you a little more detail about some of my top priorities, the education and health and character of American children. My budget spends additional money on these goals and spends it in effective, creative ways.

We place a new national emphasis on teaching reading with a Reading First program to help all children learn to read by the third grade. Reading First will more than triple the existing funding for Federal reading programs, funding for early intervention and teacher training.

Another program called Early Reading First will put the best reading methods to use in preschool and Head Start Programs. Again, Early Reading First will triple the existing funding for Federal early reading programs.

My budget increases the funding for Head Start, while giving it a clear mission: to prepare our Nation's most disadvantaged children to learn as soon as they enter school.

My budget cares for children's health, as well as for their minds. In 2002, we'll spend well over $25 billion on health coverage for children under Medicaid and related programs. We invest more than a billion dollars, up 12 percent from 2001, in research into childhood diseases at the National Institutes for Health. We fund 1,200 new community health centers over the next 5 years, to bring better care to poor children. Thirty percent of the health care center patients are under 12 years old.

We add 94 million to the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program. In 2002, that program will aid more than 7 million people. The Centers for Disease Control will get a $22 million increase for their childhood immunization program. My budget plan increases Federal spending on childcare by 350 million, to reach a half million additional children.

We provide 200 million extra to provide services for children, services that prevent child abuse and keep families together. And we offer 60 million to help children raised in the foster care system with the cost of college or vocational training.

The values of our children must be a priority of our Nation. So my budget invests in abstinence education and drug treatment. We create a new $67 million program that will make grants to faith-based and community organizations who mentor the children of parents in prison.

This is a long list, but I wanted to make a point: My budget is active and compassionate. Discretionary spending grows by a healthy, responsible 4 percent, enough to meet our needs. We fund goals like education, health, and defense. We reduce debt at a record rate. We set aside a fund for future emergencies. We then have enough money to provide broad tax relief, including relief from the marriage penalty and a doubling of the child tax credit.

Those of us in Washington must always understand the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money.

My budget has the right balance. And I hope you'll encourage your Representatives in Congress to support my budget. And I thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:13 p.m. on March 30 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 31.

The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the Arrest of Former President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

April 1, 2001

I welcome today's arrest of Slobodan Milosevic, the former President of Yugoslavia. His arrest represents an important step in bringing to a close the tragic era of his brutal dictatorship.

Milosevic was responsible for great suffering throughout the Balkan region. He deserves to be tried for his crimes against the Serbian people. He also deserves to be tried for violations of international law. We cannot and must not forget the chilling images of terrified women and children herded onto trains, emaciated prisoners interned behind barbed wire, and mass graves unearthed by U.N. investigators.

Milosevic's arrest should be a first step toward trying him for the crimes against humanity with which he is charged. I am confident that Yugoslavia will continue down the path of cooperation with the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal. I am encouraged by the actions that Belgrade has already taken to work with the Tribunal, including its assistance over the last several weeks in transferring two indictees to The Hague. I call on President Kostunica to continue this cooperation and to see that Milosevic is likewise brought to justice.

The United States appreciates the hard job that Yugoslavia faces in building its new democracy. I assure the Yugoslav Government and people that they can count on the friendship of the United States as they continue down the path of democratic and economic reform. We look forward to the day that Yugoslavia is fully part of a Europe that is whole and free and at peace.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to President Vojislav Kostunica, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Remarks on the United States Navy Aircraft Incident in the South China Sea

April 2, 2001

Late Saturday night in Washington, Sunday morning in China, a United States naval maritime patrol aircraft on a routine surveillance mission in international airspace over the South China Sea collided with one of two Chinese fighters that were shadowing our plane. Both our aircraft and a Chinese aircraft were damaged in the collision. Our aircraft made an emergency landing at an airfield on China's Hainan Island.

We have been in contact with the Chinese Government about this incident since Saturday night. From our own information, we know that the United States naval plane landed safely. Our Embassy in Beijing has been told by the Chinese Government that all 24 crewmembers are safe.

Our priorities are the prompt and safe return of the crew and the return of the aircraft without further damaging or tampering. The first step should be immediate access by our Embassy personnel to our crewmembers. I am troubled by the lack of a timely Chinese response to our request for this access. Our Embassy officials are on the ground and prepared to visit the crew and aircraft as soon as the Chinese Government allows them to do so, and I call on the Chinese Government to grant this access promptly.

Failure of the Chinese Government to react promptly to our request is inconsistent with standard diplomatic practice and with the expressed desire of both our countries for better relations.

Finally, we have offered to provide search and rescue assistance to help the Chinese Government locate its missing aircraft and pilot. Our military stands ready to help.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and an Exchange With Reporters

April 2, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to start off with a statement; the President will make a statement. We'll have two questions from the American press, two questions from the Egyptian press, and then you'll be asked to leave in a prompt fashion. [*Laughter*]

Of course, it is my honor to welcome the President of Egypt here to the Oval Office. I had the honor of meeting the President a couple of years ago. I found him to be an engaging, charming, strong leader then; my opinion hasn't changed after our good, frank discussion today.

We're friends. We will remain friends. And we will work together to bring peace to the Middle East, and we'll work together to try to convince all parties involved to lay down their arms, so there would be less violence. I'm also committed to working with the President on relations—economic relations that will be to the advantage of both our countries.

And so it is my high honor to welcome President Mubarak here to the Oval Office and to the United States.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you. I'm so pleased to come here for the first time to meet with my friend President Bush in the Oval Office. He's a friend. I know him some time ago. And I'm very keen to work with him on all issues concerning the Middle East, especially the Middle East problem.

We are working very hard, and we are going to cooperate very hard in the direction of peace because our main concern is peace and stability in the area of the Middle East, which is in the interest of the United States, of Egypt, Jordan, and all countries in the area. We are going to do our best; we are going to cooperate with the main players, with the United States. And I have great hopes that President Bush will do the maximum effort of that so as to reach—lessening the tension and resume negotiations, which is vitally important.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, on China, do you consider the American service personnel hostages? And secondly, is it true that the Chinese have already boarded our Navy spy plane, and how do you react to that?

President Bush. My reaction is, is that the Chinese must promptly allow us to have contact with the 24 air men and women that are there and return our plane to us without any further tampering. I sent a very clear message, and I expect them to heed the message.

Q. Have they boarded the plane, sir?

President Bush. My message stands for itself.

Q. Will you be more involved, sir——

Q. The Middle East situation is deteriorating——

President Bush. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Actually, sir, I had another question, altogether, but the point is——

President Bush. Did Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News] steal your question? That's very inhospitable of you. [*Laughter*]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. The Middle East situation, sir, is deteriorating day by day. The press is speculating the American administration is disengaging itself from the area. Can the Middle East afford this vacuum by the absence of an active American role? And have you formulated a new approach, if any?

And President Mubarak, please comment afterwards.

President Bush. Well, we're very engaged in the Middle East and will remain so. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of State has been involved on the telephone this morning with Prime Minister Sharon. I have had numerous telephone conversations with leaders in the Middle East. I'll continue to be actively engaged at promoting a peaceful resolution of the issue. After all, most of our conversation today was talking about how to bring peace in the Middle East.

I understand that we can facilitate peace. We can't force a peace. And we will use our prestige and influence as best we can to facilitate a peace. Part of it is to build a strong foundation for peace in the Middle East. It's important for us to build strong relationships

with countries such as Egypt and Jordan and other countries in the Middle East who have got a stake in peace. But we will remain very actively engaged, and hopefully, there will be positive results.

It is very important for people to realize that the United States will not set a timetable that meets our specific needs. The only lasting peace is one in which the parties involved come to the table. And the role for strong countries like ourselves and Egypt is to encourage, first, the violence to end and, secondly, for discussions to begin again. And I'm very optimistic and hopeful that we'll be able to achieve that.

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President, your comments——

Q. A comment from President Mubarak——

President Bush. Hold on. AP man. AP man. Excuse me. Oh, sorry.

President Mubarak. I think the President told you everything about that. He is committed to work for peace. We are not going to impose any solution on the parties. We are going to facilitate the situation so that they can sit together, negotiate, and we will help them to reach a final conclusion for peace, because all of us need stability in the area.

Q. The U.S.-Egypt relation is bigger than just the peace——

President Bush. Of course.

Q. Is that true?

President Bush. Oh, absolutely. The U.S.-Egyptian relation is about economic commerce; it's about cultural exchanges. Absolutely. But one of the key things is that we can use our historic relationship to work together to bring peace in the Middle East. It's an important part of our relationship, but not the only important part.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, do you see this accident as a provocation on the part of China or a true accident? And what will it do to U.S.-Chinese relationships, especially your decision on selling arms to Taiwan?

President Bush. Well, I made a very clear statement about how I viewed the incident. It is clear that we had a plane flying in international—over international waters that was damaged. It landed, and we expect there to be contact, as soon as possible, with our crewmembers. And we expect that plane to be returned to us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:14 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the National Restaurant Association

April 2, 2001

Well, Denise, thank you very much for your kind introduction and your leadership. I'm honored to be here, and I'm glad you all are here, as well. I'm so pleased with the strong support that my budget and tax relief plan has received from the restaurant folks all across America. It means a lot. A lot of Members of Congress and Members of the United States Senate eat in your establishments, so it's a pretty good place to start the lobbying process. [*Laughter*]

First, I want to describe a little bit about the budget I submitted. It's created some heartburn in Washington because the increase in discretionary spending wasn't as large as some would like to see it.

In the past, during the last fiscal year, the last year that affected this fiscal year, the discretionary spending in our budget went up by 8 percent. Now, that's a lot. It's a lot when you're talking in terms of billions of dollars. It's a lot when you're trying to preserve money for Social Security. It's a lot when you're worried about the state of our economy. It's too much—the increase was way too much. It's almost as if there was a bidding contest to determine who got out of town first.

And so, we came to town with a new attitude that said, we can meet priorities if we control discretionary spending. We can meet priorities; we can pay down debt if we control discretionary spending. We can meet priorities, pay down debt, set aside money for contingency, and send back money to the people who pay the bills if we control discretionary spending.

And so, I submitted a budget to the United States Congress, which passed the House—it's going to be voted on in the Senate—that limits discretionary spending to 4 percent. Now, for some who don't pay attention to all this process, 4 percent sounds like a little bit. But it is—and it is, compared to what happened during the last budget negotiations. But I want to remind you, it's greater than the rate of inflation. It's greater than maybe some of the pay raises that you're giving the folks that work for you. It's a pretty healthy chunk of money. It's a big increase.

Yet, for some, it's not enough in Washington. And what we're trying to do is fashion the debate to say that 4 percent is plenty, particularly since we strongly believe, and I strongly believe, that we need real tax relief. We not only need to have tax relief that gets money into people's pockets quickly; we need long-term tax relief that will send a signal to the entrepreneurial class of America that tax relief is real, it's permanent, you can make your plans based upon a new tax system.

There are some in Washington who would like to see the issue go away by saying, "Here's some immediate money for everybody, and let's hope they forget about long-term relief." My position is clear: For those who want to accelerate tax relief, we're joining right with you. We think it's important to have quick injection of cash into our economy. But in order to make sure the environment for entrepreneurial growth is consistent and strong, we have an opportunity to have long-term tax relief.

And that's what I'd like for you to help me convince Members of Congress to listen to. Because you see, the great American experience is to own your own business, is to own your own home, is to own something. It's that no matter where you're from or who you are or what you're—how you're raised, if you have an idea, you can go out and start a restaurant. And it's your own.

And the role of Government has got to try to create an environment so that people can—that people feel comfortable about investing. There needs to be certainty when it comes to investment. There also needs to be recognition of the role small businesses play in our society. The tax relief plan I submitted cuts taxes on everybody who pays taxes. It affects those at the bottom end of the economic ladder by dropping the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, increasing the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. But it also drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent.

See, I recognize that most small businesses—and there are many small mom-and-pop restaurant owners all across America who are not incorporated. They're sole proprietorships. They have Subchapter S corporations, where they pay—where the tax rate they pay is not the corporate tax rate, not the C-rate, but the high individual rates. And so by dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we're saying to people who started their own business, "Well, the environment is going to be better. You'll have more cash flow so you can reinvest in your company. You'll have more cash flow, so you can employ more people."

This Congress must hear, loud and clear, the role of small businesses in our society when it comes to new job creation; 75 percent of the new jobs created in America are created by small-business people. And so tax relief is aimed not only at helping people at the bottom end of the economic ladder, but the tax relief package also is aimed at encouraging and stimulating entrepreneurial growth in America. And that's what Congress must hear.

Now, they'll try to debate the issue all kinds of ways and throw all kinds of smokescreens up. But reality is that a real, meaningful tax relief plan is good for investment in the private sector and job creation.

One of the most interesting moments of the budget debate came when I was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a lady stood up and said, now she was a proud mom and proud grandmother, and that she had baked cookies for a long time in her family. And every time she left a plate of cookies on the table, her children, her grandchildren ate them. She's really talking about the budget when she talked about that story. [*Laughter*] And so the fundamental question is not only how do we stimulate economic growth but what happens to the cash flow if it's not returned back to the people or not taken in the first place—let's put it that way.

And I can tell you what's going to happen to it. It's going to be used to increase the size of the Federal Government; that's what's going to happen. And so this is not only a debate about how to stimulate economic growth; it's a debate about who do you trust with the people's money. And it's a fundamental debate, and it's a good debate, and I'm glad it's taking place here in Washington.

See, I would rather trust you with your own money to make the proper investment. Once we meet priorities—and, remember, we pay down $2 trillion of debt in the budget I've submitted; we increase discretionary spending by 4 percent; we've set aside money for contingencies. Once we meet those obligations and priorities, I would rather you have your own money so you can make the investments you think are necessary.

I'd rather working people have their own money so they can decide what to do with their hard-earned dollars, as opposed to the Federal Government making those decisions. And that's the debate, and there's a big philosophical divide.

Oh, some folks up here may not want to see it that way, but it's clear to me that it's a matter of trust. And I'm here in Washington; I readily concede I'm a part of the Federal Government—proudly so. But I trust people with their own money. I would rather have people have—once priorities are met—I'd rather have people have their own cash flow, so they can decide how to save and invest.

I don't think 535 people ought to be making the decisions for people with money that I don't think is necessary to remain here in Washington, DC. And I hope you help me spread that message, because it's an important message for this country. It's a fundamental debate about how wealth is created. It's a fundamental debate about who does our Government trust.

I like our position, because when the people begin to hear outside the filter of Washington, DC, you know, when we get beyond those who decide how words sometimes are translated out there in the hinterlands, once people realize Social Security obligations will be met and the Medicare obligations will be met, once they understand, for example, in the first 4 months of this year, there's $40 billion more coming into our Treasury than anticipated, that even though the economy ground down to growth of one percent in the last quarter, $40 billion more will come into our Treasury than we thought—once people hear the facts, they will realize that tax relief doesn't mean somebody is going to suffer; tax relief is a positive.

For too long in Washington, people had to put tax relief in zero-sum politics. We've got one winner and one loser. If you keep more of your tax money, somebody's going to lose. But that's not reality—that's not reality.

Let me reiterate what I just said: $40 billion more in the first quarter of this year, in spite of the fact—anticipated—in spite of the fact that our economy grew at only one percent. The way I like to put it is, it sounds like somebody is overcharged. [*Laughter*]

And there is another issue that's going to be debated here pretty soon, and that's the death tax. I firmly believe that our Nation must get rid of the death tax. You know, I think of all the folks that I met who are struggling with their own small business, not only trying to fight the battles of cash flow and employment and workers' comp and all the issues that small-business owners deal with—liability—but I'm also thinking about all those who dream about leaving their assets to a child. And what a wonderful thought that is, that somebody's worked all their life to start their own business, so that a son or daughter can run it as part of a family legacy. And yet our Tax Code makes it really hard for that to happen.

There's a lot of small-business owners, a lot of restaurant owners who inherent a restaurant and are unable to pay the cash necessary to accommodate the evaluation and, therefore, are out of business. There's a lot of farmers and ranchers who have to do the same thing, and that's not fair. It's not fair to tax a person's assets twice.

I urge the Congress to listen to the voices of the people who are working all day long to build up their asset base and their business. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, this affects all Americans in a negative way. And I think we're going to get a positive response out of Congress.

And you can help. You can help by talking to the Congresspeople from your district and the Senators from your States. I truly believe—I believe you can have a great presence here in Washington. I know there's a lot of frustrated folks outside in the country that say, "Well, I can't influence Washington." I disagree. I think you can. I truly think you can.

I think one of the reasons why we've gone as far as we have in the tax relief plan is because a lot of people in America are beginning to hear reality and hear the truth that we've got enough money to meet needs and let people keep their own money. A lot of people are beginning to realize that this is a plan that is fair, an eminently fair plan. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief.

The idea of Washington, DC—of people in Washington saying, "We're going to have targeted tax cuts"—you know what that says to me? It says, people can decide you win, and you don't win, and that's not good public policy. It seems like, to me, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief, and I think that's the American way.

I think most Americans understand the role of our Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which small businesses can flourish, in which people can work hard to realize their dream. So we're making great progress.

I remember campaigning during last summer, and people would say, "Well, are you ready to abandon your tax relief plan? It doesn't seem like anybody wants it in America." And I said, "No, I'm not abandoning it. It's the right thing to do. It's the absolute right thing to do." And so now, the debate no longer is, are we going to have tax relief? The debate is, how large will the tax relief package be? And I appreciate your helping getting us to this point.

But we need to work more, because until I sign that bill, I'm going to be relentless on the subject. It is the absolute right thing to do for America. It is the right thing to trust people with their own money. It is the right thing for our economy to accelerate tax relief. It is the right thing to create an environment that is optimistic about the future by having real, meaningful tax reform. It's the right thing to get rid of the death tax. And the American people are hearing it, and they're coming our way.

And a lot of it has to do with leadership such as yourself, who go back to your States and your communities, and says, "Let's pay attention to what's going on in the Nation's Capital. It will affect us—have a direct effect on our livelihoods."

And so, I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and make my point and make my case, and more importantly, Denise, I want to thank you and your organization for joining us as we get something positive done on behalf of the people.

I am so optimistic about the tone in Washington; it's beginning to change. The habitual name-calling seems to be subsiding somewhat. Even the President, me, when somebody says some things I don't like, I'm willing to smile. [*Laughter*] And there is a spirit of accomplishment; we're beginning to get something done. And that's so important. It's so important, so that when people look at Washington, they're not disgusted at what they see—what they see, as opposed to this needless partisanship that sends a signal that, all of a sudden, the people don't matter. We need to replace that with a spirit of, at least, respectful disagreement, and I think we're making pretty good progress.

So I'm pleased with the progress we're making. I'm mindful that we've got a lot more work to do, and I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to come and make my case.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Denise Marie Fugo, chairman, National Restaurant Association.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

April 2, 2001

Trade Policy

The President. It's my honor to host a discussion on trade and its advantages to our country. I want to thank the leaders of the House and the Senate in both parties for

being here. We've got a lot of work to do in order to get trade promotion authority, but I'm confident that we can work together to do so. It's in our Nation's best interest that we trade. It's in the interest of those who provide jobs. It's in the interest of our farmers and ranchers. It's in the interest of small-business owners. And as I was reminded, it's in the interest of those of us who care about our values as to how to spread our values around the world.

This is an issue that is going to require close cooperation between members of the Republican Party and the Democrat Party. But that's achievable because trade is an American issue, and it's an important American issue.

So I look forward to working with the Members. I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for coming. And Ambassador Zoellick, who is the Trade Representative, is working hard on the Hill. And when you all get back from recess, we'll be working with you to see if we can advance the cause.

Thanks for coming.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Any progress on the Chinese, Mr. President?

The President. Nothing more to report.

Q. Is it safe to assume they boarded the plane?

The President. Nothing more to report. Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], give it a rest, will you? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:19 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

April 2, 2001

I thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome Chairman Reyes and members of the Hispanic Caucus here. I thank them for coming. It's going to give us a very good chance to get to know each other on a personal basis, as well as to talk about some issues that are of deep concern to the Members of the Congress. And Mr. Chairman, I'm honored to have you here.

One of the things that I know the chairman knows is that I respect the Hispanic culture a lot. When I was a Governor for the State of Texas, I used to remind my fellow Texans that our State was richer as a result of the Hispanic culture. And I look forward to working with the members here on a variety of issues, not the least of which is to make sure the world is more peaceful, more educated, and more prosperous.

So, thank you all for coming. Thank you for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:24 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Silvestre Reyes, chairman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of National Library Week

April 2, 2001

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing National Library Week.

An educated citizenry provides the foundation for a free and democratic society. Libraries promote the sharing of knowledge, connecting people of all ages with valuable information resources. These dynamic and modern institutions, and the librarians who staff them, add immeasurably to our quality of life.

Libraries serve as important centers for collecting, storing, and organizing information. Each year, more than 100,000 books are published in the United States alone, and the U.S. government publishes as many documents. Even beyond these numbers are incredible volumes of newspapers, magazines, and other copyrighted material.

In public, government, professional, or academic facilities, librarians help individuals use numerous resources to complete the simplest or most complex of research-related tasks. This ability to search for information from the oldest manuscripts to the latest references available demonstrates the enduring versatility of libraries.

During this special observance, I commend librarians for their contributions to education and learning throughout our Nation. I also encourage all Americans to visit their neighborhood library. Laura and I send our best wishes to the staff, volunteers, and patrons of libraries across America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: April 1–7, 2001, was designated National Library Week.

Proclamation 7420—Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2001

April 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year on Pan American Day and during Pan American Week, the nations of the Americas celebrate the progress we have made toward our collective goal of a hemisphere united in freedom and democracy.

The United States and our neighboring countries in the Western Hemisphere have a long history of cooperation. Simon Bolivar first convened the Congress of Panama in 1826 with the intention of creating an association of states in the hemisphere. In 1890, a Pan American conference established the International Union of American Republics. The Union eventually became the Organization of American States (OAS), which continues to faithfully serve its member states. The OAS charter, in affirming the shared commitment, states that "the true significance of American solidarity and good neighborliness can only mean the consolidation . . . of a system of individual liberty and social justice based on respect for the essential rights of man."

Today, we remain united through mutual interests and the hope for a better future for our people. This month I will join the democratically elected leaders of the hemisphere in Quebec City for the third Summit of the Americas. At this conference, we will build on efforts at previous Summits to promote our shared objectives of representative democracy, free trade, and using the power of free markets to better the lives of the poor. We will also build on our mutual interest in encouraging respect for human rights and improving relations among all the countries of the hemisphere.

Even with our significant progress, however, challenges remain. Cuba is the only country in the hemisphere that will be missing from the Quebec Summit. It is my sincere hope that our neighbor will soon rejoin the fraternity of democracies and that the Cuban people will again know freedom.

During Pan American Week and the Summit of the Americas, we reflect on and renew our common dedication to ensuring that the benefits of development are broadly shared. We also look forward to building even closer relationships among our countries for the sake of future generations. We have a responsibility to leave our children a hemisphere that honors the commitment of our predecessors, strengthening bonds that connect us as nations and as people. We want to make this the Century of the Americas.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2001, as Pan American Day and April 8 through April 14, 2001, as Pan American Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day and week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 5.

Proclamation 7421—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2001

April 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From our earliest beginnings as a Nation, America has been blessed with citizens who have been willing to fight and die to preserve our shared ideals. We owe our freedom to men and women who have responded heroically to the call of patriotic duty. In times of peace and war, in times of great conflict, and even in peacetime, they stood tall. Facing the horrors of combat, young Americans placed themselves squarely in harm's way.

Among all these ranks of brave Americans, our living former prisoners of war form a living testament to the courage Americans have shown in defending liberty. During World War II and the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, prisoners endured, in addition to separation from their loved ones, isolation, disease, and torture. More recently, American troops in the Persian Gulf stood bravely in the face of enemy capture and returned home with honor.

The men and women who suffered through the atrocious conditions of internment deserve our utmost gratitude and respect. Their fortitude serves as an example of placing the ideals of freedom and self-government above one's own interests. We also owe a debt of gratitude to their families for weathering agonizing uncertainty while demonstrating support for their loved ones' service to country.

In World War II, patriotic Americans stepped forward without hesitation to carry America's honor into unknown battlefields. Many thousands gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice, both on the battlefield and in the deadly prison camps of the Pacific and Europe.

We are particularly mindful this month of anniversaries reminding us of the contributions former prisoners of war have made to our freedom. April marks the anniversary of the first return of American POWs from North Korea during Operation Little Switch. These prisoners endured bitter cold and inadequate food, clothing, and medical care in their brave effort to stop the spread of communism.

This April is also the 28th anniversary of the end of Operation Homecoming, in which our Vietnam-era POWs returned to freedom. Americans held prisoner during that war, some for as long as 9 years, were subject to torture and the horrors of isolation. They survived only through their faith, character, and patriotism.

On this date, we remember the sacrifices of those imprisoned while serving America. We remain committed to ensuring that future generations know of their heroism in order to fully appreciate their courage and resolve. Although they returned home safely, their physical and emotional scars remain as a reminder of the high price of liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2001, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 5.

Remarks at a Leadership Forum in Wilmington, Delaware

April 3, 2001

The President. Thank you, Mr. Jones. I'm honored to be here. Thank you all.

Claven Jones. Before we all get started here, can I ask you a question?

The President. You can do anything you—it's your building, you can do anything you want. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Jones. What did you think about those Power Hour kids upstairs? Weren't they great?

The President. I loved seeing the Power Hour kids. I know societies can change one person at a time. And while those of us in Government are trying to do the best we can with budgets and taxes, what we can't do is make people love one another. But what we can do is encourage loving people to help. And so I saw the Power Hour as an opportunity for children to improve themselves, but I also saw it as an opportunity for people to give something back in our society.

And so I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come. I want to say a couple of things. First, I'm honored to be traveling with the Delaware delegation, the two United States Senators: Senator Biden and Senator Carper. These are smart, capable people. I just hope they do it the way I think they ought to be doing it. [*Laughter*]

We will find—I will assure you this—we'll find areas where you can agree. I noticed Senator Carper dropped a strong charter school bill—and I was at Maurice's school earlier in the year. And Tom and I come from the Governors ranks; we worked a lot together; there's a lot of areas where we know we can work together to improve public education. And there's going to be some times we don't agree, but my pledge to the American people and the people of Delaware is, when we disagree, it will be done in a way that's respectful, where we can treat each other with respect, where we don't have to have this needless name-calling and finger-pointing to get ahead.

And I respect these two Senators. I may not like every vote. Of course, they may not like every proposal. But I can assure you that we're working hard to change the attitude of Washington, DC, so there is a more respectful attitude and so there can be a more civil debate about where this country ought to go.

And then, of course, I was pleased to see that I got 100 percent support on one of my proposals from the Delaware delegate, and that is Mike Castle. And one thing I love about Mike is that he is a very thoughtful Member who stays focused. And his focus is education, amongst a lot of other things, but his main drive right now is to make sure we get the education bill right.

And the education bill that we're trying to get out of the House, and eventually the Senate, mirrors much of what you've done here in Delaware under the leadership of then-Governor Carper. And I see members of the legislature here as well. It really says, every child can learn; it's important to trust local people to run the schools; and we must have accountability to determine whether or not every child is learning. And if children are learning, we'll praise the teachers and principals and superintendents. But if not, instead of just moving children through the system as if they don't matter, we address the problems early, before it's too late. Strong accountability systems lead to reforms.

Senator Carper, then-Governor Carper, recognized that. I think I got some credit for recognizing that in the State of Texas. And the whole cornerstone of the reform movement that we're trying to get out of the Senate and the House says that if you receive Federal aid, you, the State, must devise an accountability system to let the folks know whether or not children are learning.

And oh, by the way, let's also have a reading—national reading program that starts teaching children to read early. Let's have after-school programs called 21st Century Programs that not only are run by public school institutions, if that's what the local community wants, but also says, programs—community programs or faith-based programs are just as capable about running programs as anybody else is. And so all the Federal money, as far as I'm concerned, for after-school programs ought to be opened up to every program in the State of Delaware.

And so I'm here to say thanks for what you do. It's good to see—I was going to say old friends, Maurice—friends I've known for a while—not all that old. Maurice runs a great charter school here, as you all know, and he's done a fantastic job.

Mr. Jones—I told him earlier that I wrote a bestseller—actually, I didn't write it; they say—they claimed I wrote it—called "A Charge To Keep," and it's actually about me. So if you're having trouble sleeping at night, you may want to pick it up. [*Laughter*] At any rate—but all the proceeds are going to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, because I believe so profoundly—I believe so strongly in mentoring, and I believe so strongly in helping children understand somebody loves them. And Government can't do that, but what Government can do is facilitate programs and allow faith-based programs to access Federal monies so that they can help change hearts.

I don't believe we ought to fund religion, but I do think we ought to fund a person, and that person should be able to choose whether or not to find help at a faith-based program or a secular program.

I view the Boys and Girls Clubs as faith-based programs, by the way, programs based upon the universal concept of loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And for that, I'm grateful. I want to congratulate the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware for having such a profound impact. One in seven children in this State are members of the Boys and Girls Clubs, for which I know you all are most proud.

Rather than falling into the legislative tradition of filibustering, I will now end my remarks by thanking you all for your hospitality, and I look forward to hearing from you.

[*The forum began.*]

The President. How old is your charter school?

John Taylor. Our charter school is in its first year.

The President. Great. How's it going?

Mr. Taylor. It is going well. It is going very well.

The President. Did you have many applicants for your charter school?

Mr. Taylor. Yes, we did have quite a few applicants.

The President. And what grades?

Mr. Taylor. We are currently servicing children between kindergarten and fifth grade.

The President. Oh, great. Big jump. Thanks for teaching.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Thank you for encouraging mentoring. You know, the great strength of the country takes place when somebody walks across the street or raises their hand and says, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help somebody in need?" And it's the cumulative kindness of America that really makes our country so different from everyplace else. And it's really important for all of us to understand the power of mentoring and what it means, because really what it means is recognizing that America will be changed one soul at a time.

And I want to thank you for encouraging the Kiwanis to become mentors. And pass the word that the President and the Senators and the Congressmen really do recognize the limitation of Government and recognize the power of love and faith and hope.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. One of the things we've all got to do in our society is to encourage and herald the education entrepreneurs all across the country. And the idea of change and recognizing each student—an accountability system recognizing the talents and needs of each student is an incredible part of reform. And that's what the legislation we're working on in the Senate and the House is going to foster.

And what triggered my thinking is, there's a lot of times where public schools don't change; their systems are inert; they just won't move. And yet, we've got three schools that are new—four—four new ideas, which shows that the State of Delaware has got a system that encourages change when change is needed. And that's the message we're trying to get to Members of the Senate and Congress who don't want change.

One thing—we're going to spend more money, and that's important, but as well, there needs to be a systemic change to not only encourage parental involvement but to recognize that the systems have got to be

geared on a child-by-child basis. And good accountability measures do that.

We were at a—I saw a computer—I'm sorry to get going here, but we saw a computer upstairs that was able to take a child, figure out its level of learning, and the program adjusts immediately to that child, and then another child gets on, the program adjusts to the learning capacities of that particular child. That's what education systems need to evolve toward, individualized learning, as opposed to lumping kids into groups and just kind of shuffling through the system.

And I appreciate what you're doing.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Thanks. Let me say one thing—Lucretia talked about partnerships. Senator Biden reminded me that some of the money in the program here came from Microsoft and AOL—the point being that corporate Delaware or corporate Texas or corporate America can play a major role in making sure that we match assets with needs, particularly in programs that focus on our youth.

And I want to thank corporate Delaware and your company, as well as others who have heard the call that part of making sure that capitalism runs the full gamut is not only to be able to make a good bottom line, which we all hope for, but also to put something back into the system. So if you're calling for people to put more back in the system, I'm calling right with you.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Yes, I want you all to hear—it's an interesting thing he just said. He said the tutorials take place in the church. That doesn't mean that—let me start over. It means that we need to focus on the child and not on the process.

How sad would it be if our system said, "You can't have tutorials in churches because of the legal process"? And it's important for our society to keep in mind, every child matters. And we ought to be heralding the Reverend Johnsons of the world, as opposed to trying to thwart the Reverend Johnsons of the world. That's what the whole Faith-Based Initiative in Congress is about.

I appreciate what you do. Keep doing it, like I know you will.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the Bears Den Gymnasium at the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club. In his remarks, he referred to Claven Jones, director, H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club; Maurice Pritchett, principal, Bancroft Elementary School; Lucretia Young, director, Warner Street YMCA; and John Taylor, principal, and Rev. Clifford I. Johnson, founder, Marion T. Academy.

Remarks Calling on China To Return the United States Military Crew and Surveillance Aircraft

April 3, 2001

Good afternoon. I want to report to the American people, and especially to the families involved, that I've just talked with Brigadier General Sealock, who earlier today met with our 24 men and women in China.

The general tells me they are in good health; they suffered no injuries; and they have not been mistreated. I know this is a relief to their loved ones and to all Americans.

Our crewmembers expressed their faith in America, and we have faith in them. They send their love to their families. They said they're looking forward to coming home, and we are looking forward to bringing them home.

This is an unusual situation in which an American military aircraft had to make an emergency landing on Chinese soil. Our approach has been to keep this accident from becoming an international incident. We have allowed the Chinese Government time to do the right thing. But now it is time for our service men and women to return home, and it is time for the Chinese Government to return our plane.

This accident has the potential of undermining our hopes for a fruitful and productive relationship between our two countries. To keep that from happening, our service men and women need to come home.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. On Sunday, April 1, a U.S. Navy EP–3E Aries II electronic surveillance aircraft made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island after a mid-air collision with a Chinese F–8 fighter jet over the South China Sea. The 24-member crew (21 men and 3 women), consisting of one Marine, one Air Force and 22 Navy personnel, have been held by the Chinese since the incident. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

April 4, 2001

The House of Representative's action on eliminating the death tax is a victory for fairness and a vote for economic growth. I applaud the spirit of cooperation in both parties that led to today's result.

The death tax lacks common sense and thwarts free enterprise. It is unfair to families who have devoted their lives to building family farms and small businesses. Today's vote is an important step toward restoring fairness in the Tax Code by eliminating the double and triple taxation that results from the death tax.

I look forward to continuing to work with Members of Congress from both parties to enact real and meaningful tax relief for the American people.

Proclamation 7422—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2001

April 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Organ and tissue transplantation is one of the most significant advances in medicine. Wonderful success stories give hope to people of all ages, and donors and their families deserve our deepest gratitude. Their extraordinary generosity and foresight have given countless individuals the opportunity to rear a family, hold a job, and pursue fuller and more active lives.

Unfortunately, many people are not able to reap the benefits of remarkable transplant technology. More than 75,000 Americans are on the national organ transplant waiting list, and every 13 minutes, another person will be added to the waiting list. Sadly, each day, 15 of those on the waiting list will die because the need for organs far exceeds the number donated.

The Department of Health and Human Services and health professionals across the country are dedicated to improving these statistics. By becoming organ donors, Americans can join in this important mission to help those suffering from a life- threatening illness caused by the failure of a vital organ. Persons can participate by simply completing and carrying a donor card and informing family and friends of their wish to donate. Such decisions will make a significant difference in the number of available organs for donation.

Many Americans have set a powerful example in this regard, agreeing to become an organ donor and taking a selfless action that may potentially save lives. I encourage other Americans to consider organ donation and to join me in expressing gratitude for those who have already made the gift of life.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 15 through 21, 2001, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon medical professionals, government agencies, private organizations, and educators to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Executive Order 13206—Termination of Emergency Authority for Certain Export Controls

April 4, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*) (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. In view of the reauthorization and extension of the Act by Public Law 106–508, Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, which continued the effect of export control regulations under IEEPA, is revoked, and the declaration of economic emergency is rescinded, as provided in this order.

Sec. 2. The revocation of Executive Order 12924 shall not affect any violation of any rules, regulations, orders, licenses, or other forms of administrative action under that order that occurred during the period the order was in effect. All rules and regulations issued or continued in effect under the authority of IEEPA and Executive Order 12924, including those codified at 15 C.F.R. 730–74 (2000), and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, remain in full force and effect, as if issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant to and as authorized by the Act or by other appropriate authority until amended or revoked by the proper authority. Nothing in this order shall affect the continued applicability of the provision for the administration of the Act and delegations of authority set forth in Executive Order 12002 of July 7, 1977, Executive Order 12214 of May 2, 1980, Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, as amended, Executive Order 12981 of December 5, 1995, as amended, and Executive Order 13026 of November 15, 1996.

Sec. 3. All rules, regulations, orders, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant to the authority of IEEPA and Executive Order 12924 relating to the administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(e)) shall remain in full force and effect until amended or revoked under proper authority.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 4, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on World Intellectual Property Rights

April 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

As required by the second proviso of the text of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and the World Intellectual Property Organization Performances and Phonograms Treaty, passed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, I transmit herewith the second report on the status of the ratification of those treaties and related matters.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the American Society of Newspaper Editors Convention

April 5, 2001

The President. My fellow Texan—[*laughter*]—by way of other States. [*Laughter*] It's good to see you again, Rich; thank you. I've had a great relationship with Rich in Austin, Texas. He occasionally opined in ways I didn't care for, but I always knew he was honest and open. He had his priorities straight: his country and his family. It's good to see members of his family here. I see you lowered your standards by inviting others from the Austin-American Statesman here to Washington today—[*laughter*]—particularly Herman. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, it's my honor to be here. It turns out every President since Warren Harding has spoken to this group. I found that interesting. Harding came here because he was a newspaperman himself. The rest of us just wanted to pander. [*Laughter*]

Of course, with a lot of attention you get as the President, you often occasionally get criticism, and I understand that. You know, I admit, I take it pretty well; after all, I was in baseball. But I wish some of the stories had come out differently.

And so, in the spirit of constructive criticism, I thought I'd make some suggestions to you as to some of the headlines I'd like to see in the future: "Cheney Cloned"—[*laughter*]—"President Has Nothing To Do at All Now." [*Laughter*] "2 Million Overlooked Ballots Suggest Bush Won California." [*Laughter*] "Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Stumped By Name of U.S. President." [*Laughter*] "Gephardt Says Bush Tax Plan 'Just Makes Sense'." [*Laughter*] And finally: "Sammy Sosa Returns to the Rangers"—[*laughter*]—"Says: 'I Want To Go Home'." [*Laughter*]

But I'm really not here to tell you your business. It's your job to tell everyone how to run theirs—[*laughter*]—and you do a pretty good job at it. Few American figures are more legendary than the hard-bitten but idealistic news editor. And I'm aware of that. After all, I've sat through what seems like hundreds of editorial boards. But I think of people like Benjamin Franklin or Horace Greeley or Meg Greenfield, who we all dearly miss.

As you know, we've had a serious of votes recently on a proposed budget. And that's what I'd like to talk about today. Sometimes the Washington filter makes it hard for me to get my message directly to people. And since I view you as people—[*laughter*]—I'd like to go directly to you.

The House passed a budget last week. Tomorrow we'll hear the final say on the Senate budget. The House and I agree: We need commonsense policies to safeguard Social Security and accelerate economic growth. And I hope the Senate joins us.

I've written a budget based upon my vision of an active and responsible Government. Now, I recognize Government has got important work to do; yet, active Government must also be focused and effective. Education is my top priority, and frankly, it ought to be your top priority, as well. After all, an industry which depends on the ability of people to read needs to be involved in education. Children who fail to master reading are going to be left behind in America, and we had better do something about it.

I know Rich Oppel has heard me talk a lot about waging a war on illiteracy. It was a focus of mine when I was the Governor of Texas. It will be a focus of mine as President, and that focus also will be the focus of the First Lady, as well.

My budget reflects the commitment to education. It increases—it has an 11 percent increase in the Department of Education. We triple funding for reading programs. We have got a big focus on early childhood development.

In my budget, we double the Medicare budget by the year 2011. We introduced a new prescription drug program. We finish the job of doubling medical research at the National Institutes of Health by 2003. Basic research gets big increases, as well.

My budget pays for ambitious new programs to mobilize faith-based and community groups, which fight poverty and addiction. We expand the Women's, Infants', and Children's nutrition program by $94 million this year—next year—the Federal contribution to drug treatment by 100 million, Head

Start by 125 million, and programs to fight child abuse and neglect by $267 million.

We propose to put 900 million into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the biggest conservation budget in U.S. history. Over 5 years, we'll devote 4.9 billion to repair and improve our national parks—again, the biggest increase in park upkeep in our Nation's history. We provide housing vouchers to 34,000 additional low income families and assist 130,000 others with the downpayment on their first home. We support 1,200 new and expanded community health centers to double the number of patients served in those important institutions.

It's an ambitious agenda, and it doesn't come cheap. The total budget is 1.96 trillion in the year 2002. You know, when you hear all the litany of things we're spending money on, some people are beginning to wonder whatever happened to all the penny-pinching Republicans.

But I don't think this budget's too big for the critics, nor do I think it's too small. As I'm sure you can guess, I think it's just about right. We've prepared a budget with great care. I understand to budget is to choose, so I made choices. We identified priorities: education and health care, research, military pay, conservation, community and faith-based organizations. I gave those priorities the funding they needed, while keeping overall discretionary spending at a responsible rate of 4 percent growth. The result is a budget that keeps our national commitment to Social Security and Medicare, and increases the Federal budget by $100 billion from 2001 to 2002. A $100-billion increase in spending ought to be sufficient.

Let me give you some idea of just how much money 100 billion is. When you adjust for inflation, it is more than all we spent on the Marshall plan—the 5 years' worth of spending on the Marshall plan—100 billion is more than that. It's enough money to run our Government and meet our priorities. The House understood that, and the Senate needs to hear that, as well.

Secondly, the percentage increases in spending of the past few years cannot be sustained. In fiscal 2001, Congress appropriated 8 percent more in discretionary spending than it did in 2000. At 8 percent increase, Federal appropriations will double in 9 years. Eight percent spending increases will burn through the surplus. My budget allows for 4 percent. And that's more than inflation, by the way, and that's more than the average increase in wages in the past few years. And my attitude is, if the taxpayer can get by on a 4 percent increase, so should the Federal Government.

And finally, we need significant tax relief—I mean, significant tax relief—and we need it now. A Democratic Congress passed the Kennedy tax cut, even though there was a deficit, because the country needed it. A Republican Senate and Democrat House passed Ronald Reagan's tax relief, even though there was a deficit, because the country needed it. Our country needs tax relief now, and we have a surplus. I don't think there's any excuse for providing real, meaningful tax relief. We only used about one surplus dollar out of four.

My tax relief plan is smaller than President Kennedy's or President Reagan's, but it's just as urgently needed. I sent Congress a reasonable budget. It gives the Federal Government over 100 billion to spend on important priorities. It pays down debt at a record pace. It leaves room for tax relief. It will help restore economic growth. It's a budget in line with the values of the American people, as you know, from trying to cover it.

The budget process is a long and winding one. An observer of Washington legislative processes once said, "It's never over until it's over, and it's never over." It's especially true of how we pass our budgets. No one vote is decisive. There will be a vote today. There will be one tomorrow. I urge the Senators when they cast the vote tomorrow to remember, there's a lot of people in our country who are beginning to hurt, a lot of folks who are paying higher energy bills, a lot of people have got consumer debt. I urge the Senators to prioritize. But always remember that the surplus is not the Federal Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. And once we meet priorities, we ought to share it with the people. It's not only the right thing to do for our economy; it's the right choice to make, to trust people with their own money.

The debate about the economic approach has been a vigorous one, and it should be. I think it's healthy for our country to debate these issues. People of different parties, and as I have discovered, some of my own party, think we ought to spend more than I think we ought to do and have smaller tax relief.

But so far, it seems like everybody has shown good will and good intentions, and for that, I'm grateful. Since I took office, a little more than 10 weeks ago, I've personally met with a lot of Members of the United States Congress. I was surprised to realize the other day that I've met with more than 278, and I hope a lot more come down to the White House.

You know, I haven't convinced them all, and they haven't convinced me. But we've been able to make our points without making enemies. And it's a good start to changing the tone here in Washington, DC, and that's what's needed, a more civil discourse.

I understand civility doesn't make good copy. I understand it doesn't make good copy to say, so-and-so may not agree, but they respect each other. It's much easier to print the mean word or the pointed attack. And your reporters are just doing their job.

But the truth of the matter is, all of us can work to make America a little more civil, can herald a civil discourse. It's important. Ours is the greatest democracy in the world. Ours is the greatest country in the world. And those of us who are responsible for shaping the dialog must always remember that it's—people are watching. The more civil we can be in Washington, the more civil we can be in our newspapers, the more likely it is democracy will continue to flourish.

Thank you for what you do. I sometimes wish I could shape it a little differently, but I appreciate free press, just like you appreciate free speech. And that's just what I've given you today, a free speech. [*Laughter*]

I'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

[*At this point, the question-and-answer session began.*]

Appointments to the Judiciary

Q. I was wondering if, in the spirit of civility and conciliation you were talking about, whether you think that when it comes to appointing members to the Federal bench, and especially if there are vacancies to the Supreme Court, that you should try, before appointments are made, to engage in a bipartisan conversation with Democrats in the United States Senate who have already indicated that they might be taking a very hard line if they believe you're sending up nominees that are philosophically extreme? Or do you feel that you are like any other President and should operate on the principle of: You propose, and let them dispose?

The President. The latter. We're going to pick the most qualified people we can find, people that share my philosophy about strict constructionism on the Court. I'll be mindful of confirmation. I don't particularly want a big fight in the Senate. And so we'll be putting out—we'll be gathering intelligence as to whether or not a person can be confirmed or not. I may decide to send somebody up that will create a tough fight. I don't know. I haven't gotten there yet.

But of course, I pick somebody, I want them to get confirmed. And so we'll be mindful of that. Obviously, I've made a lot of other—another decision about whether or not we ought to have screening agencies or screening groups, people to screen our people, and I decided not to do that. We'll get a lot of opinions, and not one opinion is more important than another, as far as my administration is concerned. And so we'll pick the people, and the Senate can hopefully confirm them.

China and the U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Do you believe it's appropriate for the Chinese to be questioning our airmen that have been downed? And also, what do you believe the Chinese have put at risk with their actions?

The President. I appreciate you bringing up the subject. I want to make this clear. First, I regret that a Chinese pilot is missing, and I regret one of their airplanes is lost. And our prayers go out to the pilot, his family. Our prayers are also with our own service men and women. And they need to come home.

The message to the Chinese is, we should not let this incident destabilize relations. Our

relationship with China is very important, but they need to realize that it's time for our people to be home. We're working all diplomatic channels to affect our priority. There's discussions going on. And we'll continue to do so. My mission is to bring the people home.

And as to whether or not we'll have good relations, my intention is to make sure we do have good relations. But the Chinese have got to act, and I hope they do so quickly.

Yes.

Q. Following up on that, are there any circumstances in which you would offer an apology to the Chinese? And secondly, are you having any second thoughts about your decision to go to China later this year?

The President. I have no further comments on the subject. That won't count as a question. [*Laughter*]

First Amendment Freedoms

Q. Sir, as you know, at the heart of this newspaper organization is its passion for preserving and enhancing the Nation's access to information. Would you take this moment to articulate your own view of first amendment freedoms, and give us a sense of the fundamental message that you will send to your administration as it makes decisions on whether to open or close access to Government information?

The President. Yes. [*Laughter*] There needs to be balance when it comes to freedom of information laws. There's some things that when I discuss in the privacy of the Oval Office or national security matters that just should not be in the national arena.

On the other hand, my administration will cooperate fully with freedom of information requests if it doesn't jeopardize national security, for example. The interesting problem I have, or for me, as the President, is what's personal and what's not personal. Frankly, I haven't been on the job long enough to have been—to have had to make those choices.

I'll give you one area, though, where I'm very cautious, and that's about e-mailing. I used to be an avid e-mailer, and I e-mailed to my daughters or e-mailed to my father, for example. And I don't want those e-mails to be in public—in the public domain. So I don't e-mail any more, out of concern for freedom of information laws but also concern for my privacy.

But we'll cooperate with the press, unless we think it's a matter of national security or something that's entirely private.

China-U.S. Trade Relations

Q. I hope you will respond to this question. It's on the Asia subject, but general.

The President. I might. I'm not sure yet. [*Laughter*]

Q. In my region, we have strong economic interests in Asia as an export market. Would you please comment on the balance that you think should be struck between our strategic interests and our economic interests in Asia, including China?

The President. I believe that China ought to be a trading partner of ours. I think it's in our economic interests to open up the Chinese markets to U.S. products—to U.S. agricultural products. I not only believe it's in our economic interest, I believe it's in our interest to promote U.S. values. And I believe the marketplace promotes the values. When people get a taste of freedom in the marketplace, they tend to demand other freedoms in their societies. And so, I'm an advocate of China's entering into the WTO, and I'm hopeful that the current situation ends quickly and our people come home.

China is a strategic partner—a strategic competitor. But that doesn't mean we can't find areas in which we can partner, and the economy's a place where we can partner. And we've got some differences with China, long-term differences—spreading of weapons of mass destruction is an issue that we need to work with the Chinese on, as well as other nations in that part of the world.

Human rights is an issue, but I believe trade will encourage more freedom, particularly when it comes to individual liberties. The marketplace is—the marketplace unleashes the opportunity for people to make choices, and so I continue to push for trade with China, and——

Airline Travel

Q. All of us here flew in for this conference. Most of us had delays of one type or another. Earlier this week——

The President. Most of you—sorry?

Q. ——had delays at airports. Earlier this week, there was a report issued which was critical of the airline industries and the mounting problems with service and people getting around the country.

I guess my question, coming from northwest Indiana, where the debate is whether to have a third Chicago airport or not, what's your administration going to try and do to solve this ongoing problem?

The President. Well, one thing we need to do is expand the number of runways all around America. And as you know, there's a lot of environmental regulations, some of them meaningful, some of them not, that prohibit the expansion of runways. And step one is to increase accessibility, which will then make it easier to increase competition.

As to your question about whether or not there ought to be a third airport in the Illinois area—I mean Chicago area, I haven't made up my mind yet.

Q. I'm getting the signal from your——

The President. Getting the hook? Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the the J.W. Marriott hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Richard A. Oppel, president, American Society of Newspaper Editors, who introduced the President; and Ken Herman, reporter, Austin American-Statesman and Cox Newspapers.

Remarks at the U.S. Conference of Mayors National Summit on Investment in the New American City

April 5, 2001

Brent, thank you very much for those kind words. Mayor Morial, it's good to see you, sir. Mayor Menino of the great city of Boston, I'm sure you're thrilled with the Nomo no-hitter. [*Laughter*] I am pleased to see my friend, the mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee; we went to college together. Mayor Ashe, it's good to see you, sir. Tom, thank you very much—Tom Cochran, who's worked hard for the mayors association. Mayor Archer of the great city of Detroit is here with us. Pat McCrory, it's good to see the mayor of Charlotte.

I can't forget to say hello to my Mayor, the Mayor of Washington, DC, Mayor Williams. I tell you, he is a—one of my first lunches was with the Mayor, and I'm impressed. And I know the mayors who know him are impressed, as well. So Mayor, thank you. There's a couple of potholes out back that I'd like to talk to you about. [*Laughter*] I say that because I've always said the mayors have one of the toughest jobs in America. After all, you are closest to the people. You have to walk your neighborhoods and listen to the people who you know say, "Well, Mr. Mayor, it's good to see you; how about my road?" [*Laughter*] But Mayor, you're doing a great job.

I've got members of my team who are here. Cabinet Secretary Mel Martinez. Mel, thank you, sir. Ruben Barrales, who is running my Intergovernmental Relations Office. Thank you, Ruben. If Ruben doesn't return your phone call, we've got an issue. [*Laughter*] He'll return them. And finally, John DiIulio, who is running the Faith-Based Office. And John, I appreciate your being here, as well. And Roy Bernardi—where's Roy? Hey, Roy, good to see you. Thanks. Roy is the mayor of Syracuse, and he's coming here to work in the administration.

I respect your work. You all are practical folks who solve problems, and I'm honored that you're here. And thanks for bringing such good weather, too. I think it's the most beautiful day we've had since I've been the President of the United States, and the Rose Garden is a spectacular place to welcome you. And it's my honor to do so.

Our cities are the testing ground for the American Dream. They're places where young people go to begin their careers. They're places where new immigrants arrive to look for work and a better life. They're places where people of every background seek to fulfill the promise of our country.

When we look at our cities, we see our highest aspirations, our incredible diversity, our greatest achievements, and our most pressing challenges. Across America, in cities large and small, a generation of bold and reforming mayors have restored safety to

streets and restored prosperity to our Nation's downtowns, and for that, our country is grateful.

The continued renewal of our cities requires five commitments: better education, broader homeownership, faster economic growth, easier environmental cleanup, and stronger communities and charities. All of these goals are reflected in the budget, which the Congress is now debating.

Education gets the biggest percentage increase of any Department in the budget that I submitted. My budget triples spending on school reading programs in year one. We triple spending on preschool reading programs in year one. Education reform costs money, and this administration is willing to spend it. But money alone does not produce reform, and that's why my plan emphasizes results and accountability. Results matter to children; they matter to parents; and they should matter to mayors. And I know they do.

Parents leave cities when they mistrust public schools. Parents stay when they have confidence in the public school system. And a sure way for a school to gain parents' confidence is to show them proven results on a yearly test. We don't test to punish children; we test to help them. In the same way, we don't test to punish urban schools, we test to renew them. Our budget helps to bring high standards to every low income school in America. It focuses on early childhood programs. It increases spending for Head Start, but it also encourages and invites innovation so that no child is left behind.

Second, my budget promotes homeownership. We want to give as many Americans as possible a stake in their neighborhood and a concern for its future. Yet, the sad fact is 48 percent of Hispanic- and African-American families—only 48 percent own their own homes. And we must do better in our country. My administration has proposed a renewing-the-dream tax credit to encourage investors to develop housing for low income families. This tax credit will help build 100,000 new homes in low income areas.

We also add to a new initiative called the American Dream downpayment fund, to help low income people with their downpayment on a home of their own. We're putting $1 billion into the American Dream fund over the next 5 years, and our goal is to make owners of 650,000 low income families. We'll bring the dignity and independence of homeownership to more and more Americans.

Third, my budget is a growth budget for small business. It is the dynamism of the entrepreneurs, many of them immigrants, that have powered the revival of American cities. But entrepreneurs in urban America, like entrepreneurs all over America, are generally unincorporated businesses. They're generally Subchapter S's or sole proprietorships and, therefore, pay taxes at the highest marginal rate.

As you know, I've submitted a plan that reduces all rates on all taxpayers. And it's important for those in the United States Senate to understand that when you drop the top rate, you encourage growth in inner cities by encouraging entrepreneurial spirit to flourish. A drop of the top rate really says to the urban enterprise, the small-business person in urban America, you'll have more money to reinvest so you can employ more people.

And then there's the issue of burdensome inheritance taxes. As Robert Johnson of Black Entertainment Television argues, the death tax and double taxation weighs heavily on minorities who are only beginning to accumulate wealth. The Senate needs to hear that message. The Senate needs to leave enough money in the proposed budget to not only reduce all marginal rates but to eliminate the death tax, so that people who build up assets are able to transfer them from one generation to the next, regardless of a person's race.

Fourth, we must reform the laws that slow the cleanup of the Nation's brownfields. As many as 450,000 industrial sites have been abandoned. New users have been scared away by the threat of Superfund regulation and litigation. It is time for new thinking. We will set high environmental standards, and we will protect redevelopers who meet those standards from Federal liability. We must cut the redtape that clogs the brownfield cleanup revolving loan fund. And we'll permanently extend the brownfield cleanup tax incentive that is scheduled to expire this year. On the brownfields of yesterday, we will build the green industries of tomorrow.

And finally, my budget aids community and faith-based groups that help our cities take on the worst of our social problems. So I'm so pleased that John DiIulio is here, who's spearheading this effort. We support local efforts to fight illiteracy and teen pregnancy and drug addiction. We promote mentoring programs, especially for the large number of children with a parent in prison.

This summer I look forward to going to Philadelphia to join Mayor John Street as he shows the Nation the compassionate work his city's faith-based and community organizations are doing. These organizations have a message of hope for all American cities, and my budget has a message of hope for them. We will support the caring acts of caring people and not turn them away because they are inspired by the Bible or the Koran.

These are some of my priorities, and we fund them. We repay all the available public debt in my budget. We establish a contingency fund for future needs, and then we reduce taxes to accelerate our economy's slowing growth. We reduce taxes, because we understand many in your cities are struggling to get ahead. We must reduce taxes in order to help pay for the high energy bills that many are now suffering. And we must always remember that the Federal surplus is not the Government's money. The Federal surplus is the people's money.

This is a budget that is reasonable, balanced, and sound. It's a budget that is good for America's cities, which means it's a budget that's good for America.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:18 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor H. Brent Coles of Boise, ID, president, Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans, LA, vice president, Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston, MA, advisory board chair, and J. Thomas Cochran, executive director, U.S. Conference of Mayors; Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville, TN; Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, MI; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Hideo Nomo, pitcher, Boston Red Sox; and Robert L. Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, BET Holdings, Inc.

Executive Order 13207—Further Amendment to Executive Order 10000, Regulations Governing Additional Compensation and Credit Granted Certain Employees of the Federal Government Serving Outside the United States

April 5, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 10000, as amended, is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 201 is amended:

(a) by striking "(a)" and

(b) by striking " and (b) the words 'section 207 of the Act' have the meaning set forth in section 101 hereof."

Sec. 2. Section 205 is amended by striking "(a)" and by striking subsection (b).

Sec. 3. Section 210 is amended:

(a) by striking ", but at least annually," and

(b) by striking "if program or methodology revisions would substantially reduce an established differential or allowance rate, then".

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 5, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Remarks on Presenting the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in Crystal City, Virginia

April 6, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for that kind introduction, and thank you for agreeing to serve your country once again. My friend Don Evans couldn't make it, but we have a pretty darn good replacement with Norm Mineta.

Dr. Wood, thank you very much, sir, for your leadership. You may wonder why Dr. Wood has got such white hair. My mother's

on his board. [*Laughter*] And if she were here, she would say she has white hair because of me. [*Laughter*]

I'm thrilled to see the Baldrige family. Thank you all for being here, and thank you for staying with this award. They tell me you never miss, Midge, and that's important.

I want to congratulate the winners who are here, the CEO's, the leaders, the employees, the rowdy Texans. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the audience whistled and cheered.*]

I rest my case. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be here.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Before I begin, I would like to update you on the situation in China. Earlier this morning I talked with General Sealock who, once again, visited with our crew for about an hour today and reports that they are doing just fine. They are housed in officers' quarters, and they are being treated well. We're proud of these young men and women who are upholding the high standards of our Armed Forces. We know this is a difficult time for their families, and I thank them for their patriotism and their patience. We're working hard to bring them home through intensive discussions with the Chinese Government, and we think we're making progress.

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

And now, to the business at hand. It's an honor to be here, to be a part of an award ceremony that has stood the test of time. And the reason why is that it's based on principles, such as high standards, quality, and excellence.

The philosophy of Malcolm Baldrige and the Baldrige Awards make clear that everyone in an organization has a voice, a philosophy which trusts everyone with responsibility. Quality comes from giving people the tools and training their jobs require, the authority they need to do their work the way they think is best, the dignity that comes with knowing that their views matter. To do good work, we need great workers and great companies, such as those represented here, treat great workers with respect and fairness.

The Baldrige way is good business. The hypothetical Baldrige Index, a stock market index composed of the shares of those Baldrige winners that are publicly traded, has outperformed the S&P 500 for 7 years in a row. As the example of Los Alamos National Bank shows, caring for our communities is a form of quality, as well. And that quality will be rewarded with customer satisfaction and customer loyalty.

The Baldrige quality message is coming to health care and to education. Health care and education were added as categories in 1999. I realize there are no winners yet, but 25 organizations applied in '99 and 19 more in the year 2000. I look forward to presenting the first Baldrige Award in these categories soon.

We thank the Baldrige Foundation, the examiners, the judges, the foundation members, all the volunteers who work so hard. And thank you for your devotion to the highest ideals of American business.

These efforts do justice to the memory of an extraordinary man, Malcolm Baldrige, one of this country's outstanding public servants. He served as Commerce Secretary at a time when many doubted that American goods could compete in world markets. He dedicated himself to proving the doubters wrong. He succeeded, and America is stronger thanks to him and the award established to honor him.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Transportation and former Secretary of Commerce Norman Y. Mineta; Michael Wood, president, Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Inc.; Margaret "Midge" Baldrige, widow of Malcolm Baldrige; and Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing.

Remarks on Presenting the Horatio Alger Awards

April 6, 2001

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

Wayne, thank you very much for your kind remarks. It is a real honor for me to be here

to congratulate the 105 national scholars, to thank the universities who are going to match the scholarship money that you all have raised, and to thank the award recipients and congratulate you for the example you've set for America.

Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation

Before I begin, I want to say I've got a little news I'd like to report. I'm really pleased to report that the United States Senate just moments ago passed a budget that funds our Nation's priorities and allows for over $1.2 trillion of meaningful, real tax relief for the American people.

The House has already passed $1.6 trillion of tax relief. Now the House and Senate will work to find common ground between these two budget plans, and the result will be the largest tax relief in decades. The fact that both Houses of Congress have committed to provide significant relief is good for the American people, and it's good for our economy.

When the House and Senate complete their work, they will have paved the way so the American people can receive an across-the-board income tax reduction, a doubling of the child credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and the elimination of the death tax. This budget also wisely increases spending on education, funds priorities like Medicare and Social Security, and pays down a record amount of debt. I applaud today's action and congratulate the Republicans and Democrats who helped make it happen.

Horatio Alger Awards

And I'd like to congratulate this year's recipients. All of you have amazing stories of adversities overcome and great goals attained: The son of a Polish immigrant who started out in his father's burlap bag business and is now the chairman and CEO of two major corporations; a man who, in his youth, helped support his family, right here in the Washington area, and then went on to become the founder of America Online; a young woman who mortgaged the family house for money to start her business and now runs a major construction company; a managing partner of a baseball team—and I know how much he suffers—[*laughter*]—two well-respected leaders from my home State of Texas; a successful son of a preacher, now chairman and CEO of Lanier Worldwide, Inc—one of you began work at age 8 to help your mother sustain the family because of illness of your father; and he is here proudly as the chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae—and finally, the CEO and president of Burger King, who experienced tough times but overcame them with dignity.

I am privileged to be here with you all. And one is not able to be here, a man I'm proud to call an ally, a fellow who, before I came, I can tell you, he voted right—[*laughter*]—and that's Senator Chuck Hagel. This is an award that all of you deserve, and we're sure honored to have you here in the White House.

It's also good to see Mrs. Ruth Peale here with us. Doctor and Mrs. Peale, I think you've been here several times before, and it is my honor to welcome you again.

It's fitting that all of you should gather in the people's house. This is the right place to honor the recipients of this award and perhaps a future president.

There are quite a few Horatio Alger stories among the folks who have lived here: A small Missouri farmer who never graduated from college and spent his best years working on the farm, who would eventually lead America as it became a world power, Harry S Truman; or a poor boy from Iowa, orphaned at age 9, who as a man would save millions in Europe from starvation after two World Wars, President Herbert Hoover; a child of the frontier who would become a land surveyor, a store clerk, a lawyer, a legislator, and one day helped to free slaves and save the Union, Abraham Lincoln.

The Horatio Alger Association is dedicated to really one of the basic truths about this country, and I hope this home remains dedicated to the same truth. In America, we believe in the possibilities of every person. It doesn't matter how you start out in life; what really matters is how you live your life. That has always been our creed. It has always given hope to those who dream of a better life. And that hope has always been the source of our Nation's greatness.

At the Horatio Alger Association, you also understand how much the dream depends on education. And for that, all of us should be grateful. You promote literacy and early reading. You provide millions of dollars in scholarships based upon need and talent. You understand that the hope for a better life often begins in the classroom.

A good education can be the first real break a person gets in life. A young person might have big dreams for the future, but if he or she can't read, then the highest of hopes probably won't carry them very far.

We have a duty to every child in America to give them the best possible start in life, to make every school a place of learning and of discipline and of character. We take this responsibility seriously in our country, as we should.

But lately, we've been falling well short of our professed goals. Just today we learned the latest results from the National Assessment of Education Progress, known as the NAEP, which measures reading skills amongst our fourth graders. Unfortunately, the test reveals no progress at all amongst children in need of help. And it shows a further widening of the gap between the highest and lowest performing students. The highest scores are higher; the lowest scores are lower. Good students are scoring better; struggling students are struggling more. This is not acceptable.

The NAEP provides an important service. It shows us where the need is greatest amongst our students. And these results point out, once again, the need for a strong emphasis on early reading. The budget I submitted to Congress would accomplish this with a Reading First Program and reformed Title I Programs. My budget gives the highest priority to education with an 11.5 percent increase in overall funding. It triples the current spending on reading and early detection of children facing reading difficulties.

The House and Senate are working closely to pass a budget with this kind of focus. I applaud them for their efforts. It's important that we work together, because reading is what really turns children into students. It is the most basic of all basics. That was true in the 19th century, when Horatio Alger lived, and it's just as true for children today. His stories call to mind an era very distant from ours, and they were just stories, but they had a point, and they showed young readers the way.

Such stories are still being written in America, in every town and city, every day, and in real life. Today we recognize 10 such lives, the example they set and the promise they hold for others to follow. And it is my honor to honor them.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H. Wayne Huizenga, member, Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, who introduced the President; and Ruth Stafford Peale, founder, Guideposts magazine, and widow of Norman Vincent Peale. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Statement on Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation

April 6, 2001

I want to say I've got a little news I'd like to report. I'm really pleased to report that the United States Senate just moments ago passed a budget that funds our Nation's priorities and allows for over $1.2 trillion on meaningful, real tax relief for the American people.

The House has already passed $1.6 trillion of tax relief. Now the House and Senate will work to find common ground between these two budget plans, and the result will be the largest tax relief in decades. The fact that both Houses of Congress have committed to provide significant relief is good for the American people, and it's good for the economy.

When the House and Senate complete their work, they will have paved the way so the American people can receive an across-the-board income tax reduction, a doubling of the child credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and the elimination of the death tax. This budget also wisely increases spending on education, funds priorities like Medicare

and Social Security, and pays down a record amount of debt.

I applaud today's action and congratulate the Republicans and Democrats who helped make it happen.

Message on the Observance of Passover

April 6, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Jews around the world celebrating the Passover holiday, beginning at sundown on April 7. As you gather with family and friends, eat traditional foods, and sing joyous songs, you follow in the footsteps of your forefathers in remembering the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt nearly 3,500 years ago.

During this season of renewal, the Passover holiday commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery. Through the years, Jewish sages have taught that the lesson of freedom found in the miracle of Passover has two important aspects. The first is the escape from physical bondage and the regaining of dignity and equality by the individual and by a people. Equally important is spiritual liberation from selfish desires and destructive habits.

The flight from slavery led quickly to Mount Sinai and the Holy One's gift of the Commandments to Moses and the Israelites. They were then fully free to follow the Creator's laws in striving to perfect their own lives and the world in which they lived. The connection between freedom from bondage and the gift of the Commandments enhances Passover's abiding influence, not only as a Jewish holiday, but also as an inspiration to all mankind.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous and memorable holiday observance.

George W. Bush

Executive Order 13208—Amendment to Executive Order 13202, Preservation of Open Competition and Government Neutrality Towards Government Contractors' Labor Relations on Federal and Federally Funded Construction Projects

April 6, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq*., and in order to (1) promote and ensure open competition on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (2) maintain Government neutrality towards Government contractors' labor relations on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (3) reduce construction costs to the Federal Government and to the tax payers; (4) expand job opportunities, especially for small and disadvantaged businesses; (5) prevent discrimination against Government contractors or their employees based upon labor affiliation or lack thereof; and (6) prevent the inefficiency that may result from the disruption of a previously established contractual relationship in particular cases; thereby promoting the economical, nondiscriminatory, and efficient administration and completion of Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13202 of February 17, 2001, is amended by adding to section 5 of that order the following new subsection:

(c) The head of an executive agency, upon application of an awarding authority, a recipient of grants or financial assistance, a party to a cooperative agreement, or a construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing, may exempt a particular project from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this order, if the agency head finds: (i) that

the awarding authority, recipient of grants or financial assistance, party to a cooperative agreement, or construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing had issued or was a party to, as of the date of this order, bid specifications, project agreements, agreements with one or more labor organizations, or other controlling documents with respect to that particular project, which contained any of the requirements or prohibitions set forth in sections 1(a) or (b) of this order; and (ii) that one or more construction contracts subject to such requirements or prohibitions had been awarded as of the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 6, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 10, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 11.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 1

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

April 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Wilmington, DE, where he toured the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club. In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Angela Antonelli to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brian Jones to be General Counsel at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce P. Mehlman to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Hawks to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate James R. Moseley to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas L. Sansonetti to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia Lynn Scarlett to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allan Rutter to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

The President announced the designation of Jonathon Chase as Acting Director of the Community Relations Service.

The President announced the designation of Kevin D. Rooney as Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

The President announced the designation of Kathryn Turman as Acting Director of the Office for Victims of Crime.

April 4

In the morning, the President had separate telephone calls with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert D. McCallum, Jr., to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul V. Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sue Cobb to be Ambassador to Jamaica.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anthony H. Gioia to be Ambassador to Malta.

April 5

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph J. Jen to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Kirtley Waters to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey R. Holmstead to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eileen J. O'Connor to be Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Poland in June.

April 6

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crystal City, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI, where, in the evening, he attended the Milwaukee Brewers vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game and threw out the first pitch. The President then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas Jay Feith to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin J. Martin to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen Q. Abernathy to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Copps to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate A. Elizabeth Jones to be Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thelma J. Askey to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Craig Stapleton to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jim Nicholson to be Ambassador to the Holy See.

The White House announced that the President will visit the Organization of American States on April 17 and meet with Secretary General Cesar Gaviria and the members of the Permanent Council.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 3

Stephen Goldsmith,
of Indiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2005, vice Victor H. Ashe, term expired.

Richard Nathan Haass,
of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of Service as Director, Policy Planning Staff, Department of State.

James Andrew Kelly,
of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), vice Stanley O. Roth.

Donna R. McLean,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Peter J. Basso, Jr., resigned.

Submitted April 4

Erik Patrick Christian,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Eugene N. Hamilton, term expired.

Paula J. Dobriansky,
of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Global Affairs), vice Frank E. Loy.

Theodore William Kassinger,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, vice James A. Dorskind.

Sean B. O'Hallaren,
of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Michael J. Frazier, resigned.

Stephen A. Perry,
of Ohio, to be Administrator of General Services, vice David J. Barram, resigned.

Maurice A. Ross,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Henry F. Greene, term expired.

Chris Spear,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Edward B. Montgomery.

John B. Taylor,
of California, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Timothy F. Geithner.

Submitted April 5

Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), vice Eric D. Newsom.

Victoria Clarke,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Kenneth H. Bacon.

Kristine Ann Iverson,
of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Geri D. Palast.

Submitted April 6

Wade F. Horn,
of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Olivia A. Golden, resigned.

Scott Whitaker,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Richard J. Tarplin, resigned.

Thelma J. Askey,
of Tennessee, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, vice J. Joseph Grandmaison.

Maria Cino,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, vice Marjory E. Searing.

Charles A. James, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Joel I. Klein, resigned.

Piyush Jindal,
of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Margaret Ann Hamburg, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released April 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on tax cut legislation

Announcement of nominations for Associate Judges for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released April 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Visit Poland

Released April 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the amendment to an Executive order relating to project labor agreements

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Remarks on Repairing the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 6, 2001

How are you all today? It's good to be here. I'm pleased to be here with Governor McCallum and the mayor of Milwaukee; Secretary Mineta and Secretary Thompson, former Governor of the great State of Wisconsin.

I'm looking forward to tossing out the first ball today. I haven't decided if I'm going to go with a rising fastball, a split-finger, or a breaking pitch. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, it's going to be a great honor to be there. Miller Park will be a proud part of Milwaukee's landscape.

But there is another key structure that is an important part of the life of this city, the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge. For the last several months, a lot of effort has gone into helping repair the Hoan Bridge. But the job is not yet complete. So I'm here to tell the good people of Milwaukee that fixing the Hoan Bridge is a priority of my administration.

I've brought along the Secretary of Transportation here to identify the quickest way to rebuild this critical artery for Milwaukee. The Hoan Bridge is eligible for funding from the Department of Transportation. We look forward to partnering with the State of Wisconsin to complete the rebuilding of the Hoan Bridge.

Today Secretary Mineta and I have received an application for Federal funds from the Governor of Wisconsin, and I plan to make this project an important priority. Almost 100,000 people live in areas directly served by the Hoan Bridge, and because of its limited capacity and weight restrictions, many commuters and shippers must find alternate routes.

We are committed to helping Wisconsin take care of this problem. Secretary Mineta and I recognize that maintaining the infrastructure of our cities is a vital role for government. I'm glad we can be of assistance to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you very much. See you at the ballpark.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:08 p.m. at General Mitchell International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin and Mayor John O. Norquist of Milwaukee. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 7, 2001

Good morning. This weekend Congress begins its Easter recess. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives return home to meet with their constituents and listen to the people. I hope they'll listen carefully; there are large decisions that must be made when Congress returns.

I have sent Congress an education reform plan that offers greater Federal support to schools but requires higher standards and improved accountability, and I have sent Congress a tax plan that will accelerate our economic growth and leave more money with the people who earned it. Passing these two measures will be a long process that will require many votes in Congress. But the choices Congress makes will shape our country for decades. The tax plan I sent to Congress will help ensure that our children will grow up in a country bustling with opportunities. My education plan prepares our children to take advantage of those opportunities.

These are not routine votes. They are not ordinary business. They are decisions that we cannot afford to get wrong. Important reform is never easy, and it will always be tempting to postpone it. On education, there are some interest groups who don't like the idea of

changes. On taxes, there are powerful institutions in Washington that would prefer to keep the people's money for themselves.

But I'm committed to moving forward. The old saying goes, the President proposes, Congress disposes; but in the end, the people rule. If we want higher educational standards, if we're to pass a substantial tax cut, the people must make their voices heard.

Many of you have already telephoned your Members of Congress or sent letters and e-mails expressing your support for my education and tax plans, and I want to thank you for doing that. I hope you'll keep it up.

The crucial votes on education and taxes are still ahead. And many Members of Congress are still making up their minds. Don't just send them what you earn; tell them what you think. So I have a suggestion: During the recess, many Members of Congress will be holding townhall meetings, where constituents are welcome to come and express their views. You can find a list of these townhalls at www.bushtaxrelief.com. If your Congressman has a townhall scheduled, I hope you'll consider attending it. Maybe you might want to bring a relative or a friend.

And I hope that if you do go, you'll stand up and let your representative hear from you on school reform and tax relief. It's good citizenship, and it will make a big difference.

Before I close, let me send my best wishes to all who will be sitting down tonight to their Passover seder.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on April 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the Helicopter Crash in Vietnam

April 7, 2001

Laura and I were deeply saddened to learn of the crash this morning in central Vietnam of a helicopter carrying 16 people, including 7 U.S. military personnel, who were on an important mission to find and recover the remains of servicemen missing from the Vietnam war. The families of the service personnel lost in today's tragic accident know better than most the contribution their loved ones made in bringing closure to scores of families across America. Today's loss is a terrible one for our Nation. Although not lost in a hostile act, like those for whom they search, they too have lived lives of great consequence, answering a calling of service to their fellow citizens. As we enter a period of religious holidays across America, may we remember their sacrifice and keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

April 9, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. Good morning. I'm discussing the budget we're sending to the Hill today with my Cabinet. It's a budget that protects taxpayers, protects children, protects our surplus. It represents compassionate conservatism. It's a budget that sets priorities. It's a budget that recognizes there are some good programs here in Washington that need to be funded.

For example, the budget provides a $21 million increase for food safety programs, $1 billion increase for Pell grants for low income students, $350 million increase for childcare. We help children whose parents are in prison with a $67 million mentoring program. We increase funding available to prevent child abuse by 66 percent. We fight crime, $87 million increase for frontline prosecutors. We give $75 million for Project Child Safe, which is a program that provides gun safety locks for families. It fights corporate subsidies. It eliminates thousands of one-time earmarked projects.

Washington is known for pork. This budget funds our needs without the fat. It also represents a new way of doing business in Washington and a new way of thinking. The budget puts the taxpayers first, and that's exactly where they belong. I'll be glad to answer questions.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, members of your administration expected the crew to be freed over the weekend. At this point, how can you not agree with Chairman Hyde that they are hostages?

The President. First, I just talked to General Sealock, who had a good visit with all 24 crewmembers. His report is that their spirits are very high, that they're doing well, and that's good news. Secondly, all of us around this table understand diplomacy takes time. But there is a point—the longer it goes—there's a point at which our relations with China could become damaged.

Q. Is there any more that you can do or say, sir?

The President. Every day that goes by increases the potential that our relations with China could be damaged. And our hope is that this matter gets resolved quickly.

Q. Is there anything else you can do? You said a week ago that it's time for them to come home. They're still not home. What else can the President of the United States do to bring our people home?

The President. We're working behind the scenes. We've got every diplomatic channel open. We're in discussions with the Chinese. It is now time for our troops to come home so that our relationship does not become damaged.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7423—Jewish Heritage Week, 2001

April 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans have long cherished our identity as a Nation of immigrants. The shared values and aspirations of those who have come to America's shores have helped to shape our culture, laws, and government.

The Jewish community has played a vital role in our Nation's history, tracing back to colonial times. Many were active in supporting the Revolutionary War and in settling new territories and cities during America's westward expansion. Although initially a small community, in time, millions of Jewish men, women, and children followed. In fleeing persecution, pogroms, and the horrors of the Holocaust, they sought a new life in the United States where they could worship in freedom and pursue their hopes and dreams in peace. The many oppressions historically borne by the Jewish people remind us that we must remain committed to religious liberty and tolerance for all.

As we celebrate Jewish Heritage Week, we also recall the lasting contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the arts, education, industry, and science. Many of their names are inscribed in America's textbooks, and the Jewish community's rich heritage and culture continues to enrich our society's national fabric. In many communities large and small, Jewish families have shared their resources, time, and talent to help others. Their contributions to our national life and character help make America a better place.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 29, 2001, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 11.

Proclamation 7424—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2001

April 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every day, Americans are making progress both in the fight against crime and in the effort to ensure fair and compassionate treatment of victims and their families. Dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, counselors, and law enforcement personnel in communities large and small are raising the public's awareness that victims have important rights.

Decreasing crime rates are encouraging, but we are far from winning the war against crime. According to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 29 million people were victimized by crime in 1999, including more than 7 million victims of violent crime. Americans cannot afford to be complacent. All of us must continue efforts to stop crime and to improve services for those harmed by crime.

The voices of our Nation's victims continue to have a powerful effect in changing laws, policies, and attitudes to promote victims' rights and services. They encourage every person in America to take a stand and to lend their support. My Administration is committed to improving public safety and to providing justice for all who have been victimized. We will fight for public policies that prevent crimes. We will steadfastly support those responsible for enforcing the laws and protecting the innocent. And we will attempt to see that offenders, not victims, pay the high cost of crime.

Our Nation's commitment to crime victim assistance grows stronger every year, with thousands of programs in place to provide help and hope. My Administration is committed to expanding opportunities for faith-based and charitable organizations dedicated to serving persons in need. Crime victims often turn to faith-based organizations for assistance and support during times of crisis, and religious leaders and communities are vital links in our national network of victim services.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The campaign to win rights for victims parallels other grassroots movements in our Nation's history. These crusades most frequently began as small local movements led by groups of passionate individuals who spoke out in protest when they saw inequities. During this week, let us join in the effort to establish fair legal rights and services for crime victims.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 28, 2001, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to share the burden of reducing crime in their communities and to follow the example of those who have helped establish rights and improve services for victims.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., April 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 10, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Remarks Following Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

April 10, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to have an opening statement. His Majesty will have an opening statement. I'll be glad to take a couple of questions from the American press. His Majesty will take a couple of questions from the Jordanian press, and we'll alternate.

It's my honor to welcome the Majesty to the Oval Office, to our country. We had a very good lunch. We discussed a lot of subjects, starting with how best to work together to lay the foundation for peace in the Middle East. We had a very good discussion about

trade, and I explained to His Majesty that ours is a country that believes in free trade.

We look forward to working to get an agreement, one way or the other, out of our Congress that encourages free trade with Jordan. We will be discussing strategies as how best to achieve that objective, but the objective is for there to be a free trade agreement between our countries.

His Majesty is one of the young leaders of the Middle East who has got a good vision for peace. And I look forward to his advice and counsel and working closely together to achieve peace. So welcome, Your Majesty.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, sir. Mr. President, as you said, we had a very warm and constructive discussions today about not only bilateral relations but that of the region. And I believe that we're both committed to finding peace and stability in our part of the world. We're very grateful for all the support that we've had from your country over the years. And I look forward to working with you, sir, and with your administration to try and bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Your Majesty, with apologies, because there's another subject on everybody's mind—Mr. President——

President Bush. What might that be?

Q. Well, it's the China problem. What is it going to take to resolve that? Have you considered dealing directly with the President of China?

President Bush. We are working hard to resolve the situation. The first piece of news I have to report is, I talked to the General, Sealock, again. He met with our folks in Hainan Island. He reported that spirits are high, that the troops are patient.

He informed us that there is an exchange of e-mails between the—our troops and their families, which is, I found to be an important piece of news, that the families will be able to talk to each other.

Diplomacy sometimes takes a little longer than people would like. I urge the Chinese to bring resolution to this issue. It's time for our people to come home.

Q. Mr. President, what about the issue with Jesse Jackson? Mr. President, what about the issue with Reverend Jesse Jackson? He says if China lets him in, he will go there to help free the 24 detainees.

President Bush. We are—there's a lot of people that are anxious for this situation to end. I appreciate the good will of a lot of Americans that are concerned about our folks in Hainan Island. This administration is doing everything we can to end the stalemate in an efficient way. We're making the right decisions to bring the solution to an end.

Q. Do you support Reverend Jackson? Do you support——

Q. Mr. President, you said a moment ago——

President Bush. This is a Jordanian reporter.

Q. Mr. President, you said a moment ago that diplomacy takes longer than sometimes people would like. Are you trying to prepare the American people for an extended and prolonged stay of this 24-member crew in Chinese captivity?

President Bush. No. I am making it clear to the Chinese that it's in their nation's interests to end this situation as quickly as possible. As all members of my administration have been saying, that the longer this goes, the more likely it is that it could—could—jeopardize relations, and we certainly don't want that to happen.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Is there anybody from the Jordanian——

Q. The West Bank——

President Bush. Yes, ma'am?

Middle East

Q. A Jewish spiritual leader yesterday called upon killing all Arabs, and we are seeing Israel launching an unannounced, full-scale war against Palestinians. Is your country going to use or veto another proposal at the United Nations to send an international protection force?

President Bush. Our country is very interested and working with all parties to—for parties to lay down their arms. The only—wait, let me——

Q. Your Majesty, can you state specifically what you think——

President Bush. I'm not quite through yet——

Q. Sorry.

President Bush. And then you're next.

Q. Thank you.

President Bush. In order for there to be discussions that will lead to peace, first and foremost, the violence must stop. And we're working hard to convince the parties to stop the violence. His Majesty and I talked about how best that all countries, peaceful countries in the region can discourage violent activities. And the Secretary of State and—has been on the phone recently with the leaders in the Middle East to make sure that they understand the U.S. position is for the violence to stop.

Q. Your Majesty, can you say specifically, beyond rhetorical tools, what Jordan and the United States can do to stop the violence, bring it down, restore calm?

King Abdullah. Well, I think the situation at present is, try to find a way of de-escalating the violence. There has been meetings between the Israelis and the Palestinians as early as last week which produced some results. And I think we need to be able to build on that.

President Bush. Thank you all. Look what you started. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. Reporters referred to President Jiang Zemin of China and civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Discussion on Character-Building Programs in Education

April 10, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for being here. I'm glad to see you. And I'm glad to see the superintendent. I appreciate you all being here. This is not the first time I've been with the Mayor, nor with the superintendent, both of whom are doing a fine job for Washington, DC. I'm proud to call this place home, and I'm proud to have you all leading the city and the school district.

I want to thank the members of the Young Gentlemen's Club for being here, and I'm looking forward to shaking your hand after the discussion. And thank you all for making the right choices in life. I want to thank our panelists. I look forward to hearing from our panelists.

I want to start the discussion by quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., who said this: "Intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." So we're here today to herald character-building programs. We're here today to recommend that throughout America we teach values to our children, that we not only teach our children how to read and write but that we be bold enough to teach them the difference between right and wrong, as well. And we've picked a pretty darn good school as an example.

By the way, I found this, that one of the keys to success in our public education is to have good, strong principals. So Annie, thank you for being here. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. One of the keys to success is to have role models not only live a quality life but be willing to take time out of their lives to share their experiences. So I'm pleased to have a star basketball player with us here.

One of the keys to success is to find people who are willing to use their intelligence to rally people of compassion to serve as mentors and role models for children—young ladies, in this case. And so I'm so pleased that Elayne Bennett is here. One of the keys to success is being a good mom. And so I'm so thankful you're here, Nicole. One of the keys to success is to be willing to listen to what the adults say. And so, Isaiah, thank you for being here, as well.

And finally, it is an honor that Mr. Bob Howard is with us, a person who has taken time out of his life to make sure that the Young Gentlemen's Club flourishes.

Parents have a tough battle in America today. Their children sometimes receive conflicting messages, and what public education ought to do is stand on the side of parents and be willing to reinforce the values that

parents teach their children. And the Young Gentlemen's Club does just that. And so I'm looking forward to hearing the stories. I'm looking forward to hearing how best I can help.

One way we can help, by the way, is to have our budgets reflect our priorities. And the budget I submitted to the Congress triples the amount of character-education money available for public education. The budget I submitted to the Congress increases the amount of money available for abstinence-education programs. And the money and program I've submitted to the Congress encourages after-school programs to be run by faith-based and community-based programs that exist because they've heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We can make a huge difference in the lives of America's children. It starts recognizing that society's changed one child at a time; one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And this program, the Young Gentlemen's Club, does precisely that.

So thank you, Mr. Secretary, it's an honor. And thank you all for coming.

[*The discussion began.*]

The President. Let me say one thing, Mr. Secretary. To prove the principal's point, they use a Stanford 9 here in the District of Columbia. Many of you know that I'm a strong advocate for accountability. If you don't measure, you don't know. And so under the leadership of the superintendent, there's a lot of measuring that goes on. It's really important to measure, by the way, and I hope the Congress gets the message how important it is that in return for more money, we need to have strong accountability systems developed at the local level.

Cleveland Elementary School, on the Stanford 9, is on par with affluent local suburban districts. In other words, it's not just talking the talk; the results have improved significantly as a result of character programs and focus on each child.

And I want to thank you for your hard work, Madam Principal, and the results bear out what you just said. There is a connection between good character and good education. And we've got to remember that in this country. That's why it's important to spread character-education programs throughout America.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. I think we've got a perfect gentleman here. Tell us about your program, Isaiah, can you?

Third grader Isaiah Greene. Yes. The program teaches us how to be—how to respect women and how to control our attitude.

The President. And when do you meet? How often do you meet?

Isaiah Greene. When I was there we used to meet in the afternoons.

The President. Oh, good. And so who is—teaches you how to respect women? Is that what you just said? And is it working?

Isaiah Greene. Yes. [*Laughter*]

The President. How about mom?

Isaiah Greene. Yes.

The President. You listen to your mom?

Isaiah Greene. Yes.

The President. I listen to mine. [*Laughter*] How about you, mom?

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Is he studying?

Nicole Keller. He's studying hard. He's very——

The President. That's great.

Ms. Keller. ——excited about his schoolwork, and all that he does.

The President. He's going to college, isn't he?

Ms. Keller. That's right. Yes, he is.

The President. Have you got anything to add to that, Isaiah? [*Laughter*]

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I want to thank our panelists. I believe America can conquer any problem we're faced with. I truly believe that, because this is a loving country. There's a lot of people who really care about members of the Young Gentlemen's Club, whether it be at Cleveland Elementary or any other elementary. There are a lot of people who really care about their neighbor in this country.

All of us have got to do our part. The Federal Government can put money up, but we can't make people love one another. And that's something we've just got to understand

in our country. That we can fund programs—and we will—there will be a lot of discussions about what gets funded and what doesn't get funded, and this, that, and the other. But the truth of the matter is, the issue is bigger than budgets. The issue is about whether or not loving people in America want to help somebody in need.

And I think so. And to the extent that you all are helping, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. One of my missions is to encourage mentoring programs all across the country. One of our missions is to make sure that boys and girls whose mother or dad may be in prison finds a mentor, somebody to love them. One of our missions is to teach—is to help teach children right from wrong so that they can enjoy the great fruits of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And to the extent you're helping, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you all for coming. I look forward to getting to shake hands with the members of the Young Gentlemen's Club, if that's okay with you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Paul L. Vance, superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools; Annie R. Mair, principal, Cleveland Elementary School; NBA Washington Wizards player Jahidi White; Nicole Keller, mother of Isaiah Greene; Elayne Bennett, founder, Best Friends Program; and Robert Howard, founder, Young Gentlemen's Club.

Proclamation 7425—National D.A.R.E. Day, 2001

April 10, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, we recognize Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), the largest and most widely known substance abuse prevention and anti-violence curriculum in America. For over 18 years, D.A.R.E. has brought specially trained community police officers into America's classrooms to teach children how to resist destructive peer pressure and to live productive drug- and violence-free lives. Every day, millions of children across the United States participate in the instruction given in the D.A.R.E. drug prevention curriculum.

Parents, teachers, community leaders, law enforcement officials, and fellow students have an important role to play in keeping our children away from illegal drugs. Research has shown that ongoing reinforcement of drug prevention skills at home and at school play a critical role in decreasing the likelihood of drug use by our youth. This year, D.A.R.E. has pledged to reach out to thousands of parents with a new parent-specific curriculum to help them talk with their kids about drugs.

Today, we recognize D.A.R.E. as a useful partnership between the research community, educators, law enforcement, parents, and students, and we commend D.A.R.E. officers for their dedicated efforts to help educate the children of America about the importance of remaining drug- and violence-free.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 12, 2001, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon our youth, parents, educators, and all people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., April 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Remarks on Plans for Release of United States Navy Aircraft Crewmembers in China

April 11, 2001

Good morning. I'm pleased to be able to tell the American people that plans are underway to bring home our 24 American service men and women from Hainan Island.

This morning the Chinese Government assured our American Ambassador that the crew would leave promptly. We're working on arrangements to pick them up and to bring them home.

This has been a difficult situation for both our countries. I know the American people join me in expressing sorrow for the loss of life of a Chinese pilot. Our prayers are with his wife and his child.

I appreciate the hard work of our Ambassador to China, Joseph Prueher, and his entire Embassy team, who worked tirelessly to solve this situation. The American people, their families, and I are proud of our crew, and we look forward to welcoming them home.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 a.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ruan Guoqino, widow of Chinese pilot Wang Wei.

Remarks at Concord Middle School in Concord, North Carolina

April 11, 2001

Thank you all very much. Okay. "Dr. O," thank you for your hospitality. It's an honor to be here. I want to thank you all for coming. Before I talk about a subject dear to my heart, which is education, and before I recognize all the distinguished guests, I do want to say that right after my visit here, I am going to meet with the family of Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher.

As you know, Steven is one of our 24 service men and women in China. I'm really looking forward to letting Steven's family know that we're in the process of bringing their son home. Steven grew up in Charlotte, and I know this entire Charlotte area and I know this entire community joins in looking forward to welcoming him home.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to tell the Blochers how much America appreciates their son's patriotism and service to his country and how much we appreciate the service of our men and women in uniform throughout the world.

Situations such as this remind us how much our military personnel and their families sacrifice for our freedom. It also reminds me, it's such an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such wonderful people.

It's also an honor to be here in the great State of North Carolina. I've got a lot of friends here, and I'm grateful. It's also good to get out of Washington, DC, on a regular basis. It kind of reminds us that there is—it helps us stay in touch with reality. It's important to listen to people who are on the frontlines of making their communities a much better place. And there's no better place to listen and to say thanks than our schools all across America, where people are working their heart out to make a difference in the lives of our children. So first, I want to thank all the teachers who are here.

I don't know if you know this—and I'm sorry the First Lady is not with us; she's heading down to Texas for the Easter break; I'm following shortly thereafter, I want you to know. [*Laughter*] One of her missions, besides making sure every child can read, is to remind folks about how important it is and what an important profession teaching is, that teaching is a noble profession, and that for the youngsters who are looking for something to do after college: Become a teacher. Or, for those who have just gotten out of the military: Become a teacher.

We need good teachers in America. We need people to understand what an important job it is. So for those of you who are thinking about something to do when you get out of junior high, then high school, then college, give teaching a shot. It will not only change some child's life; it will change your life for the better, as well.

It's good to see Phil Kirk. Phil, thank you very much. I was honored to be escorted around the school by a man I proudly called "Mr. President," Graham Boone. I appreciate Senator Edwards being here. Senator,

it's good to see you, sir. I appreciate Congressman Hayes. I can assure you, on the ride in from the airport, he gave me a full briefing—[*laughter*]—about every single aspect of this community. He pointed out every NASCAR garage, and every four-lane highway that needed to be expanded. [*Laughter*]

Congressmen Coble, Ballenger, and Taylor are also here. I want to thank you all for coming, and I appreciate your loyal support. I guess when the President shows up, all kinds of elected officials come, and I appreciate your coming. The mayors, the mayor of Charlotte and the mayor of Concord, I want to thank you both for being here, as well.

It's good to see Mike Ward again. I saw Mike just the other day. Thank you, Mike. And it's good to have members of the statehouse, the speaker and the leader of the Senate, on both sides of the aisle. It reminds me, seeing both Republicans and Democrats from the statehouse here, that when it comes to education, there really isn't—there isn't a need for partisan bickering. When it comes to the education of the children, it is right for people of both parties to come together and figure out how to get the job done. And that's what's happened here.

I know that's what's happened here in North Carolina. It also happened in the State of Texas when I was the Governor—that we said we'll have our time for political bickering, but when it comes to important issues like education, we'll set aside political bickering and focus on the children. And as a result of people from both parties being able to work together in our respective States, North Carolina and Texas have made great progress.

I know that some other States don't like to hear this, but at one point in time, the National Education Goals Panel analyzed which of the States in the United States were making the greatest gains on student achievement. And it turned out our States were, North Carolina and Texas. And I attribute that to the fact that people from both political parties were willing to work together—something Washington, DC, needs more of, by the way. We need less name-calling and finger-pointing and more focus on what's right for America. And a good place to start is when it comes to the education of our children.

Now, there's another reason why our States did well. It's because we adopted a philosophy that makes sense. It starts with setting high expectations for every child. Ours are States that have said every child can learn. We're not one of these States that said, some of the children can learn; or, maybe a handful of the children can learn. We started with the philosophy that every child can learn, and that's the right attitude to take. And also a philosophy that said we're going to set high standards for every child—not high standards for suburbia, or high standards for inner city—high standards for every child is part of our political philosophy.

Oh, I know there are difficult circumstances. But that is not an excuse to lower standards. You see, if you lower standards, you get lower results. If you set the bar low, you're going to get results that are not satisfactory for having a tomorrow that we want for every child. So the first part of our common philosophy says, we're going to set high standards and high expectations and believe that every child can learn.

Secondly, our States believe in local control of schools. That's something the Federal Government needs to learn. It needs to learn to trust the people of North Carolina when it comes to running the schools of North Carolina. This idea of Washington making decisions on behalf of the people of North Carolina has got to end, in order to make sure that every child gets educated in America.

One of the things I look forward to working with the Congress on is to explain to those who don't quite understand that all knowledge doesn't exist in Washington; that in order to have excellence in our schools, we've got to trust local people. And I mean we need to pass power out of Washington, DC, to empower the Governors and local school boards to make the right decisions for the children in their respective States, because one size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the American children.

And finally, the cornerstone of reform for North Carolina and for Texas and for other States is the willingness of our States to

measure—is to say, accountability is an incredibly important part of educational excellence. Now, in your State of North Carolina, you measure three through eight. In my State of Texas, we do the same thing. And that's exactly the cornerstone of reform necessary. Do you know why? Because if you do not measure, you do not know whether or not children are learning. And if you don't know, it's likely certain children will be moved just right through the system.

It's so easy to quit on certain children. It's so easy to quit on children whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It's so easy to quit on a child; you take a look and say, "This child is too hard to educate, so we'll just move him or her through." That is unacceptable to me. I know it's unacceptable to you, and it needs to be unacceptable to all Americans. Every child matters; every child can be educated; and we must quit this business of just simply giving up on children early, before it's too late.

And the structural reform necessary to make sure that doesn't happen is to measure, is to say—ask ourselves: Can a child read at grade level, say, by the third grade? And if we find out the answer is no, then do something about it early, before it's too late. I strongly believe in accountability.

In the budget I submitted to the Congress—one which one body of the House listened to pretty carefully, and one body of the Congress listened to carefully, and the other decided, well, they're going to listen to some of it, but they decided to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government—we put a lot of money in for public education.

The biggest increase of any Department was for public education. We increased the size of the reading initiative by threefold. Because I understand that reading is the gateway to knowledge—and that's nothing new; all Members of Congress understand that—I did want there to be a priority in the budget for reading. They said, "If the States wants to access Federal money, you should be able to do so, but make sure you have K-through-2 diagnostic tools available so that we can have meaningful early childhood reading initiatives; make sure you understand that if the curriculum doesn't work, that you're bold enough to change it, and therefore, access some of the money to train teachers on curriculum that do work; make sure that you have intensive reading academies so that no child gets left behind when it comes to reading."

We've tripled the amount of money for States, if they so choose to use that, because—I know this is obvious, unfortunately sometimes—but it reflects reality, and it reflects some of the problems we have that if you can't read, you can't learn other subjects. And unfortunately, too many of our children can't read. I'm a first-things-first person. Let's get the reading right, and I'm confident the math and science will follow thereafter. I do know if they can't read, it's going to be hard to master science. So there's the focus on reading. And I know your State will take advantage of the Federal monies if I can get it passed out of the Congress—I think we're going to, by the way—to make sure every child learns to read in your great State.

Secondly, it's one thing to teach a child to read and write, but in order to make sure education is full and complete, we also must teach our children right from wrong. We triple the amount of money in the budget for character education programs. We should not be afraid to teach children what's right and what's wrong. And we should not be afraid in our society to teach children the values which have stood the test of time: Don't lie, cheat, and steal; honor thy parents; show respect; be responsible for the decisions you make in life. And I also believe that, along those lines, we ought not to be afraid to teach abstinence to our children. So I've increased abstinence funding in the budget, as well.

Now, we increase spending. Now, there's some hollering we didn't increase it enough and some saying too much, and of course, imagine the President thinks it's just right. But it's one thing to spend money, but it's another thing to make sure the systems work, too.

As you know, particularly in your State, there's more than just spending money to education. It is important to get it right. And that's why I urge the Congress to hear the message of accountability and local control.

Part of the reform package that is being debated in the Senate and the House is to pass power out of Washington, is the best way to put it; is to make sure the Federal money that is spent, is not so tied up that local folks can't use it to meet their own specific needs; is to trust the local people. It's an inherent principle of good public policy in Washington: Always remember to trust the local people. Why? Because government closer to the people is that which is most responsive. The government which get far away from the people sometimes doesn't hear the real voice, doesn't respond, may get caught up in special interests or the folks that surround the Nation's Capital.

And so we've got to trust people. And so inherent in the plan is to say to the Congress, "Work with us to pass power out of Washington. And let's not be afraid to do so." And I think we're making good progress on that. I think many of the Members of the Congress and the Senate understand that principle.

And I'm asking Congress to say, "If you receive Federal money, you must develop an accountability system like North Carolina has done." In return for taxpayers' money, to me it makes sense to ask the question, what are the results? If you receive Title I money in the State around the country—in one of our States in our country, you've got to measure. You've got to show us. I don't believe there ought to be a national test. I strongly resist a national test. A national test would undermine the development of local curriculum, for example. A national test could really mean the National Government ends up running—begins to dictate policies for our schools, and that's not right.

But I think it's responsible and wise and appropriate to say that if you receive help from the Federal Government, you develop an accountability system. And you measure. And you disaggregate results; you don't lump people into groups so we don't know. Each child matters. You see, it is incredibly important for this country to change our mentality about education. Instead of asking the question, how old are you, we need to start asking the question, what do you know?

Instead of saying, "Oh, you're 10, and you go here; and you're 12, you go here; or you're 16, we'll just put you here"—it's time for this country, all across the land, to start asking the question, what do you know? And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do early, before it's too late. That's what accountability will do for our country. It begins to change the mentality.

It recognizes you can't correct problems unless you know there is a problem. And so I hope the Members of the House and the Members of the Senate do not blink when it comes to insisting that local jurisdictions develop strong accountability systems. It's so important. It's so important if we want to make sure that no child gets left behind.

And by the way, in order for there to be accountability that works, there must be a consequence for success, and a consequence for failure. There is no such thing as an accountability system unless something happens with success and failure. I believe we ought to reward success, and I believe, after a reasonable period of time, if a school will not teach and it will not change, something else must happen. And we're having a big debate on what the something else is in the Nation's Capital. There's a big debate on that.

But one thing is for certain: I will not accept a plan that accepts failure, because our children are too important. One thing is for certain: People must be given different options if their children are in schools that simply won't adjust. It's time for us to have strong accountability measures and local control in our schools.

People talk about parental involvement. All of us are for parental involvement, of course. It will make the teachers' job so much easier when parents get involved. But there's nothing like parental involvement when we start posting scores on the Internet. There's nothing like parental involvement when we break down accountability on a child-per-child basis. There's nothing like getting a mother fired up when she sees the fact that her school may not be performing quite like she thought it was going to be. Accountability is not only good for the children; it's good for parents, as well.

And it turns out it's good for schools. It's good for schools. It's good to know. It's good to know whether a curriculum is working or

not. It's good to know whether the methodology that's being used within the classrooms makes sense. It's good to know.

And when we start to measure, we're going to start saying for certain, every child matters in America. And when we start to correct—when we start to correct, we're going to make certain that every child is educated, and our country is going to be better off for it.

There's a lot of things I want to do in Washington. As you know, I'm committed to making sure that once we meet our priorities, that our Government always remembers who funds the Government; that it's not the Federal Government's money; it's the people's money.

We're making progress. Oh, some folks are kicking and screaming, but we're making some progress toward remembering whose money it is. But we're making good progress on education, as well, and I'm grateful. I'm grateful when a President Bush can sit down with a Senator Kennedy and have a meaningful, real dialog on what's right for the country. I'm grateful for that.

One of my missions was to try to change the tone of Washington. You see, Washington is zero-sum game up there. There are people up there that say, "We can't support this because it means somebody wins and, therefore, somebody loses." It means that we're not focused on the right reason, the reason we're there as people. And we may have a disagreement, but we've got to get rid of the zero-sum politics that dominates the discourse in our Nation's Capital. We're there to serve.

And the best way to convince people to serve is to change the tone from one of suspicion to respect. And as you can imagine, Senator Kennedy and I don't get along on a lot of issues, but we get along—I respect him as a person. I respect his professionalism. And I respect the fact that he's willing to sit down and see if my office and me, we can't work out differences that may exist when it comes to educating children. It's a good step in the right direction.

I think the tone in Washington is beginning to change for the better. I know we're beginning to have a new culture of accomplishment take hold, that instead of everybody focusing on process and who's saying what about who, that we're beginning to focus on results.

I want this country to be a results-oriented country, starting at the national level. We ought to be focusing on results—particularly when it comes to education of children. And if they're good, let's praise everybody. And if they're bad, let's praise them, but let's fix it. So we're making progress in the Nation's Capital.

And finally, I think I'm making pretty good progress—I hope I am—on convincing people that it's not only important to educate our children; it's important to welcome faith-based and community-based programs and to stay-after-school programs, so that children understand that somebody loves them and somebody cares. That is so important.

I think we're making pretty good progress on the so-called Faith-Based Initiative, that makes it clear that government is limited. I mean, government can't make people love one another. If it could, I'm sure that Senator Edwards would sponsor it, and I would sign it if we could figure out how to do that.

But the role of government is limited. Oh sure, we can fund and we can tax and maybe not tax so much. And of course, we can keep the peace. But what government cannot do is cause people to love one another. What government cannot do is to understand the great power of faith and concern and love. We can rally faith and concern and love; we can encourage programs based upon faith, concern, and love, and we must. But we can't make people love one another. That comes from institutions that rely upon a greater power; that comes from churches and synagogues and mosques. It comes from mentoring programs based upon the idea of some soul, some good, decent American saying, "What can I do to help make my society a better place?"

I love coming outside the Nation's Capital, because it gives me a chance to see Americans line the road, saluting the institution of the Presidency as I drive by. And it reminds me every time, every trip, that the strength of this country lies not in the halls of our Government; the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of the citizens of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

I think we're making progress. We understand where the power of this country lays. It lays in the hearts and souls of Americans. It must lay in our pocketbooks. It lays in the willingness for people to work hard. But as importantly, it lays in the fact that we've got citizens from all walks of life, all political parties, that are willing to say, "I want to love my neighbor. I want to make somebody's life just a little bit better." And for those of you who are doing that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And thank you for your warm welcome, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Austin Obasohan, principal, and Graham Boone, student council president, Concord Middle School; Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., chairman North Carolina State Board of Education; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; Mayor George W. Liles of Concord; Michael E. Ward, superintendent, North Carolina Public Schools; and Speaker of the House James B. Black and Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, North Carolina State Assembly. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Remarks in a Meeting With the Parents of Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher in Concord

April 11, 2001

The President. I'm so honored that the Blocher family came to say hello. Obviously, when we were going to visit, we were just going to visit in a quiet way, a private way. Now that their son, Steven, will be coming home soon, I thought it would be appropriate for us to visit, and then visit some with the press.

These good folks are patriots, as is their son. It's a patriotic family. We had other family members served our country. Steven was one of the 24. I know they're thrilled he's coming home. But I'm so appreciative of how this family and the other families were steadfast in their patriotism and loyalty. They raised a boy who loves his country, and we owe a debt of gratitude to not only the service men and women but to their parents, as well. So that's why I wanted to see you.

Robert Blocher. This morning worked out even better than we had hoped. It's an honor to meet the President, but to meet the President under such happy circumstances was more than we could ask the Lord for in any way.

The President. It's my honor to have you all. Thanks. We're watching very carefully; progress is being made, and that's very good news for this group of folks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at Concord Middle School. Petty Officer Third Class Blocher is one of 24 crewmembers of the U.S. Navy EP–3E Aries II electronic surveillance aircraft being held by the Government of China after the aircraft made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island due to a mid-air collision with a Chinese F–8 fighter jet over the South China Sea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Community in Greenville, North Carolina

April 11, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Thank you very much. Okay. Richard, thank you very much for your kind hospitality. I'm proud—I am proud to be an honorary member of the East Carolina baseball team. I am proud to be on this campus. I am proud to be in East Carolina, and I'm proud I've got so many friends in this great State.

It is such an honor to be here, and I want to thank you all for coming. I understand that some good folks spent the night last night here to be here. I promise not to speak so long so you will fall asleep. [*Laughter*] But I'm really thankful that you're here. I'm thankful to be out of Washington, DC, with the good, hard-working people of this part of our country.

Release of U.S. Navy Aircraft Crewmembers in China

I'm pleased to report that a commercial charter airplane is close to landing in Hainan Island.

Audience members. U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

The President. The plane is expected to leave that island in a couple of hours, bound

for Guam and then for Hawaii. Earlier today I had the privilege and honor to meet fellow North Carolinians Bob and Sandra Blocher, the parents of one of the 24 crewmembers, Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher. They are, of course, as you can imagine, thrilled to know that the service men and women are returning home.

These have been difficult days for all the families. And these days are a reminder of the sacrifices all our men and women in uniform and their family make every single day for freedom. And so we're proud and thankful for the service of folks. We're proud and thankful for their parents, and we can't wait for them to get home.

Greenville, North Carolina

I am pleased to be here with the senior Senator from the great State of North Carolina.

Audience members. Jesse! Jesse! Jesse!

The President. He's a strong ally in the United States Senate.

Audience member. Big time!

The President. I am pleased to be here—quit quoting the Vice President. The man yelled, "big time." [*Laughter*]

I am pleased to be here with your Congressman, Walter Jones, as well as Congressmen from around your State: Howard Coble, Robin Hayes, Charles Taylor.

Let me tell you—now, you all may be aware that I laid out a budget recently. I like to call it the people's budget. Because it says, first and foremost, in Washington, we understand that we're not spending the Government's money; we are spending the people's money. And the five people I just introduced stood strong with the people of North Carolina when they voted for a responsible budget. I can't say that was the case for every member of the North Carolina delegation.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I just want to remind you as these votes keep coming down, when we get to choose between bigger government and the people, you're only one e-mail away of reminding reluctant Members of the Congress that your point of view matters.

And mark my words, having been up there for a period of time, I can assure you that there is a struggle between whose money it is and where it ends up.

I want to describe to you the budget I laid out, just to put your mind at ease. We increase discretionary spending in the budget—that means programs other than entitlement programs—by 4 percent. Many of you work hard to get along, and you haven't had a 4 percent pay raise lately. Inflation is lower than 4 percent. So I thought it would be reasonable to ask the Federal Government to live on a 4 percent increase in the discretionary spending account. Four percent increase in discretionary spending increases Federal assistance to North Carolina education programs to more than $947 million a year.

A 4 percent discretionary budget means that North Carolina's Head Start Programs will receive $127 million a year. The budget provides $78 million in funding for water resource projects along North Carolina rivers and waterways. It provides a 366 percent increase of Federal monies to help conserve North Carolina natural resources. It expands the number of community health centers all across the country.

A 4 percent increase doubles the Medicare budget, so that we fulfill the promise to the elderly. A 4 percent increase helps keep priorities to the military. We must pay our military folks more money. A 4 percent increase means we're going to spend 100 billion additional dollars next year. That's a lot of money. But for those who want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, it's not enough.

Now, I want you all to understand where the tradeoffs come when it comes to budgeting. The money either ends up in Federal programs or it ends up in the people's pocket. And my point of view I make in Washington, and that I want you to help me on is, we can meet priorities. We can fund education and good conservation programs. We can fulfill our commitment to the elderly. We can make Social Security is safe and secure today and around tomorrow for the younger folks. We can do all that by growing the discretionary account at 4 percent and still have meaningful tax reductions.

So when somebody tells you, when you hear the excuse, "Oh, we're not meeting our

needs," you need to get them to look at the numbers; you need to get them to understand what a 4 percent growth means. You also ought to remind them that if they do what some in the Senate want done—which is to grow the budget 8 percent—we're going to roar right through any projected surplus.

If we grow that budget 8 percent, we come from the school of thought that it's going to serve as a huge drag on our economy. You see, there's tradeoffs that have to be realized. The tradeoff—the fundamental tradeoff, though, is who do we trust? Who do we trust with the money? Do we trust the Government, or do we trust the people?

Audience members. The people!

The President. That's what this debate is about. That's what the fundamental debate is about.

Now, I can remember campaigning all across the States, like Carolina, and people kept saying during the course of the campaign, "Oh, he's just talking, because there's not going to be any tax relief; people don't want tax relief." I kept saying, "Well, you may be talking to different people I am." Everywhere I went, once I can convince the people that we meet the basic needs of Government, people seem to understand that they'd want some of their money back. That's what they seem to understand.

But the skeptics, they weren't listening. The skeptics weren't listening. But let me tell you where we are. Because of the hard work of the North Carolina congressional delegation, we passed $1.6 trillion of tax relief. The Senate is at $1.2 trillion of tax relief. Now, they are trying to reconcile the differences, but either way you cut it, tax relief is on the way.

And I want to remind you all, it has nothing to do about me. It's everything to do about the people. That's what this is all about. This is the people's budget. It's the people's budget. The tax relief plan that I hope is finally adopted must incorporate these principles. One, anybody who pays taxes ought to get relief. Some of the good folks in Washington, DC, they support what they call targeted tax relief.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. That means some people are targeted in, and some people are targeted out. The fairest way—the fairest way—the fairest way is to say that if you pay taxes, you get relief.

So I hope the plan that says everybody that pays taxes gets relief is what ends up on my desk. I think it will, with your help. I think it will. We need to drop—I want to tell you something about the current Tax Code to make sure you understand the facts.

First of all, if you're struggling to get ahead in America, this Tax Code is unfair. It's unfair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder, because our code is structured this way. For example, if you're a single mother in the State of North Carolina, trying to raise two children—first of all, you've got the toughest job in your State; it's the hardest work in the State of North Carolina, and, by the way, for all you folks who go to East Carolina University, if you're fortunate enough to become a dad, you love your children with all your heart and all your soul; the most important job you'll ever have is to be a dad—if that lady is making $22,000 a year, she's living on the outskirts of poverty. Under the code we have today, for every additional dollar she makes or earns, she pays a higher marginal rate than someone who is Wall Street successful. And that's not right, folks. That's not what America is about, as far as we're concerned.

Our code ought to say, the harder you work, the more money you have in your pocket. This is a Tax Code that ought to make it easier for people to realize their dreams, not harder. And so, therefore, we drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

We need to make the code more fair. We also need to make the code more fair to small businesses. There are 488,000 small businesses in your State of North Carolina who will benefit from tax relief when you cut marginal rates. Because the truth is, by far, the vast majority of small businesses—who, by the way, create 75 percent of the new jobs in America—they don't pay corporate income taxes; they pay personal income taxes, because they're either sole proprietorships or Subchapter S corporations. That's reality.

Reality is, small-business people pay personal income tax rates. And so, when we drop

the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, really what we're saying is, we want to encourage the growth of the small-business sector in America.

Oh, I've heard all the rhetoric about how only certain people benefit. But the Congress must understand the importance of small business in America, and the Congress must understand that by dropping that top rate, we stimulate growth in the private sector. The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish in America.

Ours is the Tax Code that penalizes marriage. And that's not fair, and that's not right. That's bad public policy. We ought to reward marriage and family in America. And the current Tax Code taxes people's assets twice. You see, we've got a system where folks work all their life, and they dream about passing their farm or their ranch or their small business on to a son or daughter. And yet, the Tax Code makes it difficult to do so. There are thousands of farmers and ranchers who worry about having to sell their farm or their ranch early because of the death tax. Folks, we need to get rid of the death tax in America.

You'll hear every excuse in the book about why we can't drop all rates or why the death tax, you know, can't be eliminated. But you know how I view those excuses? I view those as excuses to keep your money in Washington. That's what I view. I view those as excuses to expand the size of the Federal Government.

I'm here to tell you I've looked at the numbers. We've got enough money to meet priorities. But as important, we've got enough money to let you keep your own money, and we need to do so for two reasons. The first reason has to do with our economy. It's slowing down a little bit, and one way for us to give our economy a second wind is to give people their own money back so they can spend it in the private sector, is to cut the rate so small businesses have more cash flow to invest, is to understand that more money circulating in the private sector will create economic growth. And so tax relief is important for economic purposes.

Audience member. Retroactively?

The President. But there is—retroactively, too. It sounds like we've got an economist in the crowd—a right-thinking kind of economist. What the man is saying is, we need to get money in your pockets as quickly as possible, and we agree.

But there is a second reason why we need tax relief—a second reason why, and this comes to the heart of the debate. It has to do with people and who do we trust, and families. Today I'm proud to be joined by Larry and Kristi Bryan, right up there, and Jennifer and Jeffrey and Katie June. [*Applause*] Calm down. [*Laughter*] You didn't tell me you were going to bring your whole neighborhood.

Let me tell you why I asked them to come. Because, you know, oftentimes in the political arena, we're always talking about numbers and budgets and growth and all that business. But behind tax relief are real-life families. That's what this is all about. I hope that's the reason why everybody who decides to run for office does so to help families, to understand the importance of people in our society.

These good folks now pay $3,570 in Federal income taxes. Under the plan that passed the House and the plan that I submitted, they would save $1,830 when this tax relief is fully implemented.

Oh, I know for some of the sophisticates, they say that's nothing. But for this family, it's a lot. And the fundamental question that I want the Members of the Congress to address when we start dealing with the people's money is, who do we want to spend that extra $1,830? That's what this debate is about, folks. Who should our Government trust? And I'm going to tell you as plainly as I can, I'd rather the Bryans be spending that money than the Federal Government.

Oh, I know some of the projects—remember, this is money after we've met basic needs. This is money after we've grown the 4 percent discretionary spending. There will be some high-falutin' words and great programs. But the fundamental question is, who should our Government trust? And we need to trust the people, because the people are the great strength of America—the people of this country.

It is the people of this country that make America great. I love getting outside of Washington and traveling to places like Greenville, South—North Carolina, because I'm able——

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I caught you. [*Laughter*] I love coming to see the people—the people that line the roads, the people that are waving. That's what I love. Because it reminds me of how strong this country is. It reminds me that in Greenville, North Carolina, good people live.

And why is that important? I'll tell you why it's important. Because the great hope for the country comes when people turn to a neighbor and say, "What can I do to help," turns to a neighbor in need. That's the strength of America. Our great strength is not necessarily found in our halls of government; it's found in hallways and schools, where teachers dedicate themselves to teaching a child.

It is found in hallways of churches and synagogues, where folks hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they would be loved themselves. No, the strength of this country—the strength of this country in the hearts and souls of our people. It's when a Boy Scout leader says to a young child—says to a young child, "You know, there's right decisions to make and wrong decisions, and I want to help you understand a right decision."

It happens when somebody—somebody takes time out of their life to mentor a child. I hope—I hope when you hear of a mentoring program right here in eastern North Carolina that you say, "I'd like to help." There are some children in our society who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And that's going to require a loving soul, putting their arm around that child and saying, "Somebody cares about you. Somebody wants you to know that there is love in our society."

The problem is, everybody expects the Federal Government to do it. But the Governments can't make people love one another. No, Government can hand out money, but we cannot put love in people's hearts, or hope in people's lives. That's done when loving citizens take time out of their lives to help make their communities and their neighborhoods as strong as it possibly can be.

This debate in Washington, DC, on taxes is fundamental to the country. It not only talks about economic vitality, but it really speaks to—we ought to trust the people. We ought to trust the people with their own money, and we ought to trust the people of America to provide the compassion necessary to make sure this great land fulfills its promise for every citizen who is lucky enough to be an American citizen.

I'm honored that you let me come and share my hopes for our country with you. I call upon you that when Senators start to vote, for example, on budgets, you might remind them of whose money they're spending.

And I want to conclude by telling you what a huge honor it is to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:49 p.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium at East Carolina University. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Eakin, chancellor, East Carolina University.

Remarks on Parental Empowerment in Education

April 12, 2001

Thank you very much. Please, be seated.

Well, Reverend Flake, thank you very much. It's an honor to be with you again. This city really misses Floyd Flake. But Jamaica, Queens, is better off for him being there. [*Laughter*] He's a visionary. He understands a different kind of power than politics. And the community in which he is associated is better off, and I'm honored he's here, and I want to thank all the leaders who are here, as well. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I really appreciate the contributions toward educational excellence that the folks on this stage are making and that you all are making all across the country. It's an honor to have you at the White House.

I believe this—and I know we share the same principle—that no child, whatever their

parents' income or whatever their background, should be condemned to a failing school. Our public schools have put generations of the disadvantaged and generations of immigrants on the path to a better life. They are essential institutions. But too many are in trouble.

Just a week ago we learned that less than a third of the Nation's fourth grade students are proficient at reading. And there is a growing gap between the highest achieving readers and those who scored the lowest on the test. Students who score in the top 10 percent of the NAEP, the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams, scored slightly higher than in 1992, while those in the bottom 10 percent scored lower.

This is a serious problem that requires serious focus and a serious effort of change. We have spent $125 billion of Title I money over 25 years, money spent on low income students. And if the truth be told, we have little to show for it. This is not just wasted money; more importantly, it is wasted potential and wasted hope.

America's schools are increasingly separate and unequal, and that is unacceptable in our great land. We must do more than tinker around the edges. We must all come together and fight for real reform and real change. Effective education reform requires both pressure from above and competition from below. We must challenge schools with higher standards and arm parents with better options. I'm asking that every State have a real accountability system, meaning that they test every child, every year, in grades three through eight, on the basics of reading and math. Without yearly testing, we don't know—we don't know who's falling behind and who needs help. Without yearly testing, too often we don't find failure until it is too late to fix.

One of the greatest benefits of testing is the information it gives to parents. Given that information, more parents will be involved, becoming participants, not spectators in the education of their children. Armed with that information, parents will have leverage to force reform.

Yes, we also need to empower parents by giving them more options and more influence. And my administration, with the help of a lot of folks—some of them Republicans, a lot of them Democrats—[*laughter*]—are pushing toward that goal. I don't view this as a partisan issue. I view this as incredibly important public policy that rises above politics.

People on the Hill who will decide the shape of the Federal legislation must understand that supporting parents and giving them options is not a partisan issue; it's a people issue. And here's some ideas that I hope the Congress listens to. First, I'm an enthusiastic supporter of charter schools. Charter schools are beginning to change our understanding of public education, no question about it. These schools are public, because they're publicly funded and publicly accountable for results. The vision of parents and teachers and principals determines the rest. And the competition charter schools oftentimes provide can serve as an agent to strengthen other schools. You see, you hear a lot of talk about, well, we can't have charter schools or choice because some school is going to be left behind. That's got it backwards. [*Laughter*] Excellence in neighborhoods means excellence in another neighborhood. It means raising the bar.

Ours is an administration that wants the Congress to provide funding to assist charter schools with startup costs, facility costs, and other needs associated with high quality schools. My budget offers 150 million in additional funding next year for the priority of encouraging the growth of charter schools all around the country.

Secondly, the education proposal I submitted to Congress gives alternatives for students trapped in persistently dangerous schools. States must report to parents whether or not the schools are safe. And if safety does not improve, students must get the option of attending another public school.

Third, Congress is considering legislation that would allow Title I funding to follow children after a failing school has failed to improve after a reasonable period of time. If a child—if a school receives Title I funding and progress is not being made—in other words, the school refuses to change; the schoolchild is trapped in failure—then the money, the Federal money attributable to that child should follow the child. And the

parent should be able to make a choice of any kind of school that he or she wants to send her child to.

I vigorously campaigned on this idea because I think it is right. And it's an idea that I remain strongly committed to. I don't believe the Federal Government should fund persistent failure. I think there's a role for Federal Government in funding education, but we need to do better than we've done in the past. We need to encourage accountability. And when we find success, we need to thank the teachers and principals. When we find failure, we must give parents different options—different options.

We've also submitted a plan to increase education savings accounts, to expand them from $500 to $5,000 a year. And parents will be able to use these funds for any educated-related expense, from kindergarten to college and beyond.

The goal of these reforms is to ensure that every child in every school receives a quality education. That's the goal. And it's time we moved beyond the old arguments and old divides to make sure that we fulfill our duty that no child in America is left behind. It is time to set aside the old partisan bickering and finger-pointing and name-calling that comes from freeing parents to make different choices for their children. We can do better in America—we can do better.

I realize that all the differences between parties and people on different sides of the choice issue will not dissolve overnight. I understand that, and so do you. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to fight for good ideas and herald a philosophy that is eminently fair and hopeful and optimistic for every single child, regardless of their neighborhood or their income status.

That's what this is all about. It's really about the promise of America, what America should be about. And that's providing hope and opportunity for every single citizen, regardless of where you're from. There are some encouraging signs; there are. Slowly but surely, people are beginning to understand the logic behind accountability, the understanding that we can't accept failure, the need to trust individuals to make right decisions for their children. Slowly but surely, people are hearing that message. And I want to thank you for your help.

I have come to realize that ordinary folks can have a big influence on the process in Washington, DC, that ours is a responsive democracy, and that you're only one e-mail away—[*laughter*]—from telling somebody how you think. And it's helpful—it's helpful. We're doing the right thing. We're doing the right thing for our country.

I believe we can get positive results out of the Congress. I believe we can make progress toward reforming a system that is working in some places and not working in others. I know we can have quality education for every child. And when we do, this great land of ours—by the way, the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth—will be even greater. We'll be even greater.

Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to former Representative Rev. Floyd H. Flake, senior pastor, Cathedral of the Allen A.M.E. Church in Jamaica, New York. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Remarks on Signing a Proclamation Commemorating the Birth of Thomas Jefferson

April 12, 2001

Good afternoon. Welcome. Welcome back, Thomas. [*Laughter*] Senator Warner and Senator Allen, it's good to see both. Congressman Goode, welcome. The first lady of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it's good to see you again. And I want to thank all the descendants of Thomas Jefferson who are here. I want to thank the Jefferson scholars who are here. I want to thank my fellow Americans who are here. Welcome to the White House.

As the White House's latest tenant, it is my pleasure to say, welcome back, Thomas Jefferson. Most people don't realize this, but Thomas Jefferson and I share a hobby: we

both like to make up words. [*Laughter*] According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Mr. Jefferson contributed more new words to the language than any other U.S. President. I especially like his term for barbaric pirates: barbaresques. [*Laughter*] I'm also impressed by his words: debarrass and graffage.

The other day I tried a new word for our press corps: misunderestimate. [*Laughter*] It's not quite in Jefferson's league, but I am giving it my best shot. [*Laughter*]

As you know, I've been trying to reduce taxes. Thomas Jefferson and I agree here, as well. He warned that government must expend the public money with the same care and economy we would practice with our own and impose on our own citizens no unnecessary burdens. That's something for all of us to think about, especially Members of the House and the Senate. [*Laughter*]

Jefferson can be quoted by the hour. He lived a long time ago, yet he still speaks directly to the present. Few former Presidents survive more vividly in our memories. And we feel his presence especially strongly in this place.

This is the room where Jefferson's Secretary, as Mr. Jefferson accurately pointed out, Meriwether Lewis, had his office in his bedroom, right here in this room. And it was here he embarked on his great expedition to the Pacific.

In this house, Jefferson famously wore his carpet slippers to receive the British King's Ambassador. In the Green Room, he delighted his guests with his insights into science and philosophy and law—any subject, except what Jefferson called the hated occupation of politics.

Jefferson holds the American imagination because he articulated the American creed. We declared our independence with his words that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights. Jefferson is the poet laureate of American freedom.

Our world echoes with Jefferson's ideals, even though Jefferson did not always act as if they were true. The same Thomas Jefferson who wrote the original ordinance banning slavery in the Northwest Territories lived on the labor of slaves. The same Jefferson who denied racial equality spoke ringing words of equal rights. He doubted the existence of the Christian God, but he trembled for his country when he remembered that the God he doubted was just.

No wonder America sees itself in Thomas Jefferson. He was what we are: marked with faults, inspired by strong ideals. Thomas Jefferson still inspires us. He believed that education was the key to human potential. We must be committed to educating every single child in America.

His Louisiana Purchase threw open the opportunities of this vast country, and we must dedicate ourselves to extending opportunity wider and wider. Above all, Jefferson believed in liberty, in the ability of citizens to govern their own country and govern their own lives. We must always affirm this democratic faith.

Like many great men, Thomas Jefferson leaves behind a complex legacy. Tomorrow would have been his 258th birthday. On his 358th birthday, Americans will still be debating his achievements and his faults, his words and his deeds.

Perhaps the best verdict came from one of Jefferson's keenest admirers and sharpest critics, the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was invited in 1859 to come to Boston to speak at a Jefferson birthday event in that city. He was unable to attend and so he put his thoughts in a letter. At that time, Jefferson was a contentious name in American politics. His memory had been hijacked by slaveholders who distorted many of his deeds and most of his words. But Lincoln saw further and deeper.

When the view beyond the south window was swamp and the stump of the Washington Monument, when there were no cherry blossoms, no Jefferson Memorial, no Monticello on the nickel, and no Jefferson Building for the Library of Congress, Lincoln could still see the enduring meaning of Thomas Jefferson in American and world history. Here is what he wrote:

> All honor to Jefferson, to the man who in the concrete pressure of a struggle for

national independence by a single people had the coolness, forecast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and at all times. And so, to embalm it there, that today and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling block to the very harbingers of a reappearing tyranny and oppression.

Happy birthday, Mr. Jefferson.

And now I am honored to sign a proclamation celebrating Thomas Jefferson's birth and his continuing influence on our great land.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Roxane Gilmore, wife of Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia.

Proclamation 7426—Thomas Jefferson Day, 2001

April 12, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's Founding Fathers overcame enormous obstacles to establish a system of government unequaled in history. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, courage, and honor. But among these legendary patriots, Thomas Jefferson remains unique as the one who articulated the essential values and principles of American liberty and freedom. Today, we gather here to celebrate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson and to reflect on his enduring contributions to the United States and the world.

Few Americans have shaped our collective destiny as thoroughly and as originally as Thomas Jefferson. His achievements are breathtaking in their scope and diversity. Beyond his achievements in public life as Governor of Virginia, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, Secretary of State, third President of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia, Jefferson was a scholar, author, naturalist, inventor, bibliophile, and architect.

As President, Jefferson supported the Lewis and Clark expedition and concluded the $15 million purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France. He sold his personal library to the Library of Congress to replace its collection destroyed by the British in the War of 1812.

Thomas Jefferson's crowning achievement, however, was the Declaration of Independence. As its primary author, Jefferson drafted an immortal document that altered the way the world viewed the relationship between government and the governed. Jefferson's assertion of "inalienable rights" including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" established the democratic standard by which our Nation would measure itself. Many other nations and peoples likewise strive to measure up to the standard set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson's words are as thrilling and inspiring in 2001 as they must have been to his revolutionary allies in 1776. Our Nation has changed, our technology has progressed, but our basic love for liberty and freedom remains the same. As proud Americans, we must work together to maintain the vigor and strength of Jefferson's vision and to fulfill its promise of a better life for all our citizens. Doing this is our responsibility, and our gift, to the man who laid the foundation for what became the freest nation in the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2001, as Thomas Jefferson Day. I encourage all Americans to join in this celebration of Thomas Jefferson's achievements, and to learn more about his unique influence on our history, traditions, and values.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 17.

Remarks on the Return of United States Navy Aircraft Crewmembers From China

April 12, 2001

Good afternoon. A short time ago I had the opportunity to speak to the 24 members of our United States flightcrew and welcome them home to America.

I told them they represent the best of American patriotism and service to their country. They did their duty with honor and with great professionalism. They are a reminder of the debt of gratitude all Americans owe to the men and women who wear our country's uniform and who voluntarily risk their lives in the service of freedom.

We are proud of our crew. And I am glad that they will be with their families this Easter weekend.

I know I speak for all Americans in saluting their courage and the extraordinary skill of the pilot, Navy Lieutenant Osborn, who guided the severely damaged aircraft to an emergency landing that saved 24 lives.

We're looking forward to talking with the flightcrew about exactly how the accident happened. From all the evidence we have seen, the United States aircraft was operating in international airspace in full accordance with all laws, procedures, and regulations and did nothing to cause the accident.

The United States and China have agreed that representatives of our Governments will meet on April 18th to discuss the accident. I will ask our United States representative to ask the tough questions about China's recent practice of challenging United States aircraft operating legally in international airspace.

Reconnaissance flights are a part of a comprehensive national security strategy that helps maintain peace and stability in our world. During the last 11 days, the United States and China have confronted strong emotions, deeply held and often conflicting convictions, and profoundly different points of view. China's decision to prevent the return of our crew for 11 days is inconsistent with the kind of relationship we have both said we wish to have.

As we move forward, the United States and China will no doubt again face difficult issues and fundamental disagreements. We disagree on important basic issues such as human rights and religious freedom. At times, we have different views about the path to a more stable and secure Asian-Pacific region.

We have different values, yet common interests in the world. We agree on the importance of trade, and we want to increase prosperity for our citizens. We want the citizens of both our countries to enjoy the benefits of peace in the world, so we need to work together on global security problems, such as preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

I will always stand squarely for American interests and American values. And those will no doubt sometimes cause disagreements with China. Yet, I will approach our differences in a spirit of respect.

The kind of incident we have just been through does not advance a constructive relationship between our two countries. Both the United States and China must make a determined choice to have a productive relationship that will contribute to a more secure, more prosperous, and more peaceful world.

I know I speak for all Americans when I say, welcome home to our flightcrew. I want to thank the families for your patience and for your sacrifice, and I wish all my fellow Americans a rich and meaningful Easter and Passover.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Shane Osborn, USN.

Statement on Federal Regulations on Privacy of Medical Records

April 12, 2001

Today I directed Secretary Thompson to allow a Federal rule that will protect the privacy of medical information for millions of Americans to become effective. For the first time, patients will have full access to their medical records and more control over how their personal information will be used and disclosed. The rule also provides a clear avenue of recourse for those Americans whose medical privacy has been compromised.

This rule will help address patients' growing concerns regarding medical privacy. Although impressive advances in medicine and information technology have helped make America's health care system the best in the world, our new technologies have at times made it more difficult to protect personal medical information. I believe that we must protect both vital health care services and the right of every American to have confidence that his or her personal medical records will remain private.

I recognize that legitimate concerns have been raised about the current rule, which I share, such as parents' concern that the rule limits their right to have access to their children's medical records. I have asked Secretary Thompson to recommend appropriate modifications to the rule to address these concerns and to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of health care. Improving our health care system while protecting the confidentiality of patient records will continue to be an important goal of my administration.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

April 12, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with various resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. The last report, consistent with Public Law 102–1, was transmitted on January 19, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message on the Observance of Easter

April 13, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those observing Easter. On this day, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man.

For Christians everywhere, Easter is a day when, in the words of the ancient Exultet hymn, the earth "rejoices in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of its King." It is a time to be humbled by and grateful for God's sacrifice and boundless love and to rejoice in the sheer wonder of life and the promise of victory over death.

Easter comes at the end of the Lenten season, a period of penitence and solemnity in many Christian traditions. The Lenten season prepares Christ's followers for the joyous affirmation that "Christ is Risen!" Holy Week activities, including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, remind the faithful of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Many traditions associated with Easter have become a part of our American way of life. Although these customs may differ, the universal message of Easter draws all Christian communities together. As families and friends gather to celebrate, we renew our commitment to follow the example of Jesus Christ in loving our neighbors and giving of ourselves for others. On this joyous day, let us also remember all those in need and those Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful Easter.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 8

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President had a telephone conversation with Tiger Woods congratulating him on winning the Masters golf tournament.

April 9

In the afternoon, the President met separately with President Robert Kocharian of Armenia and President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan in the Oval Office.

The President announced the naming of Scott H. Evertz as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Armendariz to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sarah V. Hart to be Director of the National Institute of Justice at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirin Raziuddin Tahir-Kheli to be the Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon H. Mansfield to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Amir Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain for a working visit on May 7.

April 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Concord, NC, where he toured Concord Middle School. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Greenville, NC, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jon A. Hansen to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard R. Nedelkoff to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

April 12

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Russell F. Freeman to be Ambassador to Belize.

The President announced his intention to nominate John N. Palmer to be Ambassador to Portugal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel R. Coats to be Ambassador to Germany.

The White House announced that the President contacted Attorney General John Ashcroft concerning recent events in Cincinnati, OH.

April 13

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., to be Ambassador to Sweden.

The White House announced that the President invited President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia to the White House on May 2.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon at the White House on April 24.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Bahraini Amir To Visit Washington

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels on the Federal budget

Released April 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released April 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Chinese agreement to release U.S. Navy aircraft crewmembers

Text of a letter from U.S. Ambassador to China Joseph W. Prueher to Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan of China

Released April 12

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's signing legislation designating Post Offices in Hawaii and Florida

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's contact with Attorney General Ashcroft concerning Cincinnati, OH, events

Transcript of remarks as prepared for delivery by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry

Released April 13

Statement by the Press Secretary: Lebanese Prime Minister To Visit Washington

Announcement: President and Mrs. Bush Release 2000 Tax Return

Announcement: Vice President and Mrs. Cheney Release 2000 Income Tax Return

Announcement by the Press Secretary on the visit of President Trajkovski of Macedonia

Acts Approved by the President

Approved April 12

H.R. 132 / Public Law 107–6
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Jacaranda Street in Lanai City, Hawaii, as the "Goro Hokama Post Office Building"

H.R. 395 / Public Law 107–7
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida"

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

April 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy Toward Burma" in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104–208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

1) progress toward democratization in Burma;
2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and
3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit the attached report fulfilling these requirements for the period September 28, 2000, through March 27, 2001, to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13, and it was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Compliance With the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

April 12, 2001

Dear _____:

Attached is the 2000 Report on CFE Compliance. The report is prepared pursuant to Condition 5(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe of November 19, 1990. The report was prepared by the previous Administration.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13, and it was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 14, 2001

Good morning. This weekend I am at home in Crawford, Texas, with my wife and my family. Millions of other families are also spending time together this weekend, and Laura and I wish you all a happy Easter.

Our thoughts are also with the men and women of our military, deployed around the world and away from their families. They have our sincere gratitude. And on this holiday, we offer the thanks of our Nation to

the 24 service men and women who are no longer in China and are now home.

This weekend also marks the close of Passover, when Jews recall their deliverance from oppression. We hope this Passover has been a time of reflection and renewal.

Renewal is the hope of every person and the promise of many religions. This season signifies the hope of renewal, a reawakening, a fresh vision of our lives and our possibilities. And in this season, we are reminded that on the path of renewal, we are not alone. We have one another, family members and friends, who know us and accept us as we are. And if we're very fortunate, we have people in our lives who see us not just as we are but also as we can be. That is the love of family.

And many of us trust a Creator who knows us and loves us and has a plan for our lives. We cannot know where that plan will lead us on Earth, but we are assured that it leads nearer to God. This is the comfort of faith.

In this season of renewal, we remember that failures in life are never final, that hope leads us closer to the truth, that in the end, even death itself will be defeated. And that is the shared belief of many faiths, and that is the promise of Easter morning.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on April 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks to the United States Chamber of Commerce

April 16, 2001

Thank you very much. Kelly, thank you very much for that kind introduction. It's an honor for me to be here. Tom, thank you for opening up this fantastic facility. I am thrilled to know that some of my former Governors are with members of the chambers in their respective States, and I want to say hello to them. I thank all those who are tuning in. It's kind of nice to be able to speak to so many folks in so many cities without having to fire up Air Force One. [*Laughter*]

I'm especially honored to be able to speak to the folks who really help our economy grow, the entrepreneurs, the business folks of America, the employers, the risk takers, the people who really work hard to realize the great American Dream.

As Kelly said, this is tax day. All across America, husbands and wives spent last weekend side-by-side at the kitchen table trying to finish their 1040s. You have to say this for the income tax, it tends to bring families together. [*Laughter*]

The Internal Revenue Service asks our families in America a lot of questions: How much did you earn? Did you move last year? How big is your mortgage payment? You know, the truth of the matter is, the IRS knows more about us than our neighbors do. In a lot of cases, they know more about us than our families do. But while the tax system knows a lot about our citizens, there's a lot our citizens may not know about our tax system.

In 2001 the Federal Government will take a bigger share of the U.S. economy in taxes than in any year since 1944. And I remind you, in 1944 we had 11.5 million people under arms. The Federal Government will take more as a percentage of the national economy this year than it did during World War II, except for one year, more than any year of the Vietnam war or the Korean conflict, more than it took to win World War I or prevail in the cold war. Our country is at peace, but our Government is charging wartime prices. Enough is enough. The American people deserve tax relief.

You often hear it said, we cannot afford tax relief. But even after adjusting for inflation, the U.S. Government will collect twice as much income tax revenue in 2001 as it did in 1981. Enough is enough, folks. It's time to give our folks some tax relief in America.

During the budget debates in Washington, some Members of Congress complained that they did not have enough money to spend, but in 2001 the income tax will yield 2 billion in revenues for each and every one of the 535 Members of Congress. I think they should be able to get by on that—[*laughter*]—even the Senators. [*Laughter*] No,

enough's enough. People in America deserve tax relief.

Thanks to the help of a lot of folks here and all around the country, tax relief is on the way. The American taxpayer won some important victories a couple of weeks ago. The House of Representatives voted in favor of a plan that I think is an important plan, 1.6 trillion in tax relief over the next 10 years. The Senate approved most of my tax plan but wants the Government to spend far more.

Some Members of the Senate are, unfortunately, proving the point I make all across the country: If you send it, they will spend it. [*Laughter*] Federal discretionary spending rose by 8 percent in 2001. The Senate has just voted to increase the discretionary spending by another 8 percent in 2002. At that rate, Federal discretionary spending will double by 2010. Think about that. If we keep spending at the pace the Senate wants, in only 9 years' time Government operations will cost twice as much as they do today.

Now, Senators are in their home States this week listening to the taxpayers. I hope Americans will send a clear message: Excessive Federal spending threatens economic vitality. What we want is a stronger economy, not larger Federal Government.

There's a better way: Increase discretionary spending by a moderate and responsible 4 percent—by the way, at a rate larger than inflation—and then reduce taxes for everyone who pays taxes.

My plan does not puncture the Tax Code with loopholes. It doesn't give special treatment to special interests. My plan targets only one interest, the public interest. It directs help to individuals and families and small businesses. It is a plan for real people, and it will help produce real prosperity.

Let me tell you a little bit about what tax relief means for American families. My plan, when fully implemented, returns about $1,600 to the typical family of four. Sixteen-hundred pays the typical mortgage for more than a month. Sixteen-hundred will buy the typical family nearly 3 months worth of groceries. Sixteen-hundred will fuel two cars for a year.

There are a lot of American mothers and dads who wake up in America today anxious over bills they have to pay. Their worries don't get any easier when the Federal Government takes more of their income in taxes than they pay for food, shelter, and clothing. For families with children to raise and debts to pay, tax relief will lift burdens and ease worries.

For small businesses, tax relief means more customers and improved cash flow, more money to hire more workers, more money to expand benefits, more money to invest in new technology. Tax relief will create new jobs. Tax relief will generate new wealth, and tax relief will open new opportunities.

If you read some of the news accounts of this budget debate, if you listen to what some of the Members of Congress say, you'd think that little of value can ever happen in America unless the Government makes it happen. You'd think that when we return money to the taxpayers, it evaporates into the air.

Let me tell you some of the things 1.6 trillion could mean to the private economy. It could buy 10 million new middle income homes. It could pay the tuitions of 26 million young people at a private college or university for 4 years each. It could purchase 76 million new automobiles. These are the kinds of things Americans do with their own money. And there are many others.

Just ask Tommy and Sharen Winfield, for example. They're watching via closed circuit here from Atlanta, Georgia. The Winfields have three children. Tommy has been working as an operating engineer at Children's Hospital of Atlanta for the past 3 years. They pay $1,380 in Federal income taxes. Under my plan, they'd pay nothing.

I first met Tommy a few weeks ago, and we were having a roundtable discussion about tax relief. I asked him whether he thought the relief would make a difference to his family—you see, there are some who say, "Thirteen-eighty, that's nothing. That's not enough money for anybody." But let me tell you what Tommy said loud and clear, and I hope the Members of the United States Congress hear it. Tommy said, "Sir, if they don't believe you"—meaning, whether or not tax relief means anything—"then they should just ask me." Thirteen-eighty means a lot to Tommy. It means a lot to a lot of folks in

America: those who are struggling with higher energy bills because we hadn't had an energy policy; those who have got big credit card debts.

We've got the Blake family with us from Alexandria, Virginia, Kelly and Pam—one less son. [*Laughter*] They pay $4,000 in Federal income tax. Under my plan, they will save $1,700. That's real money for this hardworking couple. They and their two sons, I can assure you, will find good use for that tax relief. And whatever they do, I strongly believe they will spend it better and more productively than the Federal Government can.

This is an important debate for our country. It's a debate about how to make sure our economy continues to grow. But it's really a debate about, who do we trust? Who do—those of us who have been honored to serve our country at the Federal level—who do we trust with the people's money? Do we trust our Government, or do we trust the people? I believe, after we meet priorities—and we meet priorities by growing the discretionary budget by 4 percent—that we always have got to remember whose money it is we're talking about. It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And we've always got to remember, the role of Government is not to create wealth. It's to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to become a big business. That's the role of Government. And that's why it's vital at this point in American history that we return money back to the people. Instead of returning money, we ought not to take it in the first place, with real meaningful tax relief.

I've learned that the people can make a big difference in a lot of debates, particularly the tax relief debate. We're making some pretty good progress. I saw a good Democrat Senator out of Georgia the other day. Max Cleland said that he is interested in—when he comes back—interested in supporting the $1.6 trillion plan. I think that's what he said. It certainly sounded like it to me. [*Laughter*] And that's a good sign. I appreciate the Senator going home and listening to the people.

You see, I think we've finally made the case that we can meet the obligations of the Federal Government, that we don't have to grow at 8 percent in order to meet obligations. We've also made the case that sending money back to the people is important for our economy and important for the American Dream. And I want to thank your help for it.

I want to invite all Americans to take a look at the budget plan themselves. You can order the little book by calling 202–512–1800, and ask for the Citizen's Guide to the Federal Budget. Or you can download it for free at www.whitehouse.government.

It's important for you to follow your Government closely. It's important for you to not let the filter decide what's reality and what's not reality. It's important to get the facts. And it's always important to understand that tax relief will stimulate creativity and enterprise for individual Americans.

I firmly believe tax relief means a better life in a more prosperous America. So let the Members of Congress know when they come back that you're watching, that you care for what they do because it will affect your life in a positive way.

I can't thank you all enough for your support, and I can't thank you enough for letting me come by and make my case.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Kelly N. Stanley, chairman, and Thomas J. Donohue, president and chief executive officer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Tommy and Sharon Winfield's children, Joy and Tiffany Winfield and Ager Hilson; and Kelly and Pam Blake's children, Jeremy and Jared.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Ricardo Lagos of Chile and an Exchange With Reporters

April 16, 2001

Chile-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

President Bush. I'm very honored to welcome the President of Chile here to the Oval Office. Chile is a remarkable country. It's a country that is a strong democracy, that has shown people in this hemisphere the importance of rule of law. I look forward to renewing a friendship with the President.

I also look forward to talking about free trade. I'm confident that by the time this year is over we will conclude a free trade agreement with Chile. It's in our Nation's best interest to do so. And finally, I think some Members of Congress could take a good—could take some lessons from Chile, particularly when it comes to how to run our pension plans. Our Social Security system needs to be modernized, Mr. President, and I look forward to getting some suggestions as to how to do so, since you have done so, so well.

But anyway, I welcome you to our country. And thank you very much for being here.

President Lagos. I would like to take this opportunity, and I would like to say that I agree with the President that our team has to work hard, very hard, in order to be able to conclude an agreement by the end of the year. And this is so, I'm sure, that the shared investment in our countries are going to increase for the benefit of our population in order to give equal opportunities to everybody.

We have common shares and common goals, not only common interests but common shares and values with the U.S., in democracy, respect to human rights, a market economy. And we are trying to do the best to have equal opportunities for everybody. And I think that these are the major goals for your administration, our administration. And we have to work in that direction. I'm sure that the trade agreement, if we are able to conclude, is going to be important to go in this direction.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Mr. President, thank you, sir.

President Bush. The ground rules are: a question from the American side and then a question from the Chilean side.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Sir, last August, when you were a candidate, you said in Miami that when the next President sits at the American Summit, other nations must know that fast-track trade authority is on the way. Why are you going to Quebec with no promise of fast-track authority, and are you willing to compromise with Democrats to get it?

President Bush. Well, I'd certainly like to have what they call fast-track authority. It would—most Presidents have had it. It's important for the President to fight for the right to be able to negotiate trade agreements without amendment. I believe we're making progress toward regaining that power for the President.

In the meantime, we can negotiate a bilateral treaty with Chile. It's a separate issue. I'm confident we can get it done, Mr. President. Ambassador Zoellick is here. Ambassador Zoellick and the rest of my administration are committed to not only having a good trade agreement with Chile, but also giving the President the trade promotion authority. And we'll discuss ways to get it out of the Congress when the Congress gets back.

I had a meeting with the leadership on both sides of the aisle to talk about trade promotion authority. I believe we can get—I believe we can get it done. It's going to require a lot of hard work and effort to do so.

Q. Are you willing to compromise to do it, sir?

President Bush. See, what happens here in American politics, Mr. President, is people are always trying to get me to put my cards on the table. [*Laughter*]

President Lagos. That's the same down there, you know. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. That happens in Chile, too? [*Laughter*]

Arms Sales to Chile

Q. Mr. President, Chile is looking to buy F–16 planes to the United States, to modernize their army. What do you think of the sales of sophisticated arms to Latin America? Are you willing to support the requests of Chile?

President Bush. I'm willing to discuss this matter with the President. I look forward to this being on the agenda that we're about to have. And we will listen to any request that our friends in our hemisphere make. I will tell you this, I am confident that Chile is a peaceful nation. I'm confident that they're a democracy that's—that intends to

make the world more peaceful. And that's a good place to begin our discussion.

Thank you, all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7427—National Volunteer Week, 2001

April 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America is blessed with millions of individuals of good will and good works who play significant roles in making positive change in the lives of others.

While Government has great responsibilities for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools, compassion is the work of a Nation. Caring requires more than Government alone can provide. Many of society's greatest problems can only be solved on a personal level, between those who care and those in need.

During times of war and natural disaster, Americans have provided relief to those in need. Yet every day there are less publicized instances of human need to which America's quiet heroes respond with equal strength and vigor. Americans con tribute food to soup kitchens and clothes to shelters and give love to at-risk children, counsel to those who have been abused, and friendship to those in hospitals and nursing homes. From building a new home for a young family to bringing a meal to an elderly neighbor who is housebound, there are countless ways we can invest our time and resources to provide compassionate help to our neighbors.

The faith community is a particularly rich source of volunteer strength in America. Government can rally a military, but it cannot put hope in our hearts or a sense of purpose in our lives. Faith motivates countless volunteers and calls on them to use their talents to improve their neighborhoods in ways that are beyond Government's know-how. Church and charity, synagogue, and mosque form an essential part of our communities and their indispensable work must have an honored place in our plans and in our laws. Government can and should unleash the best impulses of the American spirit by welcoming faith-based organizations, as well as other community groups, as partners in encouraging the high calling of serving others.

This week provides an opportunity to thank those who give so much throughout the year to help those less fortunate. It should also serve as a challenge to each of us to devote more energy to seeking a common good beyond our comfort. What individual Americans do is more important than anything Government does. We must all heed Albert Schweitzer's counsel: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 28, 2001, as National Volunteer Week. During this week, I call on all Americans to celebrate the invaluable work that volunteers do everyday across our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 19.

Remarks to the Organization of American States

April 17, 2001

Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much. Secretary General, distinguished Ambassadors, it's a pleasure for me to be here at the OAS. Thank you for having me.

I want to recognize, before I begin, Luigi Einaudi. He has ably served our Government

for decades. He's now lent his skills and experience to the OAS. It is clear that he and the Secretary General have made a very good team. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

As I prepare to go to the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, I thought it was important to make a visit to the house of the Americas. It was a good meeting. I just had a good meeting with the Secretary General. We had a good discussion about the future of the OAS and its important role. We discussed opportunities and challenges that our hemisphere faces.

Today I want to speak with you about our shared future and the important role the OAS will play in helping to shape it. Our gathering in Quebec comes at a remarkable moment in history. All the nations of this hemisphere, save one, have embraced a collective commitment to democracy and to the fundamental freedoms that underlie democracy.

We have embraced a collective challenge to build a hemisphere that trades in freedom and grows in prosperity. We have embraced a collective responsibility to break down the barriers of poverty, disease, ignorance, so individuals may better realize their full, God-given potential. The OAS has an important role to play in these common goals.

In lands where liberty is threatened by corruption, drugs, and human rights abuses, the OAS is helping combat these destructive forces. Along borders where tensions run high, the OAS helps build confidence and avoid crises. And in lands where freedom's hold is fragile, the OAS is there to strengthen it.

The OAS's recent work in Peru is an example of this organization's commitment to democracy. The election, held there on April the 8th, was peaceful and well-run. And we know this: It is a direct result of the Secretary General's involvement. And our hemisphere is grateful, Mr. Secretary.

We need to build on successes like these. The United States hopes, for example, that the OAS can serve as a valuable mediator in Haiti between President Aristide and the democratic opposition. We also need to build on the progress the OAS has made in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. Thanks to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, our hemisphere is more united in addressing this problem, both in supply and, I might remind you, in demand than it has ever been before. And the Commission's new evaluation system for monitoring nations' progress in fighting drugs is a major achievement.

In this week's Quebec Summit, our goal is simple yet profound. The discussions we hold and the mandates we produce must help improve the lives of people throughout our hemisphere. A summit is given meaning and value by concrete results. We must strengthen democratic institutions in this hemisphere to give reality to the forms of democracy. This means improving judicial institutions and making government more open.

Good government is essential to building the trust of our citizens. And democratic values must remain the core of our hemispheric familia. As Prime Minister Chretien so aptly said in this very hall last February, "We must ensure that smaller economies are provided the assistance they need to implement trade agreements and to realize the full benefits of a more integrated hemisphere."

We must extend the benefits of education in this hemisphere. Both development and democracy in the long term depend on education. We must build the skills and reward the hopes of all our people. And we must affirm our commitment to complete negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas by January 2005. Nothing we do in Quebec will be more important or have a greater long-term impact. It will make our hemisphere the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing 34 countries and 800 million people.

There's a vital link between freedom of people and freedom of commerce. Democratic freedoms cannot flourish unless our hemisphere also builds a prosperity whose benefits are widely shared. And open trade is the essential foundation for that prosperity and that possibility.

Open trade fuels the engines of economic growth that creates new jobs and new income. It applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It spurs the process of economic and legal reform. It helps dismantle protectionist bureaucracies that stifle incentive and invite corruption, and open

trade reinforces the habits of liberty that sustain democracy over the long term.

For all these reasons, my administration is committed to pursuing open trade at every opportunity. We'll pursue open trade bilaterally with individual nations such as Chile and Singapore and Jordan. We'll pursue open trade globally through a new round of multilateral negotiations. We want to open global markets so that our farmers and ranchers and workers and service providers and high-tech entrepreneurs can enjoy the benefits of a more integrated world. And of course, we'll pursue these goals throughout our hemisphere through the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Since open trade is one of my top priorities for our hemisphere, gaining U.S. trade promotion authority is one of my top priorities in Congress. I made this clear in my first address to the Congress. We have reinforced this message in meetings my Cabinet officers and I have had with over 100 Members of Congress. Trade promotion authority gives our trading partners confidence that they can rely on the deals that they negotiate. It allows us to seize opportunities to expand the circle of trade and prosperity.

We're now actively working with Congress on a strategy for passing legislation granting the trade promotion authority. We'll intensify this effort when I return from Quebec, and I'm confident we'll succeed.

Shortly after the summit, we'll also publish the initial working draft of our hemispheric free trade agreement. This will allow our citizens from all our countries to see what is being negotiated and give them a chance to provide their views on this important document.

Just a few moments ago, the Secretary General and I walked from his office, and we passed the Hall of Heroes. The great leaders honored there embody the spirit of cooperation that characterizes the OAS. These visionaries imagined a future in which the Americas would be bound together in a common effort to create a hemisphere that is both free and prosperous.

Today, we have the opportunity to realize that dream. Together, it is our responsibility to seize the moment.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Colombian Ambassador to the OAS Humberto de la Calle, who introduced the President; OAS Secretary General César Gaviria; OAS Assistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi; President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. A portion of the President's opening remarks were in Spanish and a translation was provided on the White House transcript.

Statement on Environmental Protection Agency Action on Lead Poisoning

April 17, 2001

I support Administrator Whitman's decision to implement a rule to significantly expand and disclose the information available to the public about the presence of lead and lead emissions in their communities.

Lead is a persistent and highly toxic substance that can cause a range of environmental and health problems. It has an especially harmful impact on the health of children and infants. And it is found too often in some of America's older, poorer communities. Under this new rule, workers, consumers, and communities will be provided crucial information about the presence of this toxic substance.

To assist in complying with this rule, I have asked Administrator Whitman to provide technical assistance to affected small businesses to help them prepare their first reports.

This is an important and responsible approach that will protect American families and our environment from unnecessary exposure to lead. My administration will continue to support and promote efforts based on sound science to clean our air, water, and land.

Proclamation 7428—National Park Week, 2001

April 17, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States boasts an incredible wealth of natural beauty. From rugged coastlines and thick forests to arid deserts and canyons, our diverse landscapes represent a treasured heritage of which all Americans can be proud.

Our country's commitment to the conservation of its open spaces runs deep. The Nation founded Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and thereby generated renewed appreciation for the great outdoors among Americans. Our country's actions inspired other countries to follow suit by establishing their own national parks or equivalent preserves.

Since the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, our national parks have grown to occupy a special place in the hearts of the American people. As responsible stewards, we must leave them in good condition for those who follow us. By providing additional resources for their preservation and maintenance, we can prevent the deterioration in facilities and infrastructure that threatens their future well-being.

National parks are a testament to the natural wonders of our mountains, valleys, rivers, and streams. They remind us to take a break from the busy pace of modern society to experience the simpler pleasures of life and provide unique opportunities for personal recreation. Whether camping in Yosemite National Park or boating along Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, people of all ages can take in spectacular scenery and enjoy a relaxing time with family and friends.

The National Park Service also serves an educational purpose, honoring our heroes and preserving important historical landmarks. By visiting the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, the immigration station on Ellis Island or many other significant sites in our national parks, Americans gain a deeper understanding of our national story and the extraordinary people and events that paved the way for our development and progress.

National Park Week pays tribute to the importance of our national parks and recognizes the dedicated men and women entrusted with their care. The observance also calls attention to the need to reinvest in these national treasures by providing for their sound stewardship in the years to come. As timeless and majestic reminders of our outdoor heritage, America's national parks add immensely to our quality of life and represent a wonderful legacy that must be passed on to future generations.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 23 through April 29, 2001, as National Park Week. I encourage all Americans to visit our national parks and experience America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 20.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

April 17, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–13

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 538(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001, Public

Law 106–429, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24.

Remarks at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut

April 18, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. Governor, it's good to see you again. On the way in he heard I was going to get an honorary degree in law, and he said, "Does that make you a lawyer?" [*Laughter*] I said, "Nope." But it's such an honor to receive such a degree. I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank Dick Judd, and I want to thank all the folks here at Central for working so hard to make our visit a great visit.

I love your Governor. It seems like the people of Connecticut do, too. And like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be here with the First Lady of the State of Connecticut.

Sorry Laura is not with me today. She's doing a great job as the First Lady. I'm really proud of her. I'm proud of the fact that she's got her priorities straight: her faith and her family, her country, and teachers. She's spending a lot of time not only promoting literacy, but she's going to spend a lot of time encouraging people to become teachers, to saying to folks that are young and old alike, "If you can, get in the classroom. It makes a huge difference."

And so, for the teachers who are here, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for being teachers.

And for the young who are trying to figure out what they're going to do when they get older, think about teaching. It is a noble profession, and it's an important profession.

And to the moms and dads, always remember that good teaching starts at home; that a mother and a dad must be a teacher to their children. And it starts by remembering the most important job you'll have, if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, is to be a loving mom and a loving dad, to love our children with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. That's what it's all about.

In order for America to fulfill its promise, all of us must, if we're fortunate enough to be a parent, assume that responsibility and understand how important it is to start teaching our children at home, not only how to read and write and add and subtract but to teach them the meaning of love and hope and compassion. And we can do a better job of that in our homes in America, and we will do so. And when we do so, our classrooms will be easier places for our teachers to teach.

I'm honored to be traveling with members of the congressional delegation here from the State of Connecticut. First, Jim Maloney is here. Jim and I don't share the same party, but we share the same love for America. He serves his country because he loves America; I serve mine because I love America. We have got—figured out we can disagree in an agreeable way. It would be a lot easier if we disagreed less often. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, I'm honored he's traveling with us today. Thank you, Jim.

Rob Simmons is a Congressman from Connecticut, as well. He's newly elected. They tell me he's strong in his home district, and I know why—because he's doing a fabulous job in Washington. Rob, thank you very much. The old, wily veteran, Chris Shays, is with us today. He's solid. I've gotten to know Chris, and I respect him and like him a lot. He's a good, solid citizen.

And of course, the hometown girl is here with us. Nancy Johnson brings a lot of class to Washington, DC. She's so powerful—she said, "Mr. President, you make sure you

come to my hometown if you're coming to Connecticut." I said, "Yes, ma'am." [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the three Republican Members for supporting the budget I sent to the Congress. I want to tell you something about the budget. It's a budget that sets priorities—priorities to make sure our folks who wear the uniform of the military get paid well. It's a priority that understands we can do better with health care in America. So, we double the Medicare budget; we increase the number of folks who will be served in community health centers; we have money for tax credits for the working uninsured. It's a budget that fulfills promises by making sure that we don't dip into the Social Security Trust in order to meet discretionary spending needs. It's a good budget.

It's a budget, though, that has created some problems in Washington because it grows discretionary spending by 4 percent. And that creates some tension, because there's a lot of folks up there that would rather spend a lot more money than that. But let me remind you that 4 percent growth in discretionary spending is greater than the rate of inflation. It's more money on an increase than a lot of people's paychecks have gone up by. It's a pretty good chunk of money. It's real dollars.

The tradeoff is, either you have priorities and keep discretionary spending at 4 percent and give people some of their money back or you increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. And I've made it clear, I stand on the side of the people who pay the bills in America. If we grow the discretionary spending by 8 percent, it means that in 9 years, the discretionary budget of America will double, and that will crowd out private enterprise. It will make it hard to continue to grow our economy.

I believe strongly that what we did in the House is the right thing. And I believe strongly that we're making good progress toward real, meaningful tax relief. The House had a $1.6 trillion cut. The Senate is a little over $1.2 trillion. And the summation of the message is: Tax relief is on the way, and it's right for America. It's the right thing for our economy, and it's the right thing to give people their own money back—actually, not take it in the first place—so that you can make the decisions for your families, so you can save and dream and build.

The tax relief plan we submitted to the Congress says this: If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. It says we ought not try to pick and choose winners. The role of Washington isn't to say, "You get tax relief, and you don't get tax relief." That's not the role of Washington. The role of Washington is to say, "We're going to be fair. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief."

We cut the rates at the bottom end, and we cut the rates at the top end. Now, I know I've heard a lot of people talking about, "Well, you can't give tax relief to the people at the top end." I say, why not? If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. But I also want to remind people of this fact—that there are thousands of small businesses in America who are unincorporated, people who pay—who are sole proprietorships who pay taxes at the personal income level. There's a lot of small businesses who are creating new jobs who pay high taxes. And when you cut the top rate in America, what we're doing is sending this signal: The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. And tax relief means more money in the pockets of small-business owners in America. Ours is a tax plan that makes the code more fair.

The marriage penalty is unfair, and we need to do something about it right now. And do you know what else is unfair? The death tax is unfair. It's unfair to farmers and ranchers and small-business owners, and it's time to get rid of it.

Now, there's a myth in Washington that says you can't have meaningful, real tax relief. But those are the folks that want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. And it really is a matter of who you trust. And I'd rather have the American people spending the money than the Federal Government. Once we meet priorities, I trust the people with their own money. I trust the people of central Connecticut to make the right decisions for their families. I want more people to have more money in their pockets so they can save for their children's education or so they can build for their future.

And that's what this debate is all about, as far as I'm concerned. And I'm not yielding. I remember who—because I understand this: The surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money.

I mentioned a while ago that one of my priorities in the budget is education. The Department that gets the biggest increase of any Department in our budget is the Department of Education. It's important to spend money on education. I recognize that, and we do. And I'll talk about some of the spending initiatives that we set out. But I also want to remind you, money alone isn't going to solve our problems. And we have some problems.

Just 2 weeks ago, we received scores from the National Assessment of Education Progress; it's called the NAEP. It showed that American fourth-grade students are reading no better on average than fourth graders did 8 years ago. That's not right. The test also showed that in some neighborhoods the scores are going up, and in some neighborhoods the scores are going down, that there's a gap. And if there's a gap in literacy, you can imagine what that's going to mean in later years. And folks, we've got to do something about it in America. It's time to stop talking, and it's time to start doing something about it.

The Third International Mathematics and Science survey was released recently. It was a survey of eighth-grade students in 37 foreign countries and 13 American States. And there, the news isn't very good, either. Students in high scoring Michigan finished well behind students in Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. American students, overall, scored lower than students in Bulgaria. It's time to stop talking about things, and it's time to start doing some things to make sure our students can read and write and add and subtract. And I mean, early, before it's too late.

And that's the crux of the reforms I sent to the Congress, and I'd like to discuss those with you real quick. First, here are the principles involved. It means our Nation must set high standards and high expectations, just like Governor Rowland has done in the State of Connecticut. We've got to expect the best for every child. We cannot assume that only certain children can learn. We must have the attitude that every child in America, regardless of where they're raised or how they're born, can learn. Low standards will yield low results. We've got to raise the bar and expect the best in every classroom in America.

Secondly, we must trust local people to chart the path for excellence for the children of America. We must trust the Governors and local school board members and principals in schools. We must empower people at the local level, because one size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children in America.

And thirdly, we've got to measure. We've got to hold people accountable. We've got to insist that, for example, if you receive Federal money, you measure. I don't believe the Federal Government ought to design a national test, that would undermine the local control of schools. But I do believe that in return for taxpayers' money, that the local folks ought to develop accountability measures that tells us all whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is so important to have an accountability system become the cornerstone of reform in America.

And we're making progress on this issue, like we're making progress on the budget. The Members will be coming back from their Easter breaks and will be taking up the education reforms. I appreciate, for example, the work of Senator Joe Lieberman. Oh, I know that may surprise some in Connecticut or elsewhere in America to hear me say something nice about a man that tried to prevent me from becoming the President. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, like me, he's put aside the election, and he's focusing on what's right for America, and he's helping bring forth an education plan that embodies the principles that I just described. And I appreciate his hard work and his support on this measure. And we've agreed on some core principles.

We haven't agreed 100 percent all across the board, but we're making good progress. For example, we've agreed on a major consolidation of Federal education programs that will give States more flexibility and more freedom. In other words, to put it this way, instead of having Federal money with all kinds of strings attached to it, we're having

Federal spending, Federal money, but trusting the local folks to spend that money that meets the needs of each respective State.

We're making great progress on what I've called a Reading First initiative. The budget I submitted triples the amount of money to help fight illiteracy in schools. It says that if a State wants to, you can access the Federal money, but you develop a K-through-2 diagnostic tool to make sure kindergarten teachers through second-grade teachers have got the ability to discern which children need extra help. It means you've got to develop a curriculum that works. By the way, phonics needs to be a part of our curriculum in America.

And as importantly, it provides money for intensive instruction. So when you find a child who may be lagging behind, instead of just shuffling him or her through the system, we say, "What can we do to help you? What can we do to make sure you're up to speed early, before it's too late?" So it's an intensive program that says that each child is important, and each child must be assessed. And when we find failure, let's get it addressed early, before it's too late, because we don't want one single child left behind in America.

And we're making good progress on strong accountability systems, which I just described, that says, if you receive Federal money, you measure—three through eight—so we know. Some States posts scores on the Internet. I know there's a lot of discussion about parental involvement. There's nothing like getting a mom involved by posting lousy scores on the Internet. There's nothing like saying to somebody, "The school may not be quite what you think it is, and therefore, we're going to let you know what the results are by comparing it from one school to the next." No, results are important.

By the way, what's important about results is it begins to change the whole attitude in the schools. Schools used to say—and still do in some places—they ask the question, "Gosh, how old are you? Well, if you're 8, you're supposed to be here, and if you're 12, we'll put you here, and if you're 16, you belong here." And by having accountability as the cornerstone of reform, we begin to ask the question, "What do you know? What do you know?" It's a fundamental change of questions, isn't it? What do you know, instead of how old you are.

And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, ours is a society that will work hard to make sure you do. For an accountability system to matter, there must be consequences. We just can't accept failure when we find it; something must happen. And we're making great progress to provide parents more options when we discover failure, when we find the schools won't change their teaching methodologies, for example, when they can't meet standards—options, such as charter schools or public school choice or private tutoring programs. And we're finding consensus to make sure that the accountability system has got some teeth to it, that there is a consequence for failure and, oh, by the way, a consequence for success, as well.

Johnny and I have just come from B.W. Tinker School. It's good to have the B.W. Tinker PTA here—[*laughter*]—which, by the way, is an active PTA, I'm told. But the students were seriously underperforming 8 years ago on the mastery test. Step one is, the State at least was measuring, so we knew. You see, you can't make that statement—the students were vastly underperforming on the mastery test—unless there was such a thing as the mastery test.

Now because of two great principals, both of whom I met—and by the way, it's also—it should be clear to everybody, I hope, in America that a good principal, a great principal will make a huge difference in the education of the children. Paul and Lauren, they use the tests to refocus the curriculum and the teaching methodology of that school. In other words, they use the test for what it's designed to be for, and that is, as a way to correct problems. Tests should not be viewed as a way to punish people; tests need to be viewed as a way to correct problems. And they did so. And they intensified the students' reading programs and writing programs.

We went to a very unusual writing program. It floored Congressman Johnson and me when we saw the task at hand. It was a very sophisticated writing program for a bunch of little ones. But they intensified the effort differently, and they said, "We can do

better." They set the bar higher. And now, nearly two-thirds of the Tinker students showed mastery in math. That's up 40 percent since 1993. And more than three-quarters showed mastery in writing. That's up 36 percent.

In other words, the entrepreneurs, the educational entrepreneurs took hold of the situation. They used the information systems to say, "Something's not right. Now, let's do something about it." And they have. And B.W. Tinker students are better off for it, and I'm glad I went to see that school.

Oh, I know it's hard for some to accept accountability as the cornerstone for reform. You'll hear all kinds of excuses. I heard them as the Governor of Texas; I'm sure Johnny's heard them. You'll hear people say, "Well, that's too much Government. We can't have that kind of Government." My attitude is, the Government ought to be results-oriented, not process-oriented. The Government ought to ask the people, "What are the results?" And if the results aren't good enough, we better expect a better return for taxpayers' money.

And you'll hear people say, "Well, you can't test because it's racist to test." Folks, let me tell you this as plainly as I can: It's racist not to test. It is racist not to measure. Because guess who gets shuffled through the system—children whose parents don't speak English as a first language. It's so much easier to quit on some newly arrived to our country. "It's too hard to education this person. We'll just move him through. We'll ask him how old they are and put them here, regardless of whether they can read and write." Inner-city kids—it's so much easier to walk into a classroom of inner-city kids and say, "These kids are too hard to educate. We'll move them through." Those days have got to end in America. What we need to do is to make sure not one child gets left behind.

And I aim to do something about math, as well. I've been spending a lot of time talking about reading, but in my budget I want to point up a couple of programs that I think make sense: $200 million for States to develop math and science partnership programs with local education districts, as well as higher education institutions—an opportunity to be able to combine the two.

We've got money in our budget for loan forgiveness for math and science graduates who teach in high needed schools for up to 5 years. And that's to defer loans from $5,000 to $17,500 of loan forgiveness. And as importantly, we increase teacher training funds, up to $2.6 billion in the year 2002—up 15 percent from 2001—and provide States the flexibility needed to make sure that the teacher training matches the needs in the classrooms across the State of Connecticut, for example.

Now, this budget is good. Now, they'll be arguing about spending more money or not spending more money. But the budget we submitted, coupled with the reforms that we're asking for, will make a huge difference in making sure that we meet a goal that's not a Republican goal, and it's not a Democratic goal; it's an American goal of making sure every child in America gets educated.

And one other aspect of the education program I want to share with you is, also, we triple the amount of money for character education in our classrooms. Education is not complete unless we're willing to teach our children not only how to read and write but the difference between right and wrong. We ought not to fear to teach our children good, old-fashioned values that have stood the test of time: Don't lie, cheat, or steal; respect others; respect their opinions.

We also have got a program that says, in the after-school programs—we spend all kinds of money for after-school programs—but I think it's so important for us to open up those after-school programs to faith-based and community-based programs that will be able to say—that sends a clear message, that if you exist because of the universal call to love a neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself, you're welcome on to the public school grounds in an after-school program to teach children right from wrong, to teach them that somebody in our society cares for them, which really leads me to a bigger point and a bigger mission for all of us. And that is, how to usher in a period of responsibility in America.

I think I can help with that, and I think all of us in Washington can help with that by, first of all, working together to change the tone in our Nation's Capital. It means that we've got to have a spirit of respect in

Washington. We've got to end this kind of needless name-calling and finger-pointing, the kind of zero-sum politics that says if so-and-so thinks it's a good idea, I think it's a lousy idea, because we happen to be from different political parties.

I think we need to respect each other more in Washington, which will, in turn, set a good signal for people on the playgrounds of America, for example, to respect somebody with whom they may not agree. We need a culture of results in Washington, DC—less noise, less preening in front of cameras, and more focus on getting things done on behalf of the American people. And we need a spirit of responsibility. And it starts with leadership, as well, that each of us understand the awesome responsibilities of the jobs we hold.

I think we're making progress in the Nation's Capital, I truly do. Oh, I know there's occasionally somebody says something, particularly about a nice fellow like me, that I don't like—[*laughter*]—but I tend to ignore it and focus on the people's business. And the people's business is what's important. And that's why I love to travel outside of Washington. I love to drive the roads of our country, just like I did today, and see the hundreds of people who came to wave at the Presidential limousine. It's important for a President to see that and for Members of Congress to be aware of that, as well, because it reminds us about the strength of America.

And the strength of this country lies not inside the halls of our Government in Washington, DC, or in Hartford, Connecticut. The true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

And that's why I'm so optimistic about this country's future, because if that's the case, if the true strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, we've got a bright future ahead of us, because we've got great citizens in this country.

This is a fabulous country. In Washington, we've got to always understand that. That's why tax relief is important, because it empowers people to make decisions in their lives. That's why the Faith-Based Initiative I've talked about is important, because it says that in order to change lives, we need to change hearts, and there are thousands of people who are willing to love a neighbor, just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

No, the great strength is when we understand America's society changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And that's oftentimes because some loving American, not because of Government but because of care and compassion, says to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" I hope to see mentoring programs flourish all across America. I want any child who wonders whether somebody loves them to have a loving adult say, "I love you. I love you with all the bottom of my heart."

No, this country is based upon great values and great principles. But its true greatness is the fact that we're a land full of decent, loving, and compassionate and hard-working people. And I can't tell you what a huge honor it is to be a President of such a land.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Welte Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut and his wife, Patricia; Lawrence D. McHugh, chairman, board of trustees, Connecticut State University System; Richard L. Judd, president, Central Connecticut State University; and Lauren F. Elias, principal, and Paul V. Ciochetti, former principal, B.W. Tinker Elementary School.

Remarks at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 18, 2001

Thank you very much. This is a hallowed place. Please behave yourself.

It's an honor for us to be here. Laura and I have just come from a fantastic tour. I want to thank Rabbi Greenberg for his hospitality, and Ruth Mandel for her hospitality, and the Director, Sara Bloomfield, for giving us such a special evening. Thank you all very much for your graciousness, and I want to thank you all very much for coming. And it's an honor for me to be here with members of my White House staff, friends of mine from all around the country.

This isn't like any other museum. It bears witness to the best and to the worst of the human heart. The images here stay with you, and only by confronting them can we begin

to grasp the full enormity of the Holocaust. I urge Americans planning a visit to Washington to come here, themselves, and see what we have just seen.

History records many atrocities before and after the 1930s and 1940s. But it was the Holocaust that forced us to find a new term for horrors on such a scale—a crime against humanity. Human evil has never been so ambitious in scope, so systematic in execution, and so deliberate in its destruction.

In places like this, the evidence has been kept. Without it, we might forget the past, and we might neglect the future. And we must never forget. We must always remember both the cruelty of the guilty and the courage and innocence of their victims.

So many stories from the concentration camps will never be told because many of the witnesses did not survive. The stories we have must be preserved forever: Stories of mothers sacrificing themselves to save their children; stories of children trying to shield their parents; stories of men and women praying and comforting one another in the last moments on this Earth. These tell the greater truth of the Holocaust: The evil is real, but hope endures.

Above all, this museum is a testament to hope. Tomorrow I will have the honor of joining in the Days of Remembrance observances at the Capitol. I will convey America's commitment to the memory of 6 million who died in the Holocaust, our commitment to averting future tragedies, and our commitment to a friend, as a friend, to the Jewish people—to their cause and to the nation they built.

I hope to see many of you at the Capitol tomorrow.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. in the Hall of Witness. In his remarks, he referred to Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chair, and Ruth B. Mandel, vice chair, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; and Sara J. Bloomfield, director, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Remarks Announcing Support for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

April 19, 2001

Thank you all for coming. Secretary Powell and Administrator Whitman and I are pleased to make an announcement on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. This international agreement would restrict the use of 12 dangerous chemicals—POPs, as they are known, or the "dirty dozen." Negotiations were begun by the previous administration, and this treaty achieves a goal shared by this administration. I'm pleased to announce my support for the treaty and the intention of our Government to sign and submit it for approval by the United States Senate.

This convention is significant in several respects. First, concerns over the hazards of PCBs, DDT, and the other toxic chemicals covered by the agreement are based on solid scientific information. These pollutants are linked to developmental defects, cancer, and other grave problems in humans and animals. The risks are great, and the need for action is clear. We must work to eliminate, or at least to severely restrict, the release of these toxins without delay.

Second, this agreement addresses a global environmental problem. These chemicals respect no boundaries and can harm Americans even when released abroad.

Third, this treaty takes into account the understandable concerns of less-developed nations. When these chemicals are used they pose a health and environmental threat, no matter where in the world they're allowed to spread. But some nations with fewer resources have a harder time addressing these threats, and this treaty promises to lend them a hand.

And finally, this treaty shows the possibilities for cooperation among all parties to our environmental debates. Developed nations cooperated with less-developed nations. Businesses cooperated with environmental

groups. And now, a Republican administration will continue and complete the work of a Democratic administration.

This is the way environmental policy should work. And I want to thank the United States delegation and all who helped negotiate this important treaty. And after our remarks here, we would like to welcome you in the Oval Office so I can thank you personally.

Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

Remarks on the Observance of the National Days of Remembrance

April 19, 2001

Members of Congress, members of my Cabinet, Ambassador Ivry, Elie Wiesel, Benjamin Meed and other survivors, Rabbi Greenberg and Dr. Mandel, ladies and gentlemen: Laura and I thank you for asking us to join you on this Day of Remembrance.

Some days are set aside to recall the great and hopeful moments of human experience. Other days, like today, we turn our minds to painful events. In doing so, we honor the courage and suffering of martyrs and heroes. We also seek the wisdom and courage to prevent future tragedies and future evils.

World War II ended and camps were liberated before many of us were born. The events we recall today have the safe distance of history, and there will come a time when the eyewitnesses are gone. And that is why we are bound by conscience to remember what happened, and to whom it happened.

During the war, a Nazi guard told Simon Wiesenthal that in time no one would believe his account of what he saw. Evil on so grand a scale would seem incredible. Yet, we do not just believe; we know. We know because the evidence has been kept; the record has been preserved.

It is fitting to remember the Holocaust under the dome of our Nation's Capitol, with Members of the United States Congress who are here. Some Members had relatives among the victims. Some of you played a part in the liberation of Europe. One Congressman here today fought in the underground, and he, himself, was put into forced labor by the Nazis. We are honored by the presence of the gentleman from California, Tom Lantos.

We remember at the Capitol because the United States has accepted a special role: We strive to be a refuge for the persecuted; we are called by history and by conscience to defend the oppressed; our country stands on watch for the rise of tyranny, and history's worst tyrants have always reserved a special hatred for the Jewish people. Tyrants and dictators will accept no other gods before them. They require disobedience to the First Commandment. They seek absolute control and are threatened by faith in God. They fear only the power they cannot possess, the power of truth.

So they resent the living example of the devout, especially the devotion of a unique people, chosen by God. Through centuries of struggle, Jews across the world have been witnesses not only against the crimes of men but for faith in God and God alone. Theirs is a story of defiance and oppression and patience and tribulation, reaching back to the Exodus and their exile. That story continued in the founding of the State of Israel. That story continues in the defense of the State of Israel.

When we remember the Holocaust and to whom it happened, we also must remember where it happened. It didn't happen in some remote or unfamiliar place; it happened right in the middle of the Western world. Trains carrying men, women, and children in cattle cars departed from Paris and Vienna, Frankfurt and Warsaw. And the orders came not from crude and uneducated men but from men who regarded themselves as cultured and well-schooled, modern, and even forward-looking. They had all the outward traits of cultured men, except for conscience.

Their crimes show the world that evil can slip in and blend in amid the most civilized of surroundings. In the end, only conscience

can stop it. And moral discernment and decency and tolerance—these can never be assured in any time or in any society. They must always be taught.

Yesterday I had the honor of visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, surrounded by the familiar buildings and symbols of our democratic Government. Outside the museum are expressions of the best of mankind's earthly aspirations; inside are images realized of the worst possibilities of the human mind, the attempted elimination of a people and the millions more targeted for destruction. The pictures, the clothes, the toys, all tell of genocide, our word for 6 million acts of murder.

This Day of Remembrance marks more than a single historic tragedy, but 6 million important lives—all the possibilities, all the dreams, and all the innocence that died with them.

The Holocaust is defined as much by the courage of the lost as by the cruelty of the guilty. As Viktor Frankl observed, man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz. However, he's also the being who entered those chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or Shema Israel on his lips. When all the crimes are finished, the fears realized, and the cries silenced, that was the hope that remained—to be remembered by the living and raised up by the living God.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Rotunda at the United States Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. David Ivry; Nobel Prize winner and author Elie Wiesel, former chair, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chair, Ruth B. Mandel, vice chair, and Benjamin Meed, member, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; and Holocaust survivor, author, and human rights activist Simon Wiesenthal.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina and an Exchange With Reporters

April 19, 2001

President Bush. I want to thank the President from Argentina for coming here. It is my honor to welcome a friend of America. This is a country that has been our friend for a long period of time, and I intend to keep our friendship strong, Mr. President. I appreciate so very much your working hard to work through the economic difficulties that you've had. You're making a very strong effort to recover. I know it's been difficult, but you've been a very strong leader.

I appreciate, also, your willingness at times to commit troops as peacekeepers. Your country has been a very strong supporter of keeping the peace around the world.

I look forward to telling the President that one of the main strategies of our foreign policy is to have strong relations in our hemisphere. It begins with remembering our friends. The President represents a country that is a close friend of the United States.

So welcome, Mr. President. *Bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos.*

President de la Rua. *Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.* Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[*At this point, President de la Rua spoke in Spanish, and a translation was not provided.*]

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Well, I have a couple of questions from—the United States will alternate to the Argentinean press, and back and forth for two rounds.

Ron Fournier [Associated Press].

U.S. Troop Deployment

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, as part of your—this is a little off topic—as part of your broader review of troop deployments, are you considering pulling out of the Sinai? And if so, why?

President Bush. We are looking at all troop deployments around the world. Where we can reduce troops without creating instability, we will do so. One of the things I said during the course of the campaign and right after my inauguration is that we would be reviewing and looking at and analyzing our troop deployments.

I've always felt that we're overextended, which creates morale problems within our military. On the other hand, I understand we've made commitments, and we just won't simply walk away from our commitments.

We'll consult with our allies. We'll lay the groundwork for reductions if, in fact, we think it is in our Nation's best interest and the world's interest to keep reductions.

So to answer your question, we're reviewing all opportunities to reduce the amount of troops around the world.

Q. And that includes the Sinai as part of that review?

President Bush. We're reviewing every place we have troops deployed.

Argentina

Q. President Bush, are you ready to support Argentina to solve economic and social problems they're facing now?

President Bush. We are. Our Treasury Department is working closely with their counterparts in the Argentinean Government. We want our friend to do well economically. It is in our interest that a trading partner of ours be strong economically. We're working closely with the new Minister of Finance. We're listening to what he's doing. We believe the country is making progress. I'm aware of what the country and the leadership wants to do with the IMF, and we believe we're making good progress toward a stabilization plan.

That's the short-term solution, of course, is, IMF help that now exists and whether or not the IMF is going to provide some kind of latitude toward the Government as it makes strides toward reforms. But longer term is what the President talked about, and that is to promote free trade, free trade all throughout our hemisphere. In one day's time, we'll both be in Quebec City talking about trade. And I'm going to be very aggressive about pushing a free trade agenda for the hemisphere, and I'm so pleased to hear the President say the same words.

Q. Mr. President, should you look at some——

President Bush. Let me say one thing. I think it may make sense, Mr. President, if you speak a little bit, and then let the translator translate. Unfortunately, not many people here speak Spanish, like I do. [*Laughter*]

President de la Rua. Thank you very much for your words of support and trust in our country. But please, I wouldn't like anyone to think I have come here to ask Mr. Bush money. [*Laughter*] We do have relations with the international lending institutions, and our financing is already insured.

What we would want is more freedom in trade. And I very much value the support expressed by Mr. Bush for Argentina, where there are so many U.S. investments, and definitely, we would like this to increase.

President Bush. Grandfather [Bill Plante, CBS News]. [*Laughter*]

Sanctions and Energy Supplies

Q. Mr. President, should the U.S. look at easing some of the economic sanctions on Iran, Iraq, and Libya in the interest of getting more oil into this country?

President Bush. You know, we're looking at—in our energy review, we're looking at all opportunities to create more energy supply, to take the pressure off of price. At the same time, I think it's important for the country to review all sanction policies to make sure they are effective. And—but I have no intention as of this moment for taking sanctions off of countries like Iran or Libya.

We've made it clear to the Libyans that the sanctions will remain until such time as they not only compensate for the bombing of the aircraft but also admit their guilt and express remorse.

And as far as Iran goes, it's too early at this time in our relationships to really—it's one thing to consider; it's another thing to act on sanctions. I don't intend to do that anytime soon.

Uno mas.

Free Trade Area of the Americas

Q. Mr. President de la Rua, President Bush wanted the free trade agreement by the year 2003, but I think Brazil is not too keen on that idea. So now, we're talking about 2005, which was the original date at the Summit of the Americas in 1994. Is that a real possibility, or will that date also pass by?

President de la Rua. The important thing is that agreement has been reached on that date in Buenos Aires. I celebrate the generosity and flexibility of Mr. Zoellick, who represented the President. An agreement was reached by all countries. In addition to the date, it is important for us to make

progress in terms of the contents, in terms of the way to build a common market to benefit and integrate all countries.

President Bush. Let me say something about that. First of all, I don't want to dispute, of course, the supposition of your question. But I was asked—I think you asked me at a press conference, would I be pleased to see the date moved up, and the answer is, of course; the sooner we get a free trade agreement for the Americas in place, the better off the continent will be.

However, I recognize reality, and it looks like we're going to be aiming for the date 2005. But big progress has been made. And Ambassador Zoellick went down and met with other leaders in our hemisphere, and we've got the framework for an agreement. And not only that, after the Summit of the Americas, we'll be putting out the agreement, itself, or the framework of the agreement for people to review, so that citizens from all countries—this is the first time this has ever happened—where the citizens will be able to review the contents of the trade agreement.

But I appreciate so very much the President's commitment to free trade. He understands the power of trade, and he understands the promise of free trade. And I believe you're going to hear a strong statement at Quebec City that nations of our hemisphere are bound together by the concept of a free trade agreement. And it will be good for our people.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Economy Domingo Cavallo of Argentina. President de la Rua spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Flooding in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

April 19, 2001

I know that all Americans share my concern for the displaced families and residents of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Yesterday the Mississippi River engulfed homes and businesses. Even more flooding is predicted in the upcoming days.

Those who live and work along the upper Mississippi are not strangers to the threat of spring floods. Since the 1993 floods, many communities and residents have taken measures to protect themselves and their property. They are to be commended for this preventative work.

At my direction, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh and his staff are working closely with State and local officials throughout the impacted and threatens areas to closely track the flooding and any further damage. As I travel to Canada for the Summit of the Americas, I will continue to monitor the situation.

Remarks on Departure for Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

Summit of the Americas

Good morning. In a few moments Laura and I will depart for Quebec City in Canada to attend the Summit of the Americas. This meeting will bring together leaders from all 34 democratic nations in our hemisphere.

Together we will put forward an agenda to strengthen our democracies, to tackle common challenges, and we will seek to expand our prosperity by expanding our trade. This is an important meeting for the United States. The future of our Nation is closely tied to the future of our hemisphere.

Many Americans trace their heritage to other parts of the Americas, which enriches our culture. Many American businesses are finding growth and trade in the Americas, which expands our economy. And all Americans have an interest in the peace and stability of our closest neighbors.

Our goal in Quebec is to build a hemisphere of liberty. We must approach this goal in a spirit of civility, mutual respect, and appreciation for our shared values. And we must make real progress.

Progress in this hemisphere requires an explicit commitment to human freedom. Only democratic nations can attend the Summit of the Americas. And every nation in our hemisphere, except one, will be there. This is an extraordinary achievement, one that

would have been unthinkable just 15 years ago.

Progress requires a commitment to tearing down the barriers of poverty, disease, and ignorance so that every individual in our hemisphere may realize his or her full potential. The United States wants to work together with our neighbors to find ways to give all our children quality education, because learning and literacy are the foundations for democracy and for development.

Progress requires new efforts against illegal drugs. Our country is committed to bringing down the demand for drugs here at home. And we want to work more closely with countries where drugs are produced and traded so countries can better fight the supply of drugs at their source.

And progress in our hemisphere requires a renewed commitment to creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas. This will make our hemisphere the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing 34 countries and 800 million people.

We already know from the North American Free Trade Agreement that free trade works. Since 1994, total trade among Canada, Mexico, and the United States has more than doubled. NAFTA has created more choices at lower prices for consumers in all three of our nations. And it has created good jobs for our workers. Now is the time to extend these benefits of free trade throughout the entire hemisphere.

Open trade in our hemisphere will open new markets for our farmers and ranchers, workers and service providers, and high-tech entrepreneurs. It will fuel the engines of economic growth that create new jobs and new income, and it will apply the power of the markets to the needs of the poor. It will give new incentives for nations to reform their economies. It will reinforce our hemispheric—democratic gains because people who operate in open economies eventually demand more open societies.

This third Summit of the Americas will take the next steps in creating an entire hemisphere that is both prosperous and free. *Es una tarea importante. Tenemos que aprovechar la oportunidad.* It's a great task and an extraordinary opportunity to make the Americas the land of opportunity. And I look forward to getting started this weekend in Quebec.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Leaders of Andean Nations in Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

I want to thank you all for coming. It is my honor to host what I think is a very important meeting between the members of the Andean coalition and my country. I wanted to visit with the leaders face to face. I met President Pastrana before; it's good see him again. I have talked on the phone to some of the leaders. I want to assure the leaders here that our Nation looks forward to working with you, and particularly when it comes to trade and commerce.

I want to assure the leaders that Plan Colombia means more than just the country of Colombia—I know that's of concern to the President of Ecuador—that we've got plans for all the countries in the region. And it's not just on helping to fight drugs. It's on making sure that the economies remain strong, that the infrastructure for education is in place. It is in our Nation's interest that we cooperate together. And so I appreciate the leaders for being here.

It is my honor to host this discussion. I look forward to a very frank and honest exchange of areas where we can cooperate and, if there are some problems, areas that we can work together to solve the problems.

So thank you all for coming. *El honor es mio.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:51 p.m. at the Loews le Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Andres Pastrana of Colombia and President Gustavo Noboa of Ecuador. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, President Mireya Elisa Moscoso of Panama, President Valentin Paniagua Corazao of Peru, President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia, and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela also participated in the discussions.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Crawford, TX.

April 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Bennett William Raley to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.

The President announced the appointment of Attorney General John Ashcroft as a member of the James Madison Commemoration Commission.

The President announced the appointment of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell as a member of the James Madison Commemoration Commission.

The White House announced that the President applauded Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman's decision to move forward with pending regulations to protect America's wetlands.

April 17

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Garcia to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Sheila Gall to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne O. Krueger to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack Dyer Crouch II to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Russ Whitehurst to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Educational Research and Improvement.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Garman to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neal A. McCaleb to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rosario Marin to be Treasurer of the United States.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on April 3–5.

The White House announced that the President will give commencement addresses at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, on May 20, and the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, on May 25.

April 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey from the Oval Office.

Later, the President traveled to Waterbury, CT, where he toured the B.W. Tinker School. He then traveled to New Britain, CT.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate George Tracey Mehan III to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Water Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald E. Powell to be a member and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert S. Martin to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alfred Rascon to be Director of the Selective Service System.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christina B. Rocca to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Jacksonville, FL, New Orleans, LA, Little Rock, AR, and Crawford, TX, on April 25; Houston, TX, on April 26, returning to Crawford, TX, in the evening; and Austin, TX, on April 27.

April 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Bashar al-Asad of Syria in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard A. Hauser to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jenna Dorn to be Federal Transit Administrator at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allen Frederick Johnson to be Chief Agriculture Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Spain, Belgium, Sweden, and Poland during his June trip to Europe.

April 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Quebec, Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dan R. Brouillette to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Robert Flores to be Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen Brauer to be Ambassador to Belgium.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 15

Announcement: Participation of U.S. Forces in Apprehension of an Indicted War Criminal

Released April 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman's decision to move forward with pending regulations to protect wetlands

Released April 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman on new protections from lead poisoning

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Nigerian President Obasanjo

Released April 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Speaks With Prime Minister Ecevit of Turkey

Released April 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick on the upcoming Summit of the Americas

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Visit Spain

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Exchanges with reporters Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

The President. I want to thank the Presidents from some of the Central American countries for coming here. It's my honor to say once again hello to the President of El Salvador, the President of Panama, and the President of Honduras. Thank you all very much. I look forward to wide-ranging discussions on the benefits of trade, the need for us to continue to think about how best to have in place measures that will help in the case of future natural disasters, ways to continue to cooperate on issues of trafficking of people and arms and drugs.

So I look forward to a very fruitful discussion. I'm honored you all are here. El placir es mio.

I'll try to answer a few questions. Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], have you got something?

Quebec Demonstrations

Q. Sir, the protests have really flared up outside. What do you have to say to the protesters?

The President. Well, if they are--if they're protesting because of free trade, I would say I disagree. I think trade is very important for this hemisphere. Trade not only helps spread prosperity, but trade helps spread freedom. And so I would just disagree with those who think that trade--somehow trade is going to negatively affect the working people and people for whom hope doesn't exist in some places. So we need trade. And I am convinced that the leadership that I met with agrees. And we can work together, because they understand that working together we can bring prosperity throughout our entire hemisphere.

Secondly, I would hope that those out there expressing their opinion realize how important it is for the United States and Canada and Mexico to extend our agreements beyond our borders, to Central America and South America, where it's important to keep our neighborhood intact and to have a strong neighborhood. And these are our neighbors.

I grew up in a world where if you treat your neighbor well, it's a good start to developing a wholesome community. So I understand some people don't like trade; I just strongly disagree with them.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Mr. President, what are you telling summit leaders when they ask you how likely are you to get fast-track?

The President. Well, first of all, they understand that trade promotion authority, or fast-track, will be very important for us in order to make sure that we can fulfill our hopes to have a free-trading hemisphere. But we also can and will discuss bilateral agreements or

April 20, 2001

The President. I want to thank the Presidents from some of the Central American countries for coming here. It's my honor to say once again hello to the President of El Salvador, the President of Panama, and the President of Honduras. Thank you all very much. I look forward to wide-ranging discussions on the benefits of trade, the need for us to continue to think about how best to have in place measures that will

help in the case of future natural disasters, ways to continue to cooperate on issues of trafficking of people and arms and drugs.

So I look forward to a very fruitful discussion. I'm honored you all are here. El placir es mio.

I'll try to answer a few questions. Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], have you got something?

Quebec Demonstrations

Q. Sir, the protests have really flared up outside. What do you have to say to the protesters?

The President. Well, if they are--if they're protesting because of free trade, I would say I disagree. I think trade is very important for this hemisphere. Trade not only helps spread prosperity, but trade helps spread freedom. And so I would just disagree with those who think that trade--somehow trade is going to negatively affect the working people and people for whom hope doesn't exist in some places. So we need trade. And I am convinced that the leadership that I met with agrees. And we can work together, because they understand that working together we can bring prosperity throughout our entire hemisphere.

Secondly, I would hope that those out there expressing their opinion realize how important it is for the United States and Canada and Mexico to extend our agreements beyond our borders, to Central America and South America, where it's important to keep our neighborhood intact and to have a strong neighborhood. And these are our neighbors.

I grew up in a world where if you treat your neighbor well, it's a good start to developing a wholesome community. So I understand some people don't like trade; I just strongly disagree with them.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Mr. President, what are you telling summit leaders when they ask you how likely are you to get fast-track?

The President. Well, first of all, they understand that trade promotion authority, or fast-track, will be very important for us in order to make sure that we can fulfill our hopes to have a free-trading hemisphere. But we also can and will discuss bilateral agreements or agreements with groups of countries. So it's a dual-track strategy.

I hope Congress understands the hope and promise of trade promotion authority. It's important for the President to have trade promotion authority. It will make it a lot easier for us to complete the agreements that we're all discussing here in summits such as this.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Final question.

Q. Mr. President, when you met with the President of Brazil----

The President. You again.

Q. Yes, it's me again--and the other Andean leaders, were they--just following up on fast-track--the fact that you don't have fast-track, did they express that as a concern?

The President. Well, not really. They were more interested in, one, our commitment to the neighborhood. Secondly, they were--we spent a lot of time talking about

drugs and drug trafficking, and I assured them I understood that our Nation must do a better job of reducing demand and, at the same time, working with the Andean nations to eradicate supply.

An issue that came up, and one that I was aware of is that Plan Colombia could have the opportunity to spread the problems to neighboring countries outside of Colombia. And therefore, we have to put together an Andean initiative which recognizes that. And thirdly, that relations are—that we must have relations beyond just drug eradication. In other words, that we've got to work together to make sure the education systems in our respective countries fulfill their promise, that legal reforms are needed in some parts of the world.

And so we had a very wide-ranging discussion, and I was most pleased, by the way, that the President of Brazil joined in the discussion, because it was—I thought it was a very good signal of his understanding the importance of the Andean region. And he plays a very—his country plays a very important part and a very important role in that part of the world.

Q. Thank you.

The President. You got your wish. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the Montcalm Room at the Loews el Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador; President Mireya Moscoso of Panama; President Carlos Flores of Honduras; and President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil. Prime Minister Said Wilbert Musa of Belize; President Miguel Rodriguez of Costa Rica; President Arnoldo Aleman of Nicaragua; and President Alfonso Antonio Portillo of Guatemala also participated in the discussions. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Summit of the Americas Working Session in Quebec

April 21, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. *Amigo y amigos,* it's an honor to be here. First, Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for your warm hospitality, and I want to thank all those folks in your government who have worked hard to make this conference a success. My fellow Presidents and Prime Ministers and leaders of our hemisphere's 34 democracies, it is a great honor to be here.

We have a great vision before us, a fully democratic hemisphere bound together by goodwill and free trade. That's a tall order. It is a chance of a lifetime. It is a responsibility we all share.

Quebec City is a fitting place for us to begin. Many of the great cultures that have shaped our hemisphere converge in this city. Before Champlain ever sailed the St. Lawrence he sailed the Caribbean, visiting Mexico and Colombia, Puerto Rico and Panama. As a matter of fact, he was one of the first to propose a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific so that trade may prosper. During the 400 years since Champlain's travels, our hemisphere, united by geography, has too often—too often—been separated by history of rivalry and resentment.

But we have entered a new era. The interests of my nation, of all our nations, are served by strong, healthy democratic neighbors, and are served best by lasting friendships in our own neighborhood.

My country, more than ever, feels the ties of kinship, commerce, and culture that unite us. And I'm proud to have the privilege so early in my administration to meet with all the leaders of this hemisphere's democratic countries.

Our task is to take the vital principles shaped at Miami and Santiago and translate them into actions that directly benefit the people we answer to. I'm here to offer my own ideas. I'm here to learn and to listen from voices—to those inside this hall and to those outside this hall who want to join us in constructive dialog.

The single most important thing we will do here is to reaffirm that this summit is a gathering of, by, and for democracies, and only democracies. Today, freedom embraces the entire hemisphere, except for one country. And we look forward to the day when all this hemisphere's peoples will know the benefits and dignity of freedom. José Martí said it best: *La libertad no es nogociable.*

We also understand that democracy is a journey, not a destination. Each nation here,

including the United States, must work to make freedom succeed. Elections are the foundation of democracy, but nations need to build on this foundation with other building blocks such as a strong judiciary, freedom to speak and write as you wish, efficient banking and social services, quality schools, secure ownership of land, the ability to start and own a business. We must strengthen this architecture of democracy for the benefit of all our people.

This is the spirit behind the American Fellows exchange program that I announce here today. This program will sponsor one-year exchanges of outstanding civil servants among nations throughout the Americas. We'll also provide resources to help reform and modernize judicial institutions, protect basic human rights, root out corruption and other threats to the institutions that sustain freedom.

Our hemisphere's support for democracy and freedom is principled, but it is also pragmatic. Freedom is not only a right, it is also our best weapon against tyranny and poverty. Some complain that despite our democratic gains, there is still too much poverty in equality. Some even say that things are getting worse, not better. For too many, this may be true. But the solution does not lie in statism or protectionism. The solution lies in more freedom.

And that is why we seek freedom not only for people living within our borders but also for commerce moving across our borders. Free and open trade creates new jobs and new income. It lifts the lives of all our people, applying the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It spurs the process of economic and legal reform. And open trade reinforces the habit of liberty that sustains democracy over the long haul.

The United States will work for open trade at every opportunity. We will seek bilateral free trade agreements with friends and partners, such as the one we aim to complete this year with Chile. We will work for open trade globally through negotiations in the World Trade Organization. And here in the Americas, we will work hard to build an entire hemisphere that trades in freedom.

The history of our times is clear: Progress is found in pluralism; modernization is found in markets. Free enterprise requires liberty and enlarges liberty. Our commitment to open trade must be matched by a strong commitment to protecting our environment and improving labor standards.

Yet, these concerns must not be an excuse for self-defeating protectionism. We know from NAFTA that open trade works. Since 1994, total trade among Canada and Mexico and the United States has more than doubled. NAFTA has given consumers in all three nations more choices at lower prices. And it has created high quality, high—good wage jobs from the Yukon to the Yucatan.

The time has come to extend the benefits of free trade to all our peoples and to achieve a free trade agreement for the entire hemisphere. Our challenge is to energize our negotiations on a Free Trade Area for the Americas so that they can be completed no later than the year 2005.

In my first speech to our Congress, I made clear that achieving U.S. trade promotion authority was among my top priorities. I reinforced that message just 2 weeks ago, when I met to discuss trade issues with congressional leaders. When I return to Washington, I will put forward a set of principles that will be the framework for more intense consultations with Congress. I'm committed to attaining trade promotion authority before the end of the year. I'm confident that I will get it. Partnership in trade is fundamental to the hemisphere's well-being. But we know it is not, by itself, sufficient to guarantee the quality of life we seek for ourselves and for our children.

Too many people in our hemisphere grow, sell, and use illegal drugs. I want to make this clear: The United States is responsible to fight demand for drugs within our own borders. We have a serious obligation to do so. And we will expand our efforts, with meaningful resources, to work with producer and transit countries to fortify their democratic institutions, to promote sustainable development, and to fight the supply of drugs at the source. This is a message I carried yesterday to the leaders of the Andean countries. The United States so appreciates the difficult challenge they face in fighting drugs and stands ready to be a consistent and true partner.

We're also committed to deepening our cooperation throughout the hemisphere in fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS, responding to natural disasters, and making sure the benefits of globalization are felt in even the smallest of economies. These goals are at the heart of the Third Border Initiative that we have launched with the countries of the Caribbean.

We're committed to protecting the hemisphere's natural resources. That's why I'm committed to using the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to help countries redirect debt repayments toward local projects that will protect biodiversity and tropical forests. As the program demonstrates success, I'm prepared to work with Congress to boost the funding.

We're committed to making education a center piece of our economic agenda because learning and literacy are the foundations for development and democracy. The United States will sponsor the creation of Hemispheric Centers for Teacher Excellence. These centers will provide teacher training for improving literacy and basic education, both in person and over the Internet.

And finally, we will sponsor the creation of the new Latin E-Business Fellowship Program. This will give young professionals from throughout the Americas the opportunity to learn about information technology by spending time with United States companies. It will empower them with the skills and background to bring the benefits of these technologies to their own societies.

On the day I became President I talked of liberty as a seed upon the wind taking root in many nations. For over two decades, our hemisphere has been fertile ground for freedom. So many men and women have left the shadow of oppression and fear. And for coming so far, this is not the time to grow timid or weary. Freedom is still our best weapon against tyranny and want. In so many places in this hemisphere liberty has been won. Now the blessings of liberty must be extended to every life.

When we reach this goal by our unified efforts, we will inspire the world by our example. Together, let us go forward to build an age of prosperity in a hemisphere of liberty. Together, let us use this Summit of the Americas to launch the century of the Americas.

Juntos podemos. Juntos lo haremos. God bless the Americas, and God bless her people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. in the ballroom at the Hilton Quebec. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. The President also referred to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, Public Law No. 105–214.

The President's Radio Address
April 21, 2001

Good morning. As you hear this I am in Canada for the Summit of the Americas, joined by leaders of 33 other democratic nations. Only one country in the Western Hemisphere is not represented because that country, Cuba, is the only one that is not yet a democracy.

Democracy's progress in our part of the world is not total, but it is remarkable. We live in a hemisphere defined by the ideas and aspirations of freedom. Some 800 million people live in the Americas; 11 million of them live under dictatorship.

We are pleased that many countries in the Americas joined us in passing a resolution this week at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; they have called upon Cuba to respect the rights of its citizens. We know that for the people of Cuba their day of freedom will come.

The future of our country is closely tied to the future of our hemisphere. Many Americans trace their roots to other parts of the Americas, ties that have enriched our culture. Many American businesses are finding new markets and opportunities in the Americas, which creates jobs at home and promotes economic growth abroad. And all Americans benefit when our closest neighbors are peaceful, stable, and enjoy stronger economies.

The forces of democracy in our hemisphere are strong, but they are threatened by poverty and illiteracy and the drug trade. So at this summit we are discussing a very practical agenda to strengthen democracy. We must tear down the barriers of ignorance

and illiteracy that limit the ambitions of so many children in our hemisphere and feed their frustrations.

We will work with our neighbors to find ways to give all our children quality schools, because learning and literacy are the foundations for development and democracy.

We must make new efforts to confront the problem of illegal drugs. Our country is committed to reducing the demand for drugs at home, and we must help other countries fight the supply of drugs at their source.

And we must renew our commitment to free trade. The people of Canada, Mexico, and the United States have benefited greatly from the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA has created good jobs in all three nations. Now we must extend those opportunities to all with a free trade agreement for the entire Western Hemisphere. This will be good for American workers from farmers and ranchers to high-tech entrepreneurs. It will also be good for the poor in other countries, increasing their wages and opportunities. This is an agenda that stretches far beyond our borders.

But when I return to Washington tomorrow the most pressing business concern, some long overdue reforms here in our own country. Early next week my plan to reform our public schools is expected to come up for debate in the Senate. It is the best chance we have had for meaningful education reform in a generation, and we must not waste it.

Education reform must be a bipartisan effort. I have reached out to Members of Congress in both parties and we have achieved a broad consensus on major reforms. Yet the goal here is not just to pass legislation; it is to pass meaningful legislation. And some principles cannot be compromised. The final bill must have strong accountability for our schools, accountability developed by States and local jurisdictions. And for parents with children in failing schools, we must offer options. No parent should be left powerless and no child left helpless in a system that is not doing the job it is supposed to do.

There is a lot going on in Washington and the world—a summit, a tax relief debate, major education reform. But few things are as important as giving all our children the tools of learning. I hope you will support my education reform plan. And I hope you encourage your Senators to do the same.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:15 a.m. on April 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vicente Fox of Mexico and an Exchange With Reporters in Quebec

April 21, 2001

President Bush. It's an honor for me to be with my friend, a friend of the United States, President Fox. He's a strong advocate of trade, and he's a strong advocate of good relations. Today I've decided that the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States will be with my friend Vicente Fox. We will have the state dinner in early fall, hopefully the month of September, depending upon our schedules. I look forward to a continued dialog on a lot of issues that concern our countries, a lot of issues that concern our hemisphere, prior to the dinner. And of course, we look forward to welcoming you, sir, to Washington on that day.

President Fox. Yes, sir. Well, on my side, just to say that, again, we meet, and we meet always to keep the programs going, to keep the followup on the issues that we have been discussing, and I can say that we're working with speed, that we're moving ahead, and that issues like water that we——

President Bush. Yes.

President Fox. ——have created back in San Cristobal, Mexico, is running along and the same—other issues, like migration, like the rest—excellent. And right now, here in this meeting in Quebec, the main concern, I think, is, to all of us is, how do we move with sufficient speed ahead on the trade agreement of the Americas which, as we had the opportunity to see today, everybody is in favor of it, and now our common responsibility, joint responsibility, is to structure a solid, solid project so that it's going to be

to the benefit of everybody, a win-win proposal.

I really appreciate the commitment and the enthusiasm that President Bush showed on his presentations today. I think that's what we need in Latin America, that kind of support, that kind of push, that kind of dynamism that Latin America will take with our partner—in this case, the United States.

Missionary Aircraft Incident in Peru

Q. Mr. President, the United States had a surveillance aircraft tracking the missionary plane over Peru. Does the United States share any responsibility for it being shot down as a suspected drug plane?

President Bush. The United States is certainly upset by the fact that a citizen—two citizens lost their lives in Peru. Our hearts go out to the families, the community affected by the loss. I will wait to see all the facts before I reach any conclusions about blame. But right now, we mourn for the loss of a life—two lives. And I'm——

Labor and Environment Protections in Trade Agreements

Q. In your speech today, you mentioned labor and environmental standards. Were you signaling that this will have to be part of future trade deals?

President Bush. I understand there's a lot of discussion about labor codicils and environmental codicils. What I was signaling is that we should not allow those codicils to destroy the spirit of free trade. In other words, a free trade agreement focuses on commerce, and that while I understand that some unionists are interested in making sure there's labor protections, I don't want those labor protections to be used to destroy the free trade agreement.

Secondly, it's very important for folks to understand that when there's more trade, there's more commerce, and there's more prosperity. And a prosperous society is more likely to be just. And a prosperous society is one more likely to have good environmental standards and be able to enforce those standards.

So I happen to think trade and clean air and trade and labor conditions—good labor conditions—go hand in hand. It's the poor nations that have trouble dealing with labor conditions. It's the poor nations that have trouble meeting their obligations to environmental quality. And I firmly believe, like my friend the President believes, that commerce and trade go hand in hand, which will yield a more prosperous society all throughout the hemisphere.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:41 p.m. in the Club Executive Room at the Hilton Quebec. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Earth Day

April 21, 2001

On April 22 each year for more than three decades, Americans have paused on Earth Day to celebrate the rich blessings of our Nation's natural resources and to take stock of our stewardship of nature's gifts. Each of us understands that our prosperity as a Nation will mean little if our legacy to future generations is a world of polluted air, toxic waste, and vanished forests.

During the past 31 years, we have made progress on protecting our environment. America is truly blessed with a vibrant and flourishing environment. But with blessings come responsibility. There is much more to do. As we celebrate Earth Day on this April 22, 2001, I encourage Americans to join me in renewing our commitment to protecting the environment and leaving our children and grandchildren with a legacy of clean water, clean air, and natural beauty.

The President's News Conference With Summit of the Americas Leaders in Quebec

April 22, 2001

[*Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada opened the news conference with brief remarks in French and continued in English. No translation of his remarks in French was provided.*]

Prime Minister Chretien. We will start with the President of the United States.

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April 22, 2001

[*Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada opened the news conference with brief remarks in French and continued in English. No translation of his remarks in French was provided.*]

Prime Minister Chretien. We will start with the President of the United States.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much, and congratulations on a very successful summit. I want to thank you and your staff and the people of Quebec City for their hospitality.

I've been most impressed by the discussions we've had. It's clear to me that ours is a hemisphere united by freedom. It's a partnership that will help us tackle the big challenges that we all face: the education of our children, HIV/AIDS, protecting our environment. It's a strong partnership. It's a partnership that will help us all achieve what we want—is that everybody in our respective countries are able to succeed and realize their dreams.

I want to thank my fellow leaders who were here. This is my first summit, as you know. I've been most impressed by the quality of leadership. I am most thankful for the generous hospitality each leader showed me. I listened a lot; I learned a lot. There's no question in my mind we have challenges ahead of us, but there's also no question that we can meet those challenges.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much, sir.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you, Mr. President. And now we'll ask the President of Chile, Mr. Lagos, to say a few words.

[*At this point, President Richardo Lagos of Chile, President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina, and President Vicente Fox of Mexico made brief remarks in Spanish, and translations were not provided.*]

Prime Minister Chretien. I thank you very much, President Fox. And I now call on President Andres Pastrana.

President Andres Pastrana of Colombia. Thank you, Honorable Right Prime Minister. First, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chretien, and all of your people for your hospitality in these last few days, hospitality that we have enjoyed in Quebec. I think that those who preceded me have expressed the basic tenets of what has occurred here today. But now I would like to share what President Lagos said—back what he said with regard to the democratic clause and the importance of it for the Americas.

We have put all of our efforts as leaders of our democracies to strengthen our democracies. And as we have said throughout this summit, we must move from a political democracy to an economic democracy. Through that, we can seek improvement of living conditions of the most poor and the neediest amongst us.

If there is something that has brought us together, or which unites us, or what calls us here today at this summit, what calls 34 heads of state of the Americas together, what calls us together is our concern for human beings and, particularly, to improve the conditions of life, as I said, for the poorest and the most needy.

And as President Fox said, this is the opportunity to thank all 34 heads of state for their support to state politics, the process of peace in Colombia. Thank you for your support to a political and negotiated solution to the conflict which has torn asunder our country for the last 30 years.

And once again, as says the declaration, we support the peace process. Thank you for your support. And I would also like to call your attention to the uprising, to those behind it, to those who are marginalized and not following the law, and that this is enshrined in our declaration. We can and we will quickly reach humanitarian agreements with regard to the respect of human rights, respecting humanitarian international law, and especially to not exclude the civilian population.

Prime Minister Chretien. And now, I would like to give the floor to President Francisco Flores from El Salvador.

President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador. When the whole world is facing a creative, technological, and scientific revolution and countries become more and more integrated, it's key that leaders of the world understand that the possibilities of our countries are based on going from a view of the state as a closed and autonomous organ to a collection of open, integrated societies that support democracy and freedom.

And the definition of a new state is a basis to struggle against poverty, to respect the tremendous diversities that exist in the Americas, and the possibility of moving ahead in the world the way we want to move ahead,

especially those of us who believe in principles.

If anything has been learned from the greatest and most recent tragedies in El Salvador, especially the last two earthquakes, is that the foundations of countries are not physical things; they are moral things. They are based on their strength and their belief in principles and in the belief of men, women, and their dignity.

I would like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting this meeting that has confirmed these values, which, I believe, are the basis for hope for the future in the Americas.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you. I thank President Flores. I give the floor to Prime Minister Owen Archer of the Barbados.

Prime Minister Owen Archer of Barbados. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share a perspective on behalf of the Caribbean. It is not only the smallest and most vulnerable region in our hemisphere but the smallest and most vulnerable region in the world.

From the outset in 1994, we were very clear that the exercise in which we are involved through these summits is greater than the mere creation of an integrated economic area, but must entail our creation of a program of development cooperation to support the emergence and the evolution of a truly hemispheric community for the Americas. And from the onset, we were clear that the effort had to stand the test of equity, had to stand the test of inclusiveness, and had to stand the test of relevance. It has to be relevant for today's purposes and tomorrow's needs. The Caribbean is pleased to be able to say that this summit has taken us a far distance to being satisfied in all of those tests.

We are not only living in the 21st century; we are now living in a new information age in which there is a great danger of a new dangerous inequality caused by a digital divide. And I believe that in the context of a 21st century society, this summit will stand as that summit where the leaders of the Americas determined that there should be no digital divide in our Americas, that the benefits of the new information technology have been brought within the reach of all of our citizens. Our connectivity agenda is, in my judgment, the most exciting new development from this summit, which I commend to the people of the Caribbean.

We are also very pleased that the arrangements for economic integration have now been so deliberately designed to truly accommodate the special concerns of the smallest and the most vulnerable entities in our hemisphere. And this summit has stood the test of equity.

May I also say, Mr. Prime Minister, that the Caribbean has used this summit, as well, and the meetings in the margin of this summit to lay a foundation for stronger bilateral relationships with our neighbors, particularly the United States of America, Canada, Central America, and the Mercosur countries and the Andean countries, and that we can leave this summit looking to the prospect of being part of a successful partnership in a successful neighborhood of the Americas.

I thank you.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

And now the journalists have the floor.

Protesters and the Free Trade Agenda

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister of Canada, but we would very much like you to answer the question afterwards, if you don't mind.

[*A question was asked and answered in French, and a translation was not provided. Following his response in French, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in English.*]

Prime Minister Chretien. So I don't think that it is a question of our legitimacy. We are very legitimate. We were elected, all of us. And when you look at what was the Americas some 30 years ago, and what it is today, look at the progress that democracy has made. Look at the clause that we have developed together at this time to make sure that democracy will remain in the Americas.

And a lot of people were invited to comment. We organized a parallel summit, at the expense of the Government. And they met; they discussed; they debated; they met with ministers; there were ministers from my government and ministers from many other Governments that listened to them. And I'm

very proud of the unions, for example, who decided to organize a parade of protest. It was done in a very orderly fashion. They made sure that those who wanted to break everything were not part of it.

There were some hundreds of them who had come with the goal of trying to disrupt us, and I want to say a great thank you again to the police of the city of Quebec, of the province of Quebec, and the Federal police, for the way that they have handled the situation. We could see it on TV, and the restrain, the discipline they've shown is an example.

I guess in other summits there will still be some protestors, communicating among themselves on the Internet and so on, and they have the right to protest. But we will not tolerate breaking the peace of the people. In a democracy, you have a right to speak, but you have to respect the law.

And I don't know if the President would like to comment on that.

President Bush. Well, let me just say that I campaigned vigorously on a free trade agenda. There should be no question in anybody's mind in my country that I would come to Quebec City to promote trade.

For those who question trade and its benefits, I would urge them to look at the experience that we've had as a result of NAFTA. Canada has benefited; Mexico has benefited; the United States has benefited. Sure, there are going to be some who complain, and that's what happens in a democracy. But the overall benefits have been great for our three countries. And it serves as an example to attract the positive opinions of other leaders who came to this summit. It's a positive example for the doubters to look at, for the skeptics to see that wealth can be spread throughout our hemisphere.

And we have a choice to make. We can combine in a common market so we can compete in the long term with the Far East and Europe, or we can go on our own. I submit—and I suspect the other leaders will echo with me; I hope they do, at least—that going on our own is not the right way to do so. Combining in a market in our own hemisphere makes sense. It's a logical extension of what's taken place through NAFTA.

There are some people in my country that want to shut down free trade. And they're welcome to express their opinions. I heard it throughout the campaign. But it's not going to change my opinion about the benefits of free trade, not only for my country and the people who work in my country and the people who wonder whether there's a future in my country, but the benefits of free trade for all the countries of this hemisphere are strong. And I intend to vigorously pursue a free trade agenda.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you.

Next.

Missionary Aircraft Incident in Peru

Q. Thank you, sir. President Bush, you talked at the summit with Peru's leader about the downing of a U.S. missionary plane in a joint U.S.-Peru mission. Your administration has not clarified the U.S. role in this incident thus far, so I'd like to follow up briefly. How much responsibility do we bear, since it was our spotter plane that identified the missionaries' aircraft for Peru's Air Force to pursue?

President Bush. First, the incident that took place in Peru is a terrible tragedy. And our hearts go out to the families who have been affected. Secondly, I did speak to the Prime Minister of Peru, who expressed his government's sincere condolences.

Our Government is involved with helping, and a variety of agencies are involved with helping our friends in South America identify airplanes that might be carrying illegal drugs. These operations have been going on for quite a while. We've suspended such flights until we get to the bottom of the situation, to fully understand all the facts, to understand what went wrong in this terrible tragedy.

Q. What was our role, sir, in the downing?

President Bush. Our role was to, like in other missions, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], was to provide information as to tail numbers. Our role is to help countries identify planes that fail to file flight plans. Our role was to simply pass on information. But we'll get to the bottom of the situation. But I want everybody in my country to understand that we weep for the families whose lives have been affected.

Prime Minister Chretien. Next.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Good afternoon. I have a question for the President of the United States. Mr. Bush, you're personally committed to the liberalization of this hemisphere, but you don't have a broadbased mandate from the U.S. Congress to negotiate. What can the Governments of Latin America do to help you overcome the opposition of economic groups and of legislators in your country? Thank you.

President Bush. Write your Congressman. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate that so very much. That's the very same statement that the President of Uruguay asked. I am confident I will have trade promotion authority by the end of the year, because I think most people in the United States Congress understand that trade is beneficial in our hemisphere. We're going to proceed concurrently with that, parallel to that, with the trade agreement with Chile, and we hope to have that concluded by the end of the year.

But I've assured my colleagues that my administration will work to get trade promotion authority. Most Presidents have had what they call fast-track; we now call it trade promotion authority. And I intend to get it myself. It's in our Nation's best interests to have the President have that authority.

In the meantime, as I mentioned to you, my friend the President of Chile and I will instruct our respective and appropriate members of our administration to hammer out, negotiate, and effect a trade agreement between our two countries.

Argentine Financial Crisis

Q. President de la Rua, the question is for President Bush, but I would also like your answer if you will, Your Excellency. President Bush, the United States Secretary of the Treasury gave direct financial aid to Mexico to overcome the tequila crisis and to stop propagation to the rest of the region. Given the economic financial crisis in Argentina is already spreading to neighboring countries such as Brazil, I'd like to know if the United States plans to give direct financial aid to Argentina as it did with Mexico in the past.

President Bush. It's too early to make that determination. Having said that, Secretary of the Treasury O'Neill, as well as others in my administration, are watching closely the situation in Argentina. It is in our Nation's interest that the Argentine economy recover. That's obviously in the interest of neighbors that it do so, as well. But we're watching very carefully. We're in touch with your government on a regular basis, and we'll make the determinations as to either bilateral aid or additional aid through the international financial institutions as the case merits.

Q. President de la Rua.

President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina. The support given by the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury is of great value. And assistance to our country has come through multilateral financial institutions and other countries who have given us international guarantees. So this has insured a fiscal solvency in my country.

There is no risk, in my opinion, of problems in our country—this transitional problem in Argentina extending to neighboring countries. Argentina, with international financial institutions' help, will be meeting the IMF's criteria, and is endeavoring in a very determined fashion to reduce the fiscal deficit and to ensure fiscal solvency in every aspect. So there is no risk of any—that we need to be concerned about.

Next.

International Energy Resources

Q. I am from a newspaper in Mexico City, and I have a question addressed to President Bush and to Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Mexico, there is an issue that is of great interest, and I'm referring now to the power issue. I'd like to ask both of you, what is your view for what would be a hemispheric-wide energy plan? What commitments have you already reached, and what would be needed for such a plan to be equitable as between producers and the great consumers of power?

President Bush. Well, first, if Canadian suppliers and Mexican suppliers of energy and electricity are looking for a market, they've found one in the United States. We're short of energy. We need more energy in our country. Much of what will be explored, from the exploration perspective, will depend upon price. The farther away you get

from market, the deeper the waters, the higher the price must be. But the price of energy is high enough to spur exploration activities on both sides of our border.

What the United States can do is to provide markets by better pipelines, across-border permitting, welcoming supplies of natural gas, regardless of the country of origin. We can work with our friends, the Mexicans, in the south, about the development of electricity. I have talked with President Fox about that, not only when I was in Mexico but also earlier this week, and will discuss this very issue with the Prime Minister and the President right after this press conference.

Part of our issue is to make sure our electricity grids are open enough to handle additional power, say, in the western part of our State, obviously the western part of Mexico. There is some very good news in our hemisphere, at least as far as Americans are concerned, and that is that because of technologies, the Canadians have developed vast crude oil resources in what appeared heretofore to be crude oil that could not be recovered from the ground in what they call tar pits—tar sands, and therefore, Canada is going to be the largest exporter of crude oil to the United States. That's good for our national security; it's good for our economy.

There's a lot of work we can do together. It is important for our hemisphere to not only trade liberally but to move energy throughout the hemisphere as needed, and it starts with the cooperation between Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Prime Minister Chretien. I don't have much to add to that. I think that the market in the United States is a great opportunity for Canada. Already, as the President just said, we are the biggest exporter of oil to United States, and it will increase even more in the years to come. We have a lot of natural gas in Canada at this moment.

I remember, at the time when I was Minister of Energy, we had to sell our oil and gas in Canada to our consumers, to give them a market. Now we have a huge market there, but we have to make sure that the development of these resources will be done in a very effective way, that we have assured market. And we do that, having all the time in mind—we have to do that with the mentality that we have to do these things in protecting the environment. But there is a lot of opportunities, and we'll be discussing that later on this afternoon.

Next.

Colombia

Q. This question is for Mr. Bush. If Mr. Pastrana can react to it, too, and Mr. Chretien, if that's possible. Regarding the declaration backing of the peace process in Colombia, Mr. Bush, would your government be willing to take a more active role and participate in this peace process? And how committed are you to the peace process in Colombia?

President Bush. We have funded Plan Colombia, which is over a billion dollars of U.S. taxpayers' money. That's a very strong commitment. At this summit, we laid out an additional Andean initiative of $880 million, monies not only to go to Colombia but the surrounding countries to Colombia, monies that recognize that not only is interdiction important, but also we need to develop infrastructure. We need to have sustainable crop replacement programs. So our country is committed to the region.

I believe firmly that President Pastrana is a strong leader who is doing everything he can to bring the peace. But it's going to be up to President Pastrana to make the peace. Once he does so, we'll stand by his side. And so our support has been strong, and it's been consistent. And we'll continue to support our friend, the democratically elected leader of Colombia.

President Pastrana. Thank you very much for your question. Yes, I think that President Bush has—will resume what has been the help, $1.3 billion, the last year. He talked about a near $1 billion for this next year for what he has been calling the Andean initiative.

More than money, we are asking commerce—that's why we are asking the United States; that's why we were asking Europe. And that's why President Bush is committing in the extension of ATPA and the enhancement of ATPA, to try to get to really some preference that will allow us to get more employment for our people.

I think that President Bush is also very committed in drug addiction. I said yesterday to President Bush that a drug addict is a drug terrorist. One smell of cocaine in the United States is a death in Colombia. So that's why he's also very committed in working and fighting inside the United States. As you will know, the U.S. is expending nearly $20 billion in drug prevention programs. And he's really very committed to bring, also, down consumption in his country.

And I think that we had a meeting in Cartagena, the Andean countries, the ATPA countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia. We invited Venezuela as an observer to the ATPA. And we hope that with the help of President Bush and with the help of the U.S. Congress, we will get the ATPA out before the end of this year. And that will bring us new opportunities for the poorest people of our country.

Prime Minister Chretien. And of Canada, I've assured the President that if they need us to play a certain role, we'll be available. There are some discussions to have certain participation. And if we can be useful, we'll be happy to help.

Free Trade Agreement for Central America

Q. I'm one of the Salvadoran journalists covering this summit. Bush, could you give us details regarding the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Central America? In particularly, Mr. Bush, if you have in mind a day to start negotiations? If you have in mind a date to sign this agreement? And also if your administration is going to give special treatment to those Central American economies?

President Bush. Trade—I'm sorry, the very end of your question? Special trade——

Q. Free trade agreement with Central America.

President Bush. My first meeting here in Quebec City is with my—actually, not my first meeting—I had a meeting early—how quickly we forget—with our friends from Central America. And we talked about free trade. And we talked about the possibilities of a free trade agreement with a group of nations.

I did not dismiss that notion at all. As a matter of fact, it should be clear to people that as we discuss the agreement that we're discussing here at this summit, that our Nation is willing to work with others, such as Chile, to negotiate bilateral agreements.

And so, I'm openminded is the way to describe that to you. And I think the leaders would tell you that we had a very frank discussion, and it's very possible—it's very possible that we'll be able to come to an agreement with a group of nations that would really make a logical extension from NAFTA. So, to answer your question, I don't have a date specific, but in my mind is the idea of that possibility.

Q. Will you support, Mr. Bush, any kind of special treatment for those Central American economies in this agreement?

President Bush. Well, that's what I was saying. I would be very openminded. As you know, we're committed in your country to helping with natural disasters. It's in our Nation's interest that your good country, with its brilliant young leader, be—help recover. It's going to be hard to have a good economic vitality and growth without the aid necessary to help recover from the natural disaster that took place. But I'm openminded.

Let me just say something on behalf of my government about *el Presidente de El Salvador.* He is a breath of fresh air. He is a very bright light, and I've been most impressed by his candor, his leadership, his integrity. He's a great leader for your country.

Q. My question is for Prime Minister Arthur—and before I do, Mr. Arthur, you would be happy to know that westerners aren't doing too bad in Jamaica. Now, on the opening on Friday, you spoke of special considerations for the Caribbean in the FTAA process. There have been concerns about the OECD, IDB membership for some of the small states. Going into the conference, what were the Caribbean community and common market's primary concerns, and are you satisfied that these outcomes address these concerns?

Prime Minister Archer. As I said at the opening, we have committed ourselves to being part of the effort to build a truly inclusive hemispheric community. And one of our

basic concerns, obviously, have been to ensure that our framework is in place to accommodate the needs of these smaller, more vulnerable entities within the community.

We are pleased that, as a result of the trade ministers' negotiations in Argentina, we shall be embraced by heads of this summit that there is a realistic framework in place for the completion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and that even more satisfying, that there are now clear mandates given to the individual negotiating groups that would enable us to be sure that we will translate the principle of special and differential treatment for smaller or more vulnerable societies into the final agreement that will anchor the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

The Caribbean was also concerned, having participated in the two previous summits, about the adequacy of the arrangements for implementation. I think we would be remiss were we not to say how heartened we have been, ourselves, by the statement of commitments given by the heads of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank—[*inaudible*]—to support our plan of action with appropriate resources and new institutional arrangements.

But you must believe me when I tell you that for the Caribbean, we are excited by the prospect of translating our human capital advantage into new industry in a new information age. Nothing matters more to us than to be able to leave a conference where there is a commitment to a plan of action to put the new information and communications technology within the reach of the people of the hemisphere, making it possible for us to contemplate a future of specialization as service societies in our new knowledge-based global society.

And for me, certainly, this connectivity agenda that will share the benefits of that new technology to small societies is an exciting opportunity that the Caribbean surely will not miss out on.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you very much, Prime Ministers. So this concludes the press conference. There will be another one in a few minutes by the officials of—representative of the regional banks and the World Bank and the political organization of the Americas.

Thank you very much. See you next time.

NOTE: The President's fifth news conference began at 1:40 p.m. at the Quebec Convention Center. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Valentin Paniagua Corazao of Peru and President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay. President Pastrana referred to ATPA, the Andean Trade Preference Act, and a journalist referred to FTAA, Free Trade Area of the Americas; OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; and IDB, International Data Bank. President Flores Perez's remarks were in Spanish and translated by an interpreter. A portion of President Pastrana's remarks were in Spanish and a portion of Prime Minister Chretien's remarks were in French and both were translated by an interpreter. Portions of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

North American Leaders' Statement

April 22, 2001

We met today in Quebec City for the first time as leaders of the three countries making up North America. We have come together as leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, North American neighbors who share common values and interests. The ties that link us—human, social, cultural, and economic—are becoming stronger. Fully realizing the tremendous potential of North America is a goal we all share.

Increased trade and investment are cornerstones of a vibrant, expanding and more comprehensive North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) since 1994 in bringing about a truly remarkable expansion of trade and investment among our countries. NAFTA has eliminated many barriers to trade, led to the elaboration of clear rules of commerce, and established effective procedures for the resolution of disputes. We will build on this progress by completing NAFTA implementation and by identifying ways in which NAFTA can ensure a more predictable framework for the further development of trade and investment within North America. We will work to deepen a sense of community, promote our mutual economic interest, and ensure that NAFTA's benefits extend to all regions and social sectors. Our governments will develop ideas on

how we can work together to develop and expand hemispheric and global trade and promote broader international cooperation.

We consulted on the development of a North American approach to the important issue of energy markets. Towards this end, our Energy Ministers have created a North American Energy Working Group. This technical-level forum will be a valuable means of fostering communication and coordinating efforts in support of efficient North American energy markets that help our governments meet the energy needs of our peoples. We stressed the importance of energy conservation, development of alternative energy sources, and our common commitment to addressing environmental impacts of energy use.

Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies, with migrants making significant cultural and economic contributions. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We are committed to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with appropriate legal protections, and defense of human rights for migrants. We will strengthen mechanisms for trilateral cooperation to address the legitimate needs of migrants and take effective measures against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.

We reviewed the extensive cooperation underway among our three governments in areas as diverse as transportation, communications, health, justice, agriculture, and border issues. We discussed the growing links among citizens in our three countries and new partnerships in business, employment, education, travel, culture, and joint research.

These patterns of cooperation—by governments, business, and other members of civil society—are building a new sense of community among us. Our governments will review the trends, challenges, and opportunities facing North America at the dawn of a new century, and examine options to further strengthen our North American partnership. Conscious of the challenges we face but convinced of the need to seize the unprecedented opportunities before us, we encourage broad reflection in our societies on ways to advance the trilateral relationship.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks to the American Embassy Community in Quebec

April 22, 2001

Thank you. I used to call him Governor, I now call him Ambassador, I'll always call him friend. I appreciate you very much, Ambassador, and it's great to see your beautiful bride here, too.

I first want to say something about your immediate boss; that's the Secretary of State. As you're going to find out, he is a man who respects the job you do, a man who loves his country, a man who is going to be a fabulous Secretary of State for America. And I think the other three Cabinet Secretaries who are up here might do a pretty good job, too. [*Laughter*]

We've had a very interesting stay here in Quebec City. It turns out that Quebec City has now hosted three history-making summits. The first two in 1943 and 1944 involved only three world leaders. Therefore, they had it in one hotel. [*Laughter*] This one was a little more complex, it turns out. [*Laughter*]

When I see how much work it is to organize a Presidential visit, it surprises me sometimes that I'm welcome anywhere. [*Laughter*] And so, I want to thank you very much for the job the U.S. Mission did in preparing for our arrival, not only making sure that the arrival was well prepared, that when we're here, that it went smoothly, and it did, and you're to be congratulated.

We have no more important bilateral relationship than that with Canada. It's true the relationship doesn't always make the headlines in the United States. That's a good sign. [*Laughter*] Generally, when we make the news, it's because there is a dysfunctional relationship at hand. It shows what a good job you all are doing at relaying our priority to your fellow folks in the Foreign Service or civil service in Canada, that we care about our relationship, that America knows how important it is. And it's a vital relationship.

As the Ambassador noted, the statistics are strong—200 million border crossings a year. Canada is our biggest trading partner. Canada is the biggest exporter of energy to the United States. It's an important relationship. This administration will keep it that way, and I know you will join us in doing so.

I just finished an interesting luncheon with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and President Vicente Fox about how to expand the unique relationship our three countries have, called NAFTA, as you know. But it's an incredibly important relationship. I first came—became aware of the relationship as the Governor of Texas. I saw how important it was for us to understand that family values don't stop at the Rio Bravo River, that family values—that there are people in Mexico who are hungry and worry about their children, who, if they can make a better living somewhere else, will do so. Oftentimes it was in my State; occasionally it was in—more than occasionally it was in other people's State.

But I also saw the hope and promise of what trade could mean and good relations between the three of us. It meant better jobs in Mexico. It meant a mother or a dad might be able to find work closer to home, which is the aspiration of people in Mexico. It also means we've got to—it helps enable—to keep closer ties with Canada. And for that I'm grateful.

And so our discussions today was how to expand and strengthen NAFTA. And one way we can do so is through energy. America is short on energy; Canada is long on energy. America is short on energy; Mexico, with the right policy, could be long on energy. And so our discussions today were not only on other subjects but we talked about establishing an energy group for the hemisphere, which we will do.

And the reason I bring this up is that it's an indication of why this future—our relationship is just as strong in the future as it is today. And it makes eminent sense for us to continue to work with our friends and allies in our hemisphere.

I leave the summit very optimistic about what took place here, because I want you to think about this interesting fact. We had all but one country represented here, because all but one country in our hemisphere has embraced democracy. For some of you oldtimers—I'm trying to find a few—there looks like a guy who might be an oldtimer. [*Laughter*] You know, we couldn't have said that long ago. It's an amazing fact. It's a wonderful testimony to freedom and democracy. So I'm very optimistic about what took place here. It gives us a great chance to expand the opportunities around our hemisphere, knowing that it will help our own country.

I've always believed that it's—the best foreign policy is one that improves your own neighborhood first. And so when I say a priority of ours is this hemisphere, it's not idle chitchat; it's reality, as witnessed by the fact that my first summit was a summit with leaders from our own neighborhood.

I want to say something about your Ambassador. He is a—you'll find him to be a good listener, a strong American. He is going to be a thoughtful manager. He's really a good guy. He's a good guy. [*Laughter*] And he married, like me, above his head. [*Laughter*]

I, too, want to thank the Deputy Chief of Missions, Steve Kelly. I want to thank the acting—the Consul General in Quebec City. I want to thank Nick Nixon, as well. I want to thank Roberta Smolik—Robin Smolik—Robert Smolik. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the guy who wrote this on the card wrong. [*Laughter*] Knowing how the Presidency works, there's a card writer somewhere pulling his hair out now. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Marina Nalli. Did I get it right? [*Applause*]

I want to thank you all very much on the American side for your hard work. I also want to thank Rejjie Tremblay. He made sure I got to my meetings on time. [*Laughter*] I hope word has filtered out of Washington that I believe on starting meetings on time. [*Laughter*] I don't believe in making people wait. I want to make sure that Lori Fortin gets thanks, as well. Not one member of this huge delegation had to sleep on a couch, thanks to you. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Fred Bishop. He's known as Emergency Guy. [*Laughter*] He fixed problems before they became emergencies.

I want to tell you all how much I appreciate your service to the country. It's more than just making sure the mission works—

however, this mission worked well—it's to make sure the mission always works. I want to thank you for understanding that there is something greater than yourself in life, and that's the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:13 p.m. at the Loews le Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci and his wife, Jan Garnett; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and Lois Aroian, U.S. Consul General in Quebec.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Champions

April 23, 2001

Welcome. Please be seated. This might be a long speech. [*Laughter*]

First of all, I want to welcome two great teams from two great universities. It is our honor to host you all here at the White House. I want to say congratulations to Coach K—the reason I call him Coach K is because sometimes I have trouble pronouncing long words—[*laughter*]—Coach McGraw, and the players and the representatives from Duke and Notre Dame, welcome.

I want to welcome two fine United States Senators: Senator Helms from North Carolina, Senator Lugar from Indiana. Members of the United States Congress who are here, thank you all for coming.

In reviewing the rosters and the success of this club, it is clear that both Duke and Notre Dame recruited for athletic talent, but they also recruited character, as well. These championships go to prove that good people do finish first.

It is such an honor to welcome Duke back here. It turns out that there was another President named Bush that welcomed the Duke team. And they dedicated a basketball court right here on the South Lawn during that visit. The weather has been such that I haven't been practicing my skyhook lately. [*Laughter*] Looking at the size of some of these guys, I'm not sure I want to try to do it now, anyway. [*Laughter*]

I know it took a lot of hard work to get here, and there were some very close games and tough contests, particularly the "Fighting Irish" in their final—in the final game won in the last second. I'm reminded about what Coach McGraw's son, Murphy, said as he watched the game. He said, "That was scary." Murphy, I know what you're talking about. It reminds me of election night. [*Laughter*]

There's no question that teams require good leadership. And I was struck by the quote of one of the stars here who said about Coach K—just to prove to the press I can say it—Coach Krzyzewski—[*laughter*]—"To me, he's been a friend, a mentor, and a brother. I am the luckier person for having him have me as a part of my life." That's what leadership is all about. That's what it means to be somebody who can set an example and somebody who understands the responsibilities of the assignment. It's not just to win championships; it's to shape lives in a positive way.

And I loved what Coach McGraw said. She said, "Usually there are negative things that occur during the season. But this year I've had not to call a single team meeting; I've gotten no complaints from professors. We can't even yell at the players, because they do everything we ask." I need your help with Congress. [*Laughter*]

Championships bring an awesome responsibility. Not only do you win a trophy, I think you have the obligation of understanding that you have enormous influence on people's lives—people you don't even know. People look at the champs and say, "How does a champ behave? What is a champ supposed to do?" Champions not only cut down nets but they can influence people's lives by sending positive signals by how they behave, not only on the court but off the court. It's a big responsibility. It's a huge responsibility. And that's why these two teams are so fortunate to have great teamwork and great players.

I know this was a team effort, and I'm sure the two players I'm going to mention, Battier and Riley, are going to be somewhat concerned that the President has singled them out. But I want to remind people who may not know their histories that not only were they great players, they're great people; not

only did they set goals about being the best on the basketball court, they set goals of becoming all-academic stars, and they were. They set goals of understanding the Golden Rule and living by it.

These are good people. And I'm sure your teammates are, as well. But they set the kind of example that America needs. And all of us who have got positions of responsibility, all of us, whether we're a President or a coach or a player or a president of a university, must understand that with that responsibility comes the necessity to set the right signal all throughout America that there's a difference between right and wrong, that we can be compassionate, and that we can love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

So it's my huge honor to welcome good teams and good people to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Muffet McGraw, head women's basketball coach, and player Ruth Riley, University of Notre Dame; and Mike Krzyzewski, head men's basketball coach, and player Shane Battier, Duke University.

Remarks on National Parks Week and National Volunteer Week and an Exchange With Reporters

April 23, 2001

The President. It's my honor for me to welcome and to be in the presence of one of my finest Ambassadors. The White House, I often say, doesn't belong to Laura and me; it belongs to the American people. And William Toth is a volunteer who works hard every day to ensure that every American feels right at home in the White House.

Mr. Toth has lived a life of service. In World War II, he served with distinction in General George Patton's army. He later became a professor at New York University. He worked hard to put his own daughters through college, and when the youngest graduated, he retired. But he refused to rest.

For the last 9 years, Mr. Toth has been bringing smiles to visitors' faces as they arrive at the White House. Whether handing out gold coins to visiting children or passing out stories to adults, William makes sure that everyone leaves the White House with a memory.

America owes a great debt to William Toth. But like millions of volunteers across America, he will never ask us to repay it. And that's what makes his service, and the service of so many other volunteers, so unique.

The National Park Service has some of the best volunteers in the Nation. Whether it's here at the White House, at other sites around the Nation's Capital, or at the national parks around the country, National Park Service volunteers perform their duties with the simple goal of helping Americans enjoy our national treasures. They keep us connected to our history and help preserve America's natural beauty for future generations to enjoy.

That's why it's particularly fitting this week that we recognize both America's volunteers and America's national parks, for they both bring great joy to countless Americans.

At 77, William Toth continues to win over everyone he sees. In a letter she sent me last month, his daughter, Dawn, wrote, "I just want to let you know who you have in your corner. In some ways, he's America's most important diplomat. And he'll make you look darn good."

I know that can sometimes be a difficult task, and I appreciate all the help I can get, William. [*Laughter*] The truth is, Mr. Toth, you make America look darn good. I want to thank you for your tireless dedication, for working here at the White House. I want to thank the volunteers at the National Park Service, and the American people thank you from the bottom of their heart.

God bless.

Arms Sales to Taiwan

Q. Mr. President, will Taiwan get the Aegis radar system this time?

Q. ——sale to Taiwan?

The President. You'll find out when we make the—I make my decision clear.

Q. Have you made your decision, sir?

The President. Yes. I haven't made it clear yet, though. We'll let you know soon.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:57 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Dawn Foreman, Tracy Toth, and Melissa Eckert, daughters of Mr. Toth.

Remarks on Presenting the National Teacher of the Year Award

April 23, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Welcome to the Rose Garden. I was wondering if it was ever going to get warm in Washington. [*Laughter*] It does.

Mr. Secretary, thank you, and thanks for your kind introduction and thanks for your service to the children of our country. I don't know if you know this or not, but just last week in Monticello, Mississippi, there was a school named in Rod's honor. It's the school he attended as a young man.

What makes the story interesting is that students of his generation were segregated by race. No more in this great land called America. The Rod Paige Middle School will know loud and clear that education breaks down any barrier to success. Mr. Secretary, you're a role model for students across America, and for a couple of adults, as well.

Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige. Well, thank you. Thank you.

The President. And I'm proud to have you on my team.

Secretary Paige. Thank you.

The President. I'd like to thank the Council of Chief State School Officers, Scholastic, Inc., and the National Selection Committee for organizing this event. You've done a splendid job.

And I want to welcome to the White House, Peter McWalters, president of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Gordon Ambach, its executive director. And I also want to welcome and congratulate 56 teachers of the year, from all across America.

You know, I used to say as the Governor of Texas, you can never thank a good teacher enough. Well, I'm going to try to do it as President: Thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts.

I especially want to congratulate the finalists: Christa Compton and Tonya Perry, Derek Minakami and Michele Forman, the National Teacher of the Year. I'll have a few things more to say about Michele in a moment.

For a half century, the White House has hosted a ceremony honoring the National Teacher of the Year and the State Teachers of the Year. Every American President, since Harry Truman, has presented this award, and that's as it should be. What we honor tells the world what we value, and we value America's teachers.

"A teacher affects eternity," Henry Adams once wrote. He meant that their influence is unending. Teachers play a vital role in the intellectual and moral education of children. They teach children how to read and write, and they teach children right from wrong. They teach students to love knowledge and to disdain ignorance. Teachers inspire students, fire imaginations, nurture their natural abilities, and encourage them to explore the possibilities of life. They prepare good students to be good citizens. They also know better than anyone else they can't do it alone.

It's so important for the moms and dads of America to hear this message: Be a good parent; love your children; teach your children to read early in life; and support the teachers who are spending time with your most precious, precious part of your family.

One of my predecessors as Governor of Texas was a guy named Sam Houston. Sam Houston was a United States Senator, the Governor of two States, Texas and Tennessee. He was even a President—the President of the Republic of Texas. And yet, with all these impressive accomplishments, he wrote that being a teacher in Maryville, Tennessee, gave him a higher feeling of dignity and satisfaction than any other office or honor he ever held.

Well, this year's National Teacher of the Year, Michele Forman, demonstrates the dignity and satisfaction of teaching. Mrs. Forman teaches social studies at Middlebury Union High, in Middlebury, Vermont. She says this: "I think I have the best job in the world. Every day is something new."

Mrs. Forman arrives at school every day at 6:30 a.m., a full 2 hours before the students arrive. Three mornings a week she teaches Arabic, which she's been doing for the past 4 years. Students earn no credit by

taking the course; they attend the classes because of their love of learning—and probably, mostly because of their love of Mrs. Forman.

Michele Forman knows her subjects and has high expectations for her students. She believes there must be a mutual trust between teachers and students. She's highly regarded by her colleagues. She's a woman of boundless energy and enthusiasm. In all these ways, she is an example of excellence in education.

And so it's a high honor to present to Michele Forman the National Teacher of the Year Award.

[*At this point, Mrs. Forman made brief remarks.*]

The President. Well, Michele, thank you very much. In keeping the fine tradition of never missing to want an opportunity—[*laughter*]—or to waste an opportunity, let me say a few words about a pressing issue and a great opportunity for our country.

This week the United States Senate will begin debate on what's known as S–1, appropriately named because it is my number one priority, it is your number priority, and it's an education reform proposal. This is not just about another legislative debate. It's the best opportunity in a generation for having meaningful education reform come out of Washington, DC.

And we have an ambitious goal: All our children, every child in America, must have access to a safe and high quality school, so we make sure that standards are high. It's so important to raise the bar and expect the best from every child, just like you do; that results are tested—people shouldn't fear accountability systems in America. We want to know. We want to know whether children can read and write and add and subtract. And if not, we'll make sure they do early, before it is too late, and that schools are accountable.

We give more States more flexibility and freedom. We trust teachers in the classrooms, as opposed to having mandates out of Washington. We've got to trust teachers and principals to chart the path for excellence for every child; provide greater options for parents with bipartisan support for charter schools or public school choice or private tutoring programs.

In separate legislation we are working for liability reform to support and protect teachers who enforce reasonable standards of conduct in their classrooms. We're encouraging more of America's best and brightest citizens, including those who have served in the Armed Forces, to become teachers. This is a project near and dear to my wife Laura's heart. Unfortunately, she's not here. I wish she was, because she could explain a lot better than I could, but she's out traveling the Nation, reminding people that one of the most noble professions ever is to be a teacher, and recruiting teachers. And she's doing such a good job, I need to send her up to the Congress to convince them to behave.

We'll increase spending on education and focus that new spending on reforming schools that aren't performing well or on a powerful reading initiative.

I support historic new levels of education funding. Yet all of us know better schools require more than just funding. And I hope the Senate hears that we need meaningful education reform by high standards, accountability. My education reform has a good balance of new dollars.

Now, one of the interesting things that historians learn—and Michele is an historian—is that the President proposes, the Congress disposes. But the truth of the matter is, the people rule. And I hope the people of America contact the Members of the Senate and insist upon a passage of a well-balanced, meaningful reform package that will enhance our teachers' ability to do what you do well, which is to teach our kids.

It's an honor for me to be here. I welcome you to the Nation's Capital. And once again, thanks from the bottom of my heart, on behalf of all of America, for doing the job you do.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks to the Environmental Youth Award Winners

April 24, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's my honor to be here. First, Christie Todd, you're doing a great job. I knew I was going to pick—I knew she was going to do a great job when I picked her. I didn't realize how good. And she really is—I'm proud to have her on my team.

I want to thank the parents who are here. I know it's a proud moment for you, and it should be. It means you've done your job.

I always like to remind folks who are lucky enough to have a child, the most important job you'll ever have is to love your children and to be a good mom and dad. I want to thank the sponsors who are here, and I look forward to thanking you all personally after this brief speech. [*Laughter*] Please don't break out in applause. [*Laughter*]

The Congress is back, and it's good to see three fine Members of the Congress here. I thank you guys for coming: Zach Wamp of Tennessee, Mark Kirk of Illinois, and Wally Herger of California. Thank you guys for being here. I know you're here to represent your constituents, and I know you're proud of your constituents, just like we are, as well.

But most particularly, I want to thank the winners. I had the opportunity of having my picture taken with the winners, and it looks like I might have a chance to have a few more after this is over. [*Laughter*] Right, guy? [*Laughter*]

For three decades now, the Environmental Protection Agency has helped to carry out our national commitment to the wise care of the environment. The agency has worked with many private citizens who understand that each have a duty to be good stewards of the land and life around us. And that's what we're honoring today.

Interesting thing is, is that we're honoring youngsters. You would think that the old folks would be the ones leading the charge in America and many places. But it's our young who are doing so, particularly when it comes to cleaning up the environment, and for that we're grateful. It really does speak to a great future for America, I think.

And rather than going through all the impressive accomplishments, just like Christie Todd did, I do want to talk a little bit about good environmental policy. It starts with a commitment. And my administration has a commitment to clean air and clean water and good soils.

Laura and I are fortunate enough to own a ranch in central Texas. I like to remind everybody that if you own your own land, every day is Earth Day. If you live off the land—the people who care more about that than the people who live off the land—the reason I bring that up is because I want—a good policy understands the proper role of the Federal Government. The proper role of the Federal Government is to set high standards, to set goals, but it's to work with local folks to achieve those goals.

Not all wisdom is in Washington, DC, as witnessed by what took place up here. All of us in Washington don't have all of the answers to all of the problems. Our job is to work in a collaborative way with people at the local level. As Christie Todd said, we'll fund more, and we will.

We've got money in our budget to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the first time. It says we'll work with local folks to set aside lands that need to be protected. We've got money in our budgets to repair the national parks. Here, the Federal Government is talking about a clean world and a clean environment, and yet we're not even keeping our own parks; we're not fulfilling our own responsibilities. It seems like to me, if we want to set a good example for the rest of the country, we've got to take care of what we're—over which we're in charge. And we're going to do so at the Federal level.

We've got some regulatory policy in place that makes sense. But it says we're going to make decisions based upon sound science, not some environmental fad or what may sound good—that we're going to rely upon the best of evidence before we decide.

Ours is a policy that truly believes that technologies have advanced to the point where we can have economic growth and sound environmental policy go hand in hand. Oh, there's a lot of talk recently about energy. And for those of you in California, you know we need more energy. For those of

you who are living in the biggest State in our Union, who have suffered blackouts—and some of us think there may be more blackouts coming—we've got to come up with an energy policy for America. But I firmly believe we can do so and protect the environment.

The whole world doesn't have to be zero-sum. It doesn't have to be that we find more energy, and therefore, the environment suffers. You see, we've got technologies available now to make sure that we explore and protect the environment at the same time, and we need to do that. We need to be good stewards of the land.

But we've also got to understand, if we don't bring more natural gas to the markets, we're going to have blackouts. We've also got to understand, in order to power the power-generating plants that are now being built in California, we need more energy. And I want to assure the young up here that this is an administration committed to good, sound policy. And it's an administration that firmly believes that the technologies are developed to the point where we can be good stewards of the land and, at the same time, bring the energy to market that we need.

We'll base decisions on sound science. We'll call upon the best minds of America to help us achieve an objective, not only here at home but around the world, which is: cleaner air, cleaner water, and better use of our land.

It's such a wonderful inspiration to see the young of America standing up here who are setting a good example for all of us. And so, on behalf of our Government and the American people, I want to congratulate the winners, their parents, and their sponsors.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

Message Commemorating the Forced Exile and Annihilation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

April 24, 2001

Today marks the commemoration of one of the great tragedies of history: the forced exile and annihilation of approximately 1.5 million Armenians in the closing years of the Ottoman Empire. These infamous killings darkened the 20th century and continue to haunt us to this day. Today, I join Armenian Americans and the Armenian community abroad to mourn the loss of so many innocent lives. I ask all Americans to reflect on these terrible events.

While we mourn the tragedy that scarred the history of the Armenian people, let us also celebrate their indomitable will which has allowed Armenian culture, religion, and identity to flourish through the ages. Let us mark this year the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia. Let us celebrate the spirit that illuminated the pages of history in 451 when the Armenians refused to bow to Persian demands that they renounce their faith. The Armenian reply was both courageous and unequivocal: "From this faith none can shake us, neither angels, nor men, neither sword, fire or water, nor any bitter torturers." This is the spirit that survived again in the face of the bitter fate that befell so many Armenians at the end of the Ottoman Empire.

Today, that same spirit not only survives, but thrives in Armenian communities the world over. Many Armenian survivors and their descendants chose to live in the United States, where they found safety and built new lives. We are grateful for the countless ways in which Armenian Americans continue to enrich America's science, culture, commerce and, indeed, all aspects of our national life.

One of the most important ways in which we can honor the memory of Armenian victims of the past is to help modern Armenia build a secure and prosperous future. I am proud that the United States actively supports Armenia and its neighbors in finding

a permanent and fair settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. I hope that this year we will see peace and reconciliation flourish in the south Caucasus region between Armenia and all its neighbors. The United States welcomes the opportunity to support the courageous efforts by the Armenian people to overcome years of hardship and Soviet repression to create a prospering, democratic, and sovereign Republic of Armenia.

Let us remember the past and let its lessons guide us as we seek to build a better future. In the name of the American people, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all Armenians as we observe this solemn day of remembrance.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

April 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period February 1 through March 31, 2001. The previous submission covered events during December 2000 and January 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

April 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25.

Remarks in New Orleans, Louisiana

April 25, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It's an honor to be here. This ballpark kind of reminds me of home. And seeing my friend Will Clark, who used to play for the mighty Texas Rangers, it really reminded me of home. I want to thank you for being here, Will.

I also want to thank my friend David Vitter, the great Congressman from this district, for his introduction. I'm pleased to have been traveling today, as well, with the Congressman from northern Louisiana, John Cooksey. I appreciate John being here.

And you should appreciate them, as well, because when it came to trying to figure out what to do with the people's money, they stood strong for tax relief. At the airport, when I arrived, it was good to see my old friend and fellow Governor, the Governor of Louisiana, Michael Foster. And with Mike

was a friend of mine, the elections commissioner of the State of Louisiana, Suzie Haik Terrell. It's good to see Suzie, as well.

Just to make it clear that tax relief is not necessarily a Republican idea or a Democrat idea, today I'm proud that Karen Carter and Lambert Boissiere, both good elected Democrats here in the State of Louisiana, stand in this crowd in solid support of tax relief on behalf of the working people.

And finally, before I get going, there are two folks here who I'm glad they're here; I wish I would have been here to hear them sing: Mr. Percy Sledge and Aaron Neville.

After this, I'm going to Arkansas and then I'm going to spend a couple of days in my State of Texas. I'll be spending some quality time with the First Lady, and she's going to be envious to know that I got to shake Percy Sledge and Aaron Neville's hand.

By the way, I'm proud of the job that Laura is doing. One of the things she is doing is traveling our country, reminding people of how important it is to be a teacher, telling the teachers of this good land how much we appreciate them, but also telling those young and old alike that if you're looking for something to do, if you want to make a contribution to our Nation, become a teacher. Teaching is a noble profession. And there is something very fundamental about making a contribution to our Nation.

The truth of the matter is, if you want to start making a great contribution to our Nation, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, remember this: The most important job you'll ever have is to be a good mom and dad. If you have the honor of being a mother or a father, the most important contribution you can make to this land is to every day tell your child you love them with all your heart and all your soul.

I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would say we would love each other like we'd like to be loved ourself. There's no such law. But there are some laws we can pass to help people with their lives. And that's exactly the kind of budget I submitted to the United States Congress. The Congress is focused and principled. It's a budget that says we could spend more money on the public's education system around America. It's a budget that prioritizes education.

The biggest increase of any budget—of any Department in my budget goes to the Department of Education. It signals a priority. But I haven't forgotten where I come from, either. I know that Washington doesn't have all the knowledge necessary to run the schools. As a matter of fact, I'm against mandates. I'm for freedom at the local level. I believe in local control of our schools.

We're making progress. We're making progress, and I appreciate so very much the cooperative efforts of both Republicans and Democrats in Washington to craft a bill that embodies these principles. First, we've got to set high standards when it comes to educating our children. Everybody understands that if you set low standards, you get low results. When you raise the bar, when you expect the best is when you start getting the kind of results we want in America.

Secondly, embodied in the principle involved in the bill that I submitted and we're working on, it says we've got to trust the local people to run the schools in America. It says we've got to trust the local people to make the decisions for children. The people who care more about the children in Louisiana are the citizens of Louisiana, and we must empower the citizens to make that choice.

But also a principle in the bill that's working its way through the Senate says that we want to know results in America. We've got to know. We don't want the Federal Government setting up a test, but we want local people to devise accountability systems that let us know whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is so important that we measure. It is important to use measurement not as a way to punish but as a way to solve problems early, before it's too late.

I refuse to accept a system that will not hold people accountable, a system that will just shuffle through children through the system without regard to their knowledge base.

Now, we can do better in America. We can do better by asking the question to our children: "What do you know?" And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we will make sure you do early, before it's too late. No child should be left behind in the great land called America.

In the budget I submitted to the United States Congress, I sent this priority. We better make sure we pay the people who wear the uniform of the United States a decent wage. I have the awesome responsibility of being the Commander in Chief of the United States, and that means making sure that morale is high amongst our troops, that means good pay, that means good housing, that means good training. And that means having a Commander in Chief who respects the men and women who wear the uniform and who, in turn, earns the respect of the men and women who wear the uniform.

Behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

There's always a lot of talk when it comes to the budget, that if we try to share the people's money with them, that somebody is not going to get their Social Security check. Hopefully, these days of that kind of rhetoric are gone from the political discourse. Hopefully, the days of trying to scare people, days of trying to frighten people are behind us. That kind of politics is divisive and unnecessary.

The reality is, the budget I submitted, and the budget most people agree with—this part of the budget most people agree with—says that we will spend payroll taxes, those taxes aimed for Social Security, on one thing and one thing only, and that is Social Security.

We have made a commitment to our elderly in America. It is a commitment this administration will keep. But if you're young in America, you better be wondering what the Social Security system is going to look like tomorrow. There's not going to be enough people paying in by the time you get to be Social Security. We've got to think differently. On the one hand, we're going to protect our seniors. But on the other hand, we better let younger workers, at their discretion, manage some of your own money in the private market so you get a better rate of return on investment.

There's a lot of concern about the health of our seniors, as there should be. The budget I submitted doubles the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. It doubles the amount of folks who will be served at community health centers over the next 5 years. It provides tax credits for the working uninsured. This is a good budget. It is a sound budget. And it meets the Nation's priorities.

It increases discretionary spending by 4 percent. That ought to seem like a lot for people whose pay raise hasn't gone up by 4 percent over the last couple of years. Four percent is greater than the rate of inflation; 4 percent is a hefty increase. But for some in Washington, 4 percent is not enough.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. For some in our Nation's Capital, they don't think 4 percent can meet the Nation's needs. And that's where we're having a major disagreement. The truth of the matter is, the budget last year grew at—the discretionary budget last year grew at 8 percent. The bill that came out of the Senate, again, grows the discretionary spending by 8 percent. And if that were to continue, the discretionary budget of the United States of America would double in 9 years.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. There's a fundamental argument going on in Washington, DC. And it's, what do we do with the people's money. That's what the argument is about. And my point I make to Washington is, after we meet priorities and grow the budget at 4 percent, we ought to be understanding where that money comes from. The surplus isn't the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. Let me make the case a little further.

We increase discretionary spending by 4 percent. As well, in the budget I submitted to the Congress, we pay down debt by $2 trillion over 10 years. We've also got another trillion set aside for contingencies.

Oh, there are contingencies all the time when it comes to the Federal level. There are emergencies. Sometimes our farmers need a little extra help because of emergencies. And we're going to meet those obligations. This is a sound budget. It leaves money unspent. That's always dangerous when it comes to Washington, DC, leaving money unspent. [*Laughter*]

I was campaigning on this very issue in Iowa, and a lady got up and she said, "You know, the budget debate in Washington reminds me of what it was like when I had my grandchildren in the house." And I said, "Well, why was that?" And she said, "Well,

because I always made cookies. And when I left the cookies on the kitchen table and the grandchildren came through, they always got eaten." [*Laughter*] "They were never left."

Well, that's what happens to U.S. taxpayers' money. If you leave it sitting around in Washington, it's going to get spent. And it's going to get spent on bigger Government. What we need to do is set priorities and always remember whose money we're talking about. And so I submitted a plan that does just that. And the two Congressmen with me today, they stood strong on the side of the working people in Louisiana and voted for that tax relief.

What you hear in Washington is—a lot of times you hear people saying, "Well, I'm for tax relief, just so long as only a certain number of people get it." That's right. That's what we call targeted tax relief. That means somebody in Washington gets to pick the winners, and somebody gets to pick who doesn't win. That is not our view of fair tax relief. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief in America.

So ours says, everybody who pays taxes gets relief. We cut all rates. We cut the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. That's important, because there are people in America struggling on the outskirts of poverty. There are people working hard that aren't getting ahead. And not only did we cut the bottom rate, we increased the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

One of the things that troubles me most about our Tax Code is—the example I like to use is a single mother, working hard to get ahead. By the way, she's working the hardest job in America. Raising children by herself is the toughest job in this country.

Under this Tax Code, if she's barely getting ahead making 22,000 a year, say, raising two children, for every additional dollar she earns, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is a successful Wall Street stockbroker, for example. And that's just not right, folks. That's not what this country is about.

The message in the Tax Code ought to be, the harder you work, the better it is the chance you've got to get ahead in life. And so we reduced the bottom rate, and we increased the child credit. This code needs to be more fair.

But there's a lot of them up there saying, "Well, you can't drop the top rate. That's not fair." Well, first, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. And secondly, you can help me send this message to Washington: The small-business owner in the State of Louisiana is likely to be a sole proprietor; he's likely to be a Subchapter S; generally, he's not going to pay corporate income taxes. Therefore, he's going to be paying personal income tax rates.

By dropping that top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we're sending this message: The role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to become a large business. Dropping that top rate sends the clear message: We want more money in the pockets of the small-business owners so they can expand and grow their businesses.

The Tax Code we submitted makes the Tax Code more fair. It addresses inequities. It makes the code more responsive to hard work. But it also recognizes the role of family in society. The marriage penalty is unfair, and we've got to do something about taxing marriage in America.

And you know what else is unfair? Taxing a person's assets twice. In our country, called America, if you're a farmer or a rancher or a small-business owner and you pass away, your heirs have to pay taxes twice. They pay taxes when you get profitable, and they pay taxes when you die. The death tax is unfair, and for the goodness of America we need to get rid of it.

Now, that's the plan I submitted. Now, when I was campaigning in Louisiana during the campaign, I came and talked like this and a lot of people heard it and cheered. But I must confess, a lot of the punditry kind of had a blank stare on their face. They thought I was, as they say, whistling into the wind—[*laughter*]—that there was no chance we would get any tax relief.

But thanks to the hard work and the phone calls and e-mails of hundreds of Americans from across the country, we have begun to define the parameters. Out of the House

came a $1.6 trillion plan, and now the Senate—somewhat reluctant, but nevertheless—they passed a $1.2 trillion plan. Because of you all, because of the voices of America, tax relief is on the way.

And there's two important reasons why it must happen. The first is, we have a little slowdown in our economy, and tax relief will help. It's a part of how we recover the steam necessary to get our economy chugging again. And I'm confident with tax relief, we'll send a message—one, it will encourage long-term investment, but the tax relief package I look forward to working with the Senate and the House on will also have a retroactive feature to it, will get money in people's pockets quickly. It'll help recover this economy. And it's necessary. It is necessary.

But there is another reason. It has to do with the people. You know, sometimes with public policy we like to talk about ideology and numbers and charts. But behind every good public policy is the question, how do we help people? Today, in the crowd, we've got the Rogelstads, somewhere behind—there they go, right there. And I've asked them to come—it's Katie and Dustin. Katie is a receptionist; Dustin is a sales rep. More importantly, they're a mom and dad of Lawson and Karli.

They've come for a reason—because I want to share with you what happens to this one Louisiana family when we have tax relief. The Congress passes the plan that the House passed. And when it's fully implemented, these good folks who now pay 3,390 in Federal income taxes will save $1,850 a year.

You know, some will say, well, you know, that's 1,850—that may not be a lot for—but that's a lot for them. It's a lot for them, given the fact that we've had no energy policy in America, and therefore, energy prices are going up on the American people. It's a lot for people who struggle with credit card debt.

Now, this tax relief package, we're talking about live Americans who will benefit in a real way. You see, and the question is—and this is the fundamental question facing Washington, DC—once we meet fundamental obligations and pay down debt, once we increase discretionary spending by 4 percent, what do we do with the money left over?

The other way to look at it is, who do you trust? Do you want the Congress spending this $1,850, or do you want these people spending the 18? And we stand on the side of the families in Louisiana. It's, who do you trust? Do you trust the Government, or do you trust the people? And you've got an administration that stands squarely on the side of the people of America.

And not only do I trust you when it comes to your own money, I trust you when it comes to asking for your help and maybe convincing some of the members of the Louisiana delegation who don't see it our way, to see it our way. You're one e-mail away from letting somebody know how you feel. You're one stamp away from saying, "Meet priorities, but trust us with our own money. Meet priorities, but remember whose money it is you're spending up there."

You see, we can not only afford tax relief, but my point to the Congress is, we can't afford not to have tax relief. It is so important to trust the people of America, because that's why our Nation is so different and strong, because of our people.

This is a fabulous country, and I'm so honored—I'm so honored to be your President. I'm able to stand up—I'm the President of the greatest people on the face of the Earth, hard-working, God-fearing people, people who walk outside their house on a regular basis and say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" They don't need the Federal Government telling them how to love a neighbor; they do it out of the goodness of their heart. No, this is a land that is so strong because every single day there are countless acts of kindness where neighbor helps neighbor, or church member says to a child who wonders whether or not there's a future for him or her, "Somebody loves you."

My call to America and to the Congress is, let's free the good hearts of the American people. Let's not stand in the way of faith-based and community-based programs that are trying to help people in need. Let's unleash—let us unleash not only the creative passions of America through tax relief, let's unleash the compassion of America through

a Faith-Based Initiative that recognizes the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of our loving citizens.

We're making a difference in Washington—I say "we" because I stand up there with you all—that there's a new attitude in our Nation's Capital. We've still got a lot of work to do. But it's an attitude of respect. We need to have debates with the people in mind, not debates trying to say, "My party is better than your party," or debates that say, "Well, I'm going to tear this person down so I can do better." That's not what America should be about.

Slowly but surely, we're ushering in a culture of respect in the Nation's Capital. It's important to do so. And as importantly, all of us must work together to usher in a culture of personal responsibility into America, a culture that says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, responsible for loving our children, responsible for helping a neighbor in need.

And I understand my responsibilities, which is to uphold the high honor of the great office of President of the United States.

So I want to thank you all for coming out. I am honored to have you by my side. Let's work hard, and we're going to bring tax relief where it belongs—to the people of America.

God bless, and God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. at Zephyr Field. In his remarks, he referred to former Major League baseball player Will Clark.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation to Clean Up Brownfields

April 25, 2001

I am pleased that the Senate has passed legislation to clean up the Nation's brownfields. Environmental reforms must set high standards and get results. This legislation will allow communities to reduce environmental and health risks, capitalize on existing infrastructure and create jobs. I commend the Senate for their bipartisan approach to this important environmental reform.

Proclamation 7429—Loyalty Day, 2001

April 25, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, America's founders faced a decisive crossroads. Thomas Jefferson later remembered "the bold and doubtful election we were to make for our country, between submission or the sword." They chose the sword, and a Nation was born.

Today, we celebrate our loyalty to this country and to the principles for which America stands. Americans demonstrate their dedication by protecting our Nation and its people, promoting our commonly held ideals, and passing these values on to future generations.

Many Americans display their loyalty through careers in public service. Members of our Armed Forces ensure that our Nation remains strong and secure, as well as defend democracy around the world. Domestically, law enforcement officers and the professionals working in our judicial system maintain the peace and uphold the rule of law on which our society depends. Countless other Americans also work to protect us from dangers that threaten our safety and resources.

Americans have not let the dream of "a more perfect Union" fade with the passing of time. Rather, each new generation, along with millions of immigrants, has promoted ideals that lead to the archetype that the founders envisioned. Heroes have risen to fight for freedom, abolition of slavery, universal suffrage, civil rights, and other principles that form the foundation of our Nation. Today, citizens across the country continue this tradition by giving their time and effort to causes greater than themselves. Whether through charitable, civic, or church activities, Americans demonstrate their loyalty by working to improve our country and the lives of its people.

Perhaps the most basic and important means by which we display loyalty to our country is by passing on to our children the

hope and idealism that is an important part of the American spirit. Parents have the important task in ensuring that our Nation's future leaders are prepared to assume the responsibilities they will face. Teachers play essential roles in molding our young people, and they deserve our gratitude and respect for their dedication. Ministers and other mentors also give of themselves by introducing children to the vast opportunities that our Nation holds. By spending time with a child, Americans invest in the future of our country.

Loyalty Day recognizes the solemn bond between America and its citizens. It provides an opportunity to recognize those who demonstrate their loyalty every day and challenges all of us to find more ways to contribute to the greater good of our country.

The Congress, by Public Law 85–529, has designated May 1 of each year, as "Loyalty Day," and I encourage all Americans to join me this day in reaffirming our allegiance to our blessed Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2001, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all the people of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 27, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 30.

Remarks on Arrival in Little Rock, Arkansas

April 25, 2001

Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to be back in Arkansas. It's great to be with my friend the Governor. We got to know each other when I was the Governor of a neighboring State. I respected him then; I continue to hold him in high regard. Governor Huckabee is one of the more popular Governors in the country because he's done in office what he said he would do.

It's also my honor to come to Arkansas to support a good friend of mine and a good friend of Arkansas, Senator Tim Hutchinson. This is my first trip as a—my first fundraising trip since I became the President. It's the first time I've really gotten what they call political, and it's for a good cause.

This man has done a really good job for the citizens of Arkansas, and I would like to see him returned to the United States Senate after next year's elections. He and I are working together on a lot of issues that matter to the Arkansas folks: a budget that is good for Arkansas and a tax relief plan that will benefit some 787,000 people who live in this State.

And the budget is focused. We increase a Federal education funding from 366 million to 390 million. We increase Head Start funding from $57.4 to $58.5 million. There's an estimated 379 million targeted for highway funding in Arkansas. This is a responsible budget that leaves room for tax relief, but also focuses on issues that matter to the folks of Arkansas. And coming down on the airplane, he and I spent a lot of time talking about agriculture.

One of the things the Senator talked about was there were a lot of farmers hurting in this State. And I assured him I understood that. And the point I want to make to the people is that when this election comes around in 2002, I hope the people of Arkansas realize how important it is to have a United States Senator who can walk into the Oval Office and say, "Mr. President, the people of Arkansas need your attention." And I can assure you when Tim Hutchinson walks in the Oval Office and says the people of Arkansas need my attention, they're going to get my attention.

And so, it's my honor to be here with this good United States Senator. I urge the people of this State to realize what a good man they've got in office, and I thank the people of this State for the prayers and support they've given me since I've been the President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:07 p.m. at the Little Rock National Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Tim Hutchinson in Little Rock

April 25, 2001

Well, Tim, thank you very much. It's my honor to be back in the great State of Arkansas. We were just reminiscing about the campaign. I remember—I was kind of tired, because it was the last day of the campaign, and I was on the airplane flying into Arkansas, wondering whether or not I could give one final speech. And we landed up there in northwest Arkansas, and there was about—I don't know, 17,000 people inside the area and another 17,000 trying to get in. And I had that funny feeling right there that not only could I not only give the speech, but I had that feeling things were going to go okay on election day in Arkansas, and they did, and I want to thank you all.

I want to thank Tim Hutchinson for his help in getting me here. More importantly, I want to thank him for his help as a United States Senator. I'm here for one simple reason. This man needs to be returned back to the United States Senate, come elections in 2002.

It's good to see the Lieutenant Governor, Win Rockefeller, and wife, Lisa Ann. Thank you all for being here. Every time I came back to Arkansas, it seemed like Win was able to make time for his old buddy, the Governor of Texas, and I appreciate that very much, sir. Thank you very much.

It's great to be here with former State Senator Jim Keet. It's good to see you again. He reminded me in 1988 when I campaigned here for the man we affectionately call "Number 41"—[*laughter*]—I'm "Number 43"—but we campaigned together for a great President, my dad, in 1998 together, and it's good to see you again, sir.

It's also great—Nick Bacon is here, Medal of Honor winner, an American hero, a man who represents the veterans of this State incredibly well. You need to know, Nick, that the veterans have got a friend in the White House. And it's my honor to be the President, not only the Commander In Chief, of those who wear the uniform, but a President who understands that those who used to wear the uniform need to be well-represented in Washington, just like you're doing here in Arkansas. And Dennis Rainey of the FamilyLife ministry, and Pastor Robert Smith, thank you all for being up here.

I'm sorry my wife isn't here with me. She is in Crawford, Texas, and I'm headed to Crawford, Texas, after this speech. [*Laughter*] They say, "Well, you must not like to live in Washington because you like to go to your ranch or Camp David." Well, I like to do both. I like—I love my life in the White House. I love getting up every morning and going into this majestic office that we call the Oval Office. As Tim said, it is an honor to be the President of the United States, and I view it that way, but I also like to stay in touch with the people that got me here. I like to get outside of Washington. I like to go to where the space is open, where I can walk around with Spot and Barney, the two family dogs. [*Laughter*] My wife loves our country—the country house we've got, and so do I, and so I beg your forgiveness for not eating dinner here tonight. I am here to thank you for supporting Tim. I do want to give some remarks about what I think is going on in Washington, but then I'm fixing to get on Air Force One and take it to Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*]

By the way, our family is happy. I'm really proud of the work that Laura is doing. She is—people are learning about west Texas women. They sometimes don't say a lot, but when they speak, people do listen. She's a great listener. And she's doing the country a great service by traveling our Nation, convincing people, both young and old alike, to become teachers, reminding people that teaching is a noble profession and that you do the country a great service if you end up in the classroom. We're working on Troops to Teachers programs that take retired teachers—I mean, retired military folks and help them become a teacher. And she, as well, is working with youngsters who are just getting out of college and saying, "Be a teacher. It will be a huge contribution to America,"

and people are listening. And for that, I am grateful, and I know you are as well.

As Tim mentioned, I think we are making good progress in Washington, reminding people that we're up there for a reason, and it's not just politics. We're up there to get some things done on behalf of the American people. And Tim's helping—a lot. And he mentioned tax relief.

I want to remind people that before the tax relief debate started because of me, he had already been up there talking about increasing the child credit for people who are raising children in America. Well, now, one of the key ingredients in our tax plan is doubling the child credit, and that's an important part of tax relief. It's an important part of tax relief, particularly when you drop the bottom rate in our Tax Code, like we're advocating. And the reason that's important is because there's a lot of folks in our country who live on the outskirts of poverty who are working hard to get ahead, and as a result of the way this Tax Code is structured, as they begin to get ahead, pay a higher marginal rate on dollars earned than somebody who is successful.

I love to use the example, because it helps make my case as loud—as clearly as I can, about the single lady working in any State in the Union, trying to get ahead. She may have two children. First, it's important for Congress to understand she's got the toughest job in America. Raising children on her own is the hardest work in our country, coupled with the fact that for whatever reason, she's making $22,000 a year. The way this Tax Code is structured today, for every additional dollar she earns, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone making $200,000 a year. And that is not fair, and that's not what America is about, as far as we're concerned.

So tax relief, when you combine dropping the bottom rate from 15 to 10 and increasing the child credit, it makes the Tax Code more fair and more equitable. It inculcates this principle: The harder you work, the more money you ought to put in your pocket in America. And Tim understands that.

Well, I've heard a lot of the debate about taxes. You know, they say, "Well George W., he only cares about the wealthy people." That's because I believe if you pay taxes, you ought to get tax relief. What I don't subscribe to is this business about Washington, DC, people being able to pick and choose the winners. That's code word for targeted tax cuts. That means elected officials get to sit in a room, and they get to say, "This table over here gets tax relief, and this table doesn't." Our attitude is, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. That's the only fair thing in America.

We dropped that top rate, just like we dropped the bottom rate. And there are two positive effects when you do so. First of all, it sets a principle, that the Federal Government should take no more than a third of anybody's check. It's time we have some principles in the Tax Code. One, the code ought to be more fair. Two, our Federal Government doesn't need to take more than a third of anybody's check. And secondly, it's important for the policy makers in Washington to focus on the reality of dropping the top rate. By dropping the top rate, we stimulate investment. We send a clear message that ours is an entrepreneurial economy.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur or the small-business person can flourish. And these Senators that are balking on this plan must understand that most small businesses all across America are unincorporated. They're Subchapter S's. They're sole proprietorships. They don't pay the corporate tax; they pay the personal tax. And by dropping the top rate, we're sending a clear message that small business must thrive and flourish in America, that we want our entrepreneurs to have more cash so they can expand their payrolls, create new investment opportunities. No, the way to deal with this Tax Code is to recognize if you pay taxes, you've got to get relief. And that's what this Senate must hear loud and clear from the people of Arkansas.

We're trying to do something about the marriage penalty. This Tax Code of ours sends the wrong signals. It taxes marriage. We ought to be rewarding marriage. We ought to be encouraging families in the Tax Code.

And finally, one area the Senator and I are working closely on, it's an area dear to the hearts of a lot of people—doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat—and that's this business about the death tax. The death tax is unfair, and we need to repeal the death tax in the code. It's unfair to tax a person's assets twice. I've talked to hundreds of people all across America who've heard this message about repealing the death tax, and they come up to me and say, "I've worked all my life. I started with nothing. It looks like I'm going to end up with something, and it should be the American right to be able to pass my assets on to my children without the Federal Government making it impossible for me to do so."

This is a State with a lot of farmers. And Tim and I spent a lot of time talking about agriculture, coming down here. And I understand that some in the agricultural sector are hurting. And I understand there is pressure—what they call urban sprawl in some areas. Well, if you're worried about urban sprawl and if you're worried about the farmer, why don't we make it easier for people not to have to sell their farm upon death? We need to get rid of the death tax, and the Senate needs to hear that loud and clear.

I'm sure you've heard the arguments—I certainly have—that, well, if you have a $1.6 trillion tax cut, the Government is not going to be able to meet its needs, that by letting people keep their own money, the Federal Government is going to starve to death.

Well, let me tell you about the budget that Tim has supported and I proposed. It increases discretionary spending by 4 percent. Now, there are some parts of our budget that are going to grow based upon what they call entitlements. That's like Social Security. And Social Security, by the way—we've set aside all the payroll taxes, and they're only going to be spent on Social Security. This business about letting Congress dip into Social Security, that's over with. People have got to understand the Social Security system is safe and secure and sound under a Bush administration.

But discretionary spending grows in my budget at 4 percent. Is that enough? Well, 4 percent is greater than the rate of inflation. Seems like it's enough to me. Four percent is greater than most people's paychecks increase by. That ought to be enough. But it's not enough, and over the objections of Senator Hutchinson, the United States Senate passed a discretionary budget of 8 percent.

Now, what does 8 percent mean? If we increase the discretionary budget by 8 percent, on an annual basis, it means that 9 years of discretionary budget of the United States of America will double. And when you double the discretionary budget of Federal spending, you crowd out capital in the private sector, and it's a drag on the U.S. economy. This Congress needs to be able to live within its means, and 4 percent is plenty.

We've got some choices to make: Bigger Government or a stronger economy. And we've got some choices to make. Once we meet the needs of the Government, who do we trust with the money? Who do we trust? And that's the question I'm asking Washington to think about. Senator Hutchinson trusts the people, and so does President Bush, because we understand this surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. And we've got to trust them with their own money to make decisions for their family. It's a fundamental, philosophical question.

Some of your members here of the congressional delegation are struggling with that question. Who do you trust? Who do you trust with that additional money? And Senator Hutchinson has no problems making the statement loud and clear. Once we meet our needs in Washington, he trusts the people, the people of Arkansas to make the right decisions for their families and the children, make the right decision on how they're going to save and what they're going to do with their money.

And we've got some priorities in the budget, and that's one reason why I think it's safe for me to say that the budget meets the needs. Instead of trying to be all things to all people, it sets clear priorities. Education is a priority in our budget, and it should be a priority in the budget. The Department that gets the biggest increase of any one, of any Department in my budget, is the Department of Education. And let me tell you what we do in it.

I've made reading a priority in our Nation. I fully understand if you can't read, it's going to be hard to get ahead. One of the worst things that's happened is we've just shuffled children through the system who are illiterate. And that has got to end in America, and it starts by having the Federal Government make a commitment to sound reading programs, diagnostic tools. And so we've tripled the amount of money in the Federal budget, money that's accessible by the local school districts.

We tripled character education funds. It's one thing to teach children to read and write, but we also have to teach them right from wrong in America. And so we make money available for local school districts for character education.

Teacher training is a priority. So we increase teacher training funds by 18 percent, from 2001 to 2002. No, we set priorities in the budget. And I appreciate Senator Hutchinson's leadership on the Labor and Education Committee in the Senate. He talked about a bipartisan consensus, and we're getting there, because the principles inherent in the bill are sound and make sense. It's a commonsense approach to education.

It says, first and foremost, this Nation must set high standards for the children to go to school. If you set low standards, guess what you get? Low results. And so we set high standards and high expectations. Secondly, we know who is best to chart the path to excellence, and it's not in Washington, DC. This bill and reforms that we're proposing in Washington will pass power out of Washington because I strongly believe, as does Senator Hutchinson, in local control of schools.

We've done something different at Washington, DC. We have said, "Listen, we've spent a lot of Federal money, and some of it makes sense. And if you receive Federal money, you have to account for it." It's time to have a results-oriented approach to public policy. And it says if you receive money, you must measure. It doesn't say the Federal Government should measure, it says the State of Arkansas ought to measure. And you ought to test, and you ought to let us know whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, there ought to be ample praise in society. But if they're not, instead of just quitting on children, instead of just shuffling through the school system, we've got to end that practice.

Up until now, much of public education has asked the question to our children, "How old are you? If you're 10, you're supposed to go here, and if you're 12, you belong here, and if you're 16, you go here." And guess what happens in a system that simply asks age as opposed to, "What do you know?" Children get shuffled through the system. And many times, sadly enough, they're inner-city kids. It's so much easier to quit on a child than to take the extra time to teach them.

The system must stop asking the question, "How old are you?" and start asking the question, "What do you know?" And if the children do not know what they're supposed to know early in life, we need to correct those problems, because there are no second-rate children in America as far as this administration is concerned. There are no second-rate dreams. And the education reform package we're sending sets this clear and profound goal: Not one single child will be left behind in the great country called America.

I take my obligation to defend our country very seriously. I'm proud to be the Commander in Chief. And I fully understand that to enhance morale in the United States military, it requires a Commander in Chief who honors the men and women who wear the uniform and, in turn, earns the respect of the men and women who wear our uniform. And secondly, in order to boost morale we must increase pay, and my budget does so. It improves housing. And my budget does so. And Tim Hutchinson stands side by side. We need modern defenses. And he and I agree strongly that the Little Rock Air Force Base is important for the future of this country. He not only looks out for Arkansas, this Senator looks out for America. And for that I hope the people of this great State are grateful.

You will hear those who make every excuse in the world to keep your money in Washington say, "Well, the Bush budget or so and so votes means that somebody is not going to get adequate health care." In the budget

I submitted to Congress, we doubled the Medicare budget over a 10-year period of time. In the budget I submitted to Congress, we doubled the number of folks who will be served in community health centers in America over a 5-year period of time. In the budget I submitted for America, we have tax credits for working uninsured. We have a President who is saying to Congress, "Instead of just talking about these health care issues, let's get something done on them." And my budget reflects that, and that's an important priority of ours—the health of our citizens.

And finally, I believe that Senator Hutchinson and I and others, but Republicans and Democrats, are doing something that's immeasurable. You can't talk about it in terms of the budget. But they're working hard to change the tone of Washington, DC. I have pledged to the American people to change the tone of our Nation's Capital so that when people look at Washington, they are proud of what they see. I believe most Americans of either party are sick and tired of needless partisan bickering and name-calling, and finger-pointing.

We need to spend our energy getting things done, not passing the blame. And we're making good progress. There is a culture of respect that's beginning to emerge in Washington. I'm beginning to notice that the rhetoric is toning down just a little bit. I hope people realize that good public policy means good politics. And we don't need to be spending all our time on politics in Washington. It's time to focus on the people's business. Tax relief is in the people's interest. It's good for our economy. It's good for our people.

This doesn't have to be a, "Well, I can't vote for that bill because it might make George W. Bush look good, or some political party look good," we need to get the attitude in Washington, DC, "We've been elected for a reason, and that's to stand up and do what each of us think is right on behalf of the American people." Tim Hutchinson understands that. I hope all Senators understand that. And if they understand that, then the dialog is going to be much, much more civil, much more responsible.

And that's what we need in this country. We need responsibility. We need to usher a period of personal responsibility, where each of us understands we have the awesome responsibility to be a good citizen. If you happen to be a mom or dad, you have the awesome responsibility of loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a fortunate citizen in this country, you have the responsibility of putting your arm around a neighbor in need and say, "Brother or sister, somebody loves you. Somebody cares." One of the most profound initiatives that we are working on—one of the most profound initiatives that we are working on is the Faith-Based Initiative that welcomes people of faith and community and good heart into the compassionate delivery of help for people who need help in America.

We should not fear faith in America; we ought to welcome faith. It changes lives and changes hearts. We're making good progress toward ushering in a period of personal responsibility. But it requires people serving in Washington who understand the reason they are there. And I firmly believe Senator Tim Hutchinson understands the reason they are there. He loves and cares about the people of Arkansas.

And by the way, as this campaign gets going, you might turn to a friend or neighbor and say, it makes a lot of sense for Arkansas to have somebody who can walk into the Oval Office. It makes a lot of sense for our State, with the problems we have, to have a United States Senator be able to pick the phone up and say, "Mr. President, I'd like to discuss the concerns of the people of Arkansas. We've got some problems with our farmers. I'd like to discuss the concerns. We may have a problem in our education system. Mr. President, I'd like you to hear me out. I'd like to deliver a message on the people of Arkansas." And I can assure you, folks, that the person running this race who will have the ear of the President of the United States is Senator Tim Hutchinson. So I want to thank you all for coming. Thank you for your generous support. Work hard. We need this man in Washington, DC.

God bless. And God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. at the Statehouse Convention Center. In his remarks, he

referred to Nick Bacon, director, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dennis Rainey, executive director, FamilyLife.

Statement on the Anniversary of Ukraine's Closing of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant

April 26, 2001

Last year on December 15, Ukraine ended one of the darkest chapters of the Soviet legacy and opened a new stage in Ukraine's evolution into a modern European state when it permanently closed the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

Closing Chernobyl created the circumstances for a safer and more prosperous Ukraine for future generations. We are reminded of this today on the 15th anniversary of the terrible accident at Chernobyl and are again grateful that an environmental threat has been removed from the central European landscape.

Today's anniversary is an occasion for the global community to pause and reflect on the lessons provided by this disaster, to recall the valor and dignity that the people of Ukraine displayed in the face of adversity, and to acknowledge the suffering that many victims of Chernobyl continue to endure throughout the region.

I am proud of the American people's role in helping to alleviate this suffering—at the time of the tragedy and continuing through today. I am proud of our continued efforts to work with Ukraine to improve nuclear safety and mitigate the harsh social impact of Chernobyl's closure on the local population.

Much work remains to be done in Ukraine's transition to a modern European state. This work will require strong and courageous leadership over the coming months and years. It will require real support for democracy and difficult but necessary reforms. Last year strong Ukrainian leadership and committed international assistance achieved great results in Chernobyl. I urge Ukraine to stay on the path of reform it set out upon last year. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once noted that "it is only through strife, through hard and dangerous endeavor, that we shall ultimately win the goal of true national greatness."

I firmly believe that Ukraine's national greatness rests in Europe and in its transatlantic and global ties. The United States stands ready to work with Ukraine as it undertakes the political and economic reforms necessary to build these ties that are so vital to the brighter future Ukrainians seek for themselves and their children.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act"

April 26, 2001

America's children represent our greatest hope for the future. I commend the House for its bipartisan passing of the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," which will make it a separate felony to harm an unborn child in the course of committing any one of 68 Federal offenses. This legislation affirms our commitment to a culture of life, which welcomes and protects children.

Remarks at a Celebration of Reading in Houston, Texas

April 26, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you very much. Laura and I are really glad to be back in Texas. [*Laughter*] I didn't realize, Dad, until I saw that video, how different your life has been since I'm the President and you're not. [*Laughter*] Sounds like it's been pretty rough. And perhaps you and I should sit down and have a discussion, talk about it. Let me think: I have an opening the 27th of September. [*Laughter*]

We have some other family issues to discuss, like where to put my Presidential Library. [*Laughter*] I've decided not to go through the hassle of raising money. And so, you know my dad's library? We're just going to add, "And Son." [*Laughter*] As you can already tell, lately my dad has been calling me "43." I call him "41." It's kind of shorthand we have in our family. And we have a nickname for Mother as well. To show you where she stands in the power structure of

this family, we call her "Number One." [*Laughter*]

And so I'm going to turn the stage back to Number One, and then close the program with some remarks of my own. It's really great to be back in Houston and to return bearing the proudest title ever been given to me: Son of Barbara and George Bush.

[*At this point, the Celebration of Reading proceeded.*]

The President. Well, thank you. Thank you, Laura. Once again, thank you all for that warm welcome. I know all of you join me in thanking the authors for being here tonight. The readings were fantastic, and we appreciate it.

You've certainly set a high standard for a little reading I intend to do tonight. [*Laughter*] Now, some people think my mom took up the cause of literacy—[*laughter*]—out of a sense of guilt over my own upbringing. [*Laughter*] That's one reason why she was so happy I married a teacher.

The truth is, I guess I could have paid a little closer attention when I was in English class, but it all worked out okay. [*Laughter*] I'm gainfully employed. [*Laughter*] And I even have a new book out, and I brought along a copy. Right, here it is. I didn't actually write all of this, but I did inspire it. [*Laughter*] Some guy put together a collection of my wit and wisdom. [*Laughter*] Or as he calls it, my accidental wit and wisdom.

It's not exactly a world transformed, but I'm kind of proud that my words are already in book form. [*Laughter*] And I thought tonight I would share a few quotable passages with you. It's kind of like thoughts of Chairman Mao—[*laughter*]—only with laughs and not in Chinese. [*Laughter*]

Here's one. And I actually said this. [*Laughter*] "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully." [*Laughter*] Now, that makes you stop and think. [*Laughter*] Anyone can give you a coherent sentence, but something like this takes you to an entirely new dimension. [*Laughter*]

Here's another: "I understand small-business growth; I was one." [*Laughter*] My, do I love great literature. I said this up in New Hampshire: "I appreciate preservation. It's what you've got to do when you run for President." [*Laughter*] "You've got to preserve." You know, I really don't have the slightest idea what I was talking about there. [*Laughter*]

You know, a lot of times on the campaign, they asked me about economics, and I actually said this. "More and more of our imports come from overseas." [*Laughter*]

Now, most people would say this when they're talking about the economy. "We ought to make the pie bigger." [*Laughter*] However, I said this. [*Laughter*] "We ought to make the pie higher." [*Laughter*] It is a very complicated economic point I was making there. [*Laughter*] But believe me—believe me, what this country needs is taller pie. [*Laughter*]

And how about this for a foreign policy vision: "When I was coming up, it was a dangerous world. And we knew exactly who the 'they' were." [*Laughter*] "It was 'us' versus 'them.'" [*Laughter*] "And it was clear who the them was." [*Laughter*] "Today, we're not so sure who the 'they' are"—[*laughter*]—"but we know they're there."

John Ashcroft, by the way, attributes the way I talk to my religious fervor. In fact, the first time we met, he thought I was talking in tongues. [*Laughter*] Then there is my famous statement: "Rarely is the question asked, is our children learning?" [*Laughter*] Let's analyze that sentence for a moment. [*Laughter*] If you're a stickler, you probably think the singular verb "is" should have been the plural "are." But if you read it closely, you'll see that I'm using the intransitive plural subjective tense. [*Laughter*] And so the word "is" are correct. [*Laughter*]

Now, ladies and gentlemen, you have to admit, in my sentences, I go where no man has gone before. [*Laughter*] But the way I see it is, I am a boon to the English language. I've coined new words, like "misunderestimate"—[*laughter*]—and "Hispanically." [*Laughter*] I've expanded the definition of words, themselves, using "vulcanize" when I meant "polarize"—[*laughter*]—"Grecians" when I meant "Greeks," "inebriating" when I meant "exhilarating." [*Laughter*] And instead of "barriers and tariffs," I said, "terriers and barriffs." [*Laughter*]

We all make our contributions in the world, and I suppose mine will not be to the literary treasures of the Western Civilization. [*Laughter*] But I do hope to contribute in my own way. And one of those ways is to bring closer the day when every child and every American learns to read. And that is why the budget I submitted to the United States Congress triples the amount of money available for reading programs all across America.

I'm proud of mother. She took up the cause more than a decade ago. And she didn't leave it behind in the White House. Through her efforts and the efforts of all who have helped the Barbara Bush Foundation, so many lives have been enriched with new opportunities.

We heard Norma Vargas beautifully describe the good that has come into her life since she has found the courage to walk into that San Jose classroom to begin her first lesson. Tens of thousands more have their own stories. Stories of people finding new and better jobs, and gaining a new sense of dignity, because now they can read.

And I'm proud that Laura has her own commitment to education. She was a teacher when I met her. In her own way, she will always be a teacher. She's the best kind of teacher, too, the kind who leaves no one out and believes in the possibilities of every person.

That's the spirit of your cause and ours. I thank each of you for all you have contributed. It will be repaid many times over in lives of new achievement and lives of new hope.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:04 p.m. at the Wortham Theater Center. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President George Bush, former First Lady Barbara Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and former Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 22

In the evening, the President returned from Quebec, Canada, to Washington, DC.

April 23

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald J. McConnell to be Ambassador to Eritrea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen A. Cambone to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Cameron Findlay to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lori A. Forman to be Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development for Asia and the Near East.

The White House announced that the President invited President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to the White House on April 24.

April 24

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Henry Jones to be Ambassador to Kuwait.

The President announced his intention to nominate James G. Roche to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas E. White to be Secretary of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon England to be Secretary of the Navy.

April 25

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, and later, he traveled to Little Rock, AR.

In the evening, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bonnie McElveen-Hunter to be Ambassador to Finland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jacob Lozada to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Human Resources and Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eugene Scalia to be Solicitor of the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles J. Swindells to be Ambassador to New Zealand.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart Bernstein to be Ambassador to Denmark.

The President announced his intention to nominate George L. Argyros to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.

April 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, and in the evening, he returned to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen L. Johnson to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Moshe Katsav of Israel for a working visit on May 30.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mercer Reynolds to be Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

April 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Austin, TX, and in the afternoon, he returned to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. David Welch to be Ambassador to Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael K. Powell to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Presidential Scholars: Bruno V. Manno; Robert Lewis King; Jennifer Sandra Carroll; Lynne Ann Munson; Lawrence Richard Bearden; Modesto A. Maidique; Mary Katherine Turner; Paul Gust Vallas; Theodore Martin Hesburgh; Flo N. Traywick; Michele M. Ridge; Virginia Sue Hoffa; Marcia Jackson; Manuel Lujan, Jr.; Elizabeth K. Johnson; Mary Kramer; Linda Richey Graves; Louis Wade Sullivan; Jean Loretta Becker; Nancy Ann Hunt; Stanley E. Taylor; Shirley Miller; Glen Thomas Becerra; and Williamson Evers.

The President announced his intention to nominate James W. Ziglar to be Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, hail, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on April 21 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 23

Edward C. Aldridge,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, vice Jacques Gansler.

Peter F. Allgeier,
of Virginia, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Richard W. Fisher, resigned.

Bruce Marshall Carnes,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, vice Michael Telson, resigned.

Maureen Patricia Cragin,
of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice John T. Hanson, resigned.

Viet D. Dinh,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Eleanor Acheson, resigned.

Roger Walton Ferguson, Jr.,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2000 (reappointment).

William D. Hansen,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, vice Frank S. Holleman III, resigned.

William J. Haynes II,
of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense, vice Douglas A. Dworkin.

Robert Glenn Hubbard,
of New York, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Martin Neil Baily, resigned.

A. Elizabeth Jones,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs), vice James F. Dobbins.

Powell A. Moore,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice John K. Veroneau.

Timothy J. Muris,
of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of 7 years from September 26, 2001, vice Robert Pitofsky, term expiring.

Angela Styles,
of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, vice Deidre A. Lee, resigned.

Submitted April 25

Claude A. Allen,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Kevin L. Thurm, resigned.

Lou Gallegos,
of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Paul W. Fiddick, resigned.

Timothy J. Muris,
of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of 7 years from September 26, 1994, vice Robert Pitofsky, resigned.

Lee Sarah Liberman Otis,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy, vice Mary Anne Sullivan, resigned.

Pat Pizzella,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Patricia Watkins Lattimore.

Mary Kirtley Waters,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Andrew C. Fish, resigned.

Submitted April 26

Stephen L. Johnson,
of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice James V. Aidala, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 21

Fact sheet: President's Speech at the Summit of the Americas

Fact sheet: Tropical Forest Conservation Act

Fact sheet: Inter-American E-Business Fellowship Program

Fact sheet: Creating Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training

Fact sheet: American Fellows Initiative

Fact sheet: Caribbean Third Border Initiative

Fact sheet: Andean Regional Initiative

Released April 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay

Released April 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released April 25

Statement by the Press Secretary on opening day for the President's South Lawn tee ball initiative

Released April 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Israeli President Katsav To Visit Washington

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Remarks at the Dedication of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas

April 27, 2001

Thank you, Governor; and thank you, Jan, very much for having Laura and me. We're sure glad to be home. I love my work; I really do. I love what I'm doing. But I've got to confess, I miss my friends in Texas, and it's good to see so many of my friends here today.

It's also good to be here with members of the Bullock family, and the many whose lives he touched. Governor Perry, I appreciate the job you're doing here in Texas. Some of you may recall that I had mixed feelings about leaving the Governor's office, but it was easier knowing that I was leaving the State in pretty darn good hands.

And when I decided to leave, I joined the former Governors club. I'm your newest member. But I see three of the members here today: Governors Briscoe, Smith, and Clements, and we're honored by your presence.

And representing the family of the 36th President is Lucy Baines Johnson. Laura and I live in your former home, and we look forward to the day we can welcome you and your lovely mom back to Washington.

It's good to be here with the Lieutenant Governor, and I congratulate him on his promotion. And of course, my friend, the Speaker. It's great to see both Nelda and Pete; we miss you both a lot.

I see a lot of other familiar faces here, as well, members of the legislature—some of you smiling—[*laughter*]—some of those same old familiar scowls. [*Laughter*] And it's good to see a lot of other folks from back in the days when it seemed like everybody worked for Bob Bullock.

This is really a fine museum. Laura and I were honored to be able to tour it. It is magnificent. Everybody in Texas needs to come and see it. And so I want to congratulate the members of the preservation board; Clay Johnson and Dealey Herndon and John Nau, who took the idea from paper to reality. They deserve a lot of credit for their vision.

In the years to come, visitors will take the tour we have just taken. They'll view the exhibits. They'll come upon the statue of the 38th Lieutenant Governor of Texas and see it just as the way we saw it today. With time passing, fewer visitors will know Bob Bullock as we knew him, and we're the lucky ones.

If you knew him, you were very much aware of this fact: He had a way of making himself clear. [*Laughter*] Nobody ever came out of a meeting with Bob Bullock thinking, "Gee, I wonder what's on his mind." [*Laughter*] As a result, many of us knew that Bob didn't want his name on this building. Well, that's just too darn bad. We have no choice but to overrule him.

You see, to a great building like this, telling the story of Texas and standing right here in the center of our State's capital, the only name to give it was Bob Bullock. I can't help thinking how much he would have loved to hearing "Hail to the Chief" played here in Austin. Bob seemed to know my future before I did. He was among the first people who told me I was going to be the President, and like always, he made it sound like an order. [*Laughter*] His confidence meant a lot to me, and I've thought a lot about him when I've sat in the Oval Office.

Along with his predictions, I always got some advice from Bob. One of the last times we talked, he had just seen a picture of me on a magazine. He took the oxygen mask off and summoned up some strength in his frail body, and he said, "You need to smile more for the cameras." [*Laughter*] I seem to remember a few other occasions when Bob gave me advice, and I was always glad he did. Many of his words of advice can't be quoted here—[*laughter*]—really only meant for mature audiences. [*Laughter*]

We all remember Bob's gift for a colorful image and the fragrant phrase. But we remember the advice, too, because there was wisdom in it. He spoke with experience and with conviction and authority. In 1994 people warned me about him before I even got to Austin. We were men of different backgrounds and of different political parties, both elected to high offices in our State. He was the one who had been around. I recognized that early. He had the kind of influence you don't get with a title. And no Governor, and certainly no new Governor, had anything to teach him about getting anything done.

We know how it turned out. We know there was a record of shared accomplishment and a record of shared credit, as well. Yet, it all could have worked out differently. It could have been much different. Had he chosen to, Bob—and for that matter, Pete Laney—could have prevented tax reform or legal reform or education reform. In the Constitution, I could stop legislation with a veto. In the capital, Bob Bullock could stop it with a phone call.

But when he exercised power, it was on principle. He was a Democrat and a loyal one. He was a politician and a skilled one. He was a competitor and a tough one. When I met Bob Bullock, he was set in his ways. Bob Bullock had decided on his priorities. He was an American, a Texan, and a Democrat, in that order. He decided things on merits. He took his responsibilities as seriously as his power, and that's what made him an essential ally, a great public servant, and a towering figure to all who knew him.

In Texas, we have a tradition of straight talk and fair dealing, and Bob Bullock embodied that. In the last 97 days I've done my best to take the values I learned here in Texas to the debates in Washington. And there's a way yet to go, but I think we're making some progress. The tone is more civil; the respect is more widespread. I think Bob Bullock would be pleased.

Something about politics in this State—in every generation, a figure comes along who just seems larger than life, and I'm sure they'll keep coming. But he was ours, Bob Bullock, and we'll always remember him. He's been called the last of a breed, and it's true that politics has changed. Let's just hope it doesn't change too much. We'll always need his kind of strength and toughness and shrewd wisdom. These were the outward qualities of a man who had more kindness and gentleness than he would ever admit. And that's why we miss him so much, not just because he was a character but because he was a charming, loving, and loyal friend.

Twenty-two months ago, we stood in the rain and said goodbye to Bob Bullock. Today, under a warm, Texas sky, we're all here again, to point with pride to a new building and the fine name upon it. It's a happy moment for us who knew him, a day to reunite, a day to offer thanks, and a day to smile for the cameras.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. outside the museum. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry and former Governors Dolph Briscoe, Preston Smith, and William P. Clements, Jr., of Texas; Jan Bullock, widow of Bob Bullock; Lucy Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson; Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff of Texas; State Speaker of the House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney and his wife, Nelda; and Clay Johnson, Dealey Herndon, and John Nau, members, Museum Advisory Committee. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 28, 2001

Good morning. You have probably seen the newspaper and television stories anticipating the 100th day of my administration. Ever since Franklin Roosevelt's time, the 100th day has been a media marker. But what we are marking is not 100 days of my Presidency; it is 100 days of Congress and the President working together for the American people.

What have we accomplished so far? I think we're making progress toward changing the tone in Washington. There's less name-calling and finger-pointing. We're sharing credit. We are learning we can make our points without making enemies. Bitterness and divisiveness in Washington poison the mood of the whole country. On the other hand, a culture of respect and results in

Washington can change the mood of the country for the better.

We're also moving ahead with an important legislative agenda. There were some last summer who said there's no way anyone could possibly get a tax relief plan through the Congress. Yet the House and the Senate have now both endorsed significant tax relief and are headed toward a final vote. Tax relief is an important principle.

The Federal Government is taking more money than it needs out of the pockets of the people, and we need to return some. Yet tax relief is also an important part of our economic strategy. It will accelerate our economic growth and create more jobs and more opportunity. This has nothing to do with me or my political party. It has everything to do with what is right for the country.

The Senate committee responsible for education voted 20 to nothing in favor of a solid education reform bill. And we'll see results, too, from our initiative to welcoming charities and faith-based organizations into the work of helping Americans in need. We're at work on a plan to increase America's energy supply in the long term. At the same time, we are acting in a commonsense way to defend our environment. We are adopting new, scientifically sensible rules to discourage emissions of lead, to protect wetlands, to reduce the amount of arsenic in drinking water, to curb dangerous pesticides, and to clean the air of pollution from onroad diesel engines.

Internationally, we are building a more peaceful and open world. Our relationship with China is maturing. There will be areas where we can agree, like trade, and areas where we won't agree—Taiwan, human rights, religious liberty. And where we disagree, I will speak frankly.

But it's just as important for us to listen as it is to speak. A week ago, I attended the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, where I met with the democratically elected leaders of Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. We talked about how we can handle common challenges—everything from education and the environment to drugs, energy, and trade. I said my piece, and I listened, as well. That's how good neighbors behave.

In nearly 100 days, we have made a good start. But it's only a start. On a number of important issues, we have laid the foundation for progress. Now we need to turn a good start and good spirit into good laws. And I urge the Congress to join me in seizing the opportunities of the next 100 days and beyond.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on April 27 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner

April 28, 2001

Thank you, Arlene. Laura and I are delighted to be here with all the major leaguers. [*Laughter*] Tonight I've decided to do something a little different. See, my mother, over the years, has put together at least 70 scrapbooks about our life as a family. What I've done is pull out some of the actual, never-before-seen photos from these scrapbooks and create a little slide show. [*Laughter*] And so, Gordon, if everybody's cell phones are turned off—[*laughter*]—you can hit the lights.

Tonight I present a Bush family album. What you may not realize is that I grew up at a time in Texas history when it was still a rough and tumble frontier. [*Laughter*] We were ranchers back then. [*Laughter*] This was my favorite horse. He was sure-footed, steady. I trusted that horse totally. And here's the really weird part: His name was Dick Cheney. [*Laughter*]

But times were hard back then. [*Laughter*] This, of course, was during the great drought of 1953. [*Laughter*] Dad, Neil, Doro, Marvin, and Jeb—in my family, with all those kids in the tub, it's not arsenic in the water I'd be worried about. [*Laughter*] Personally, I've always preferred a private bath. [*Laughter*]

This is my actual first-grade report card. Up top, it says, "George W. Bush." And then notice the final grades on the right: Writing, A; Reading, A; Spelling, A; Arithmetic, A;

Music, A; Art, A. So my advice is, don't peak too early. [*Laughter*]

Here, I am with my fifth-grade science project. [*Laughter*] Built it myself. And it's still meeting our energy needs. [*Laughter*]

I went on to college and graduate school, but somehow, the press has gotten the wrong idea, that I was a smart aleck party guy. [*Laughter*] This is an unfair perception. See, in college, I actually did a lot of independent reading. [*Laughter*]

After graduation I joined the Texas Air National Guard. I'm the one who committed the State of Texas to defend Taiwan from attack. [*Laughter*] Speaking of pilots, I'm so proud and honored to welcome to our Nation's Capital, Lieutenant Shane Osborn and crewmember Lieutenant J.G. John Comerford. I hope you and your crew will be coming to the White House soon. I think you'll like it there. [*Laughter*] I know I've said this to you personally on the phone, but I'm proud to say it publicly, welcome back, Lieutenant.

Some people wondered—and I'm sure there might have been a few out here—how I would handle the recent incident in China. Truth is, I have long been a serious student of the Orient. [*Laughter*] My mom and dad, of course, were in China when Dad was the U.S. liaison there. People have asked me, "Is it difficult trying to follow in the footsteps of a man who was President, Vice President, U.N. Ambassador, a man who held so many other important jobs? Is it hard being such a man's son?" Not really. [*Laughter*]

Most people don't realize it, but Dad has had some tough times. [*Laughter*] Back in the fifties, he went through a period where he thought aliens were trying to contact him. [*Laughter*] So he built this contraption to receive their signals. [*Laughter*]

As for my mom, after bearing six children she herself became a bit stressed. [*Laughter*] She took to acting very strangely. [*Laughter*] For a while, she thought she was too tall and walked like this. [*Laughter*] As if that weren't strange enough, next she wrote a book with that damn, mangy, ill-tempered dog. [*Laughter*] I hated that dog. [*Laughter*] My mother treated the dog better than she treated me. [*Laughter*] She never helped me write my book. [*Laughter*]

I will say this, however, my mom always stuck up for us kids. Here's Mom replying to a reporter's question about something Barbra Streisand said recently. [*Laughter*]

Fortunately, I've got great brothers and a great sister. Some people have asked me, however, if the vote recount left any hard feelings between my brother Jeb and me? Not a bit. In fact, here's a picture of the Governor of Florida. [*Laughter*]

All this brings me to a seriouser point. [*Laughter*] Eventually, I met a woman named Laura Welch. She changed my life. She has given me as an adult what I enjoyed as a child, and that is a loving family. The defining moments in the Bush family are not when my father was elected President or when I was elected President. The defining moments have been family moments. Ladies and gentlemen, I've been blessed with a family that is full of love, and I pray the same for you.

Good evening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to his parents, former First Lady Barbara Bush and former President George Bush, brothers Neil Bush, Marvin Bush, and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, sister, Dorothy Bush Koch; Arlene Dillon, president, White House Correspondents' Association; Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe; and entertainer Barbra Streisand.

Proclamation 7430—National Day of Prayer, 2001

April 27, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Turning to prayer in times of joy and celebration, strife and tragedy is an integral part of our national heritage. When the first settlers landed on the rocky shores of the New World, they celebrated with prayer, and the practice has continued through our history. In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the citizens of the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a Nation. General George Washington, encamped at Valley Forge, also sought God's guidance as Americans fought

for their independence. The faith of our Founding Fathers established the precedent that prayers and national days of prayer are an honored part of our American way of life.

Continuing in that tradition, many of the men and women who have served at the highest levels of our Nation also have turned to prayer seeking wisdom from the Almighty. President Lincoln, who proclaimed a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863, once stated: "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day." Today, millions of Americans continue to hold dear that conviction President Lincoln so eloquently expressed. Gathering in churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and homes, we ask for strength, direction, and compassion for our neighbors and ourselves.

The theme of the 2001 National Day of Prayer is "One Nation Under God." In a prayer written specially for the occasion, Americans are asked to pray for "a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face." Special observances are scheduled for all 50 States, with local volunteers planning a variety of activities including prayer breakfasts, concerts, rallies, and student gatherings. These events will bring people of all faiths together, each according to his or her own beliefs, to give thanks to the Almighty and to ask for strength and guidance.

The Congress, by Public Law 100–307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer. I encourage the citizens of our Nation to pray each in his or her own manner, seeking God's blessings on our families and government officials and personal renewal, moral awakening, and a new spirit of harmony across our land. I urge all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., May 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 2.

Remarks at the First Hundred Days Congressional Luncheon

April 30, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you for coming. I appreciate you bringing such nice weather. It's good to see members of my Cabinet who are here. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here.

Today marks our hundredth day of working together for the American people. We've had some good debates. We've made some good progress, and it looks like we're going to pass some good law.

I've now met with most of you, and here's what I think. I think America is lucky to have such distinguished citizens coming to Washington to represent them. I've been impressed by the caliber of the person; I've been impressed by the conviction that you brought to the Oval Office.

Oh, I know we always don't agree. But we're beginning to get a spirit here in Washington where we're more agreeable, where we're setting a different tone. So when the good folks of this country look at our Nation's Capital, they see something they can be proud of.

I want to thank you all very much for your service to the country. I want to thank your families for the sacrifice they make. I also want to thank you for the constructive spirit in which we've conducted the people's business. I know this: That whatever your views on a particular issue are, that we share a common goal, and that is to serve our country.

And it's okay sometimes to share a meal, and that's why we're here. [*Laughter*]

So I want to thank you for being here. If you will join me in the East Room, I think we've got some pretty good food for you.

Thanks for your service. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Statement on the Death of Richard M. Scammon

April 30, 2001

Richard Scammon was a groundbreaking analyst of American politics. He brought rigor and insight to the study of elections. And he studied elections because he loved democracy. All who share that passion will miss him.

Executive Order 13209—Amendment to Executive Order 13183, Establishment of the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status

April 30, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend by 3 months the time in which the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status is to report to the President as directed in Executive Order 13183 of December 23, 2000, it is hereby ordered that section 4 of Executive Order 13183 is amended by deleting "May 1, 2001" and inserting in lieu thereof "August 1, 2001".

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 30, 2001

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., May 1, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 2.

Memorandum on Certification To Permit U.S. Contributions to the International Fund for Ireland

April 30, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–14

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification to Permit U.S. Contributions to the International Fund for Ireland with Fiscal Year 2000 and 2001 Funds

Pursuant to section 5(c) of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–415), as amended in section 2811 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (as contained in Public Law 105–277), I hereby certify that I am satisfied that: (1) the Board of the International Fund for Ireland, as a whole, is broadly representative of the interests of the communities in Ireland and Northern Ireland; and (2) disbursements from the International Fund (a) will be distributed to individuals and entities whose practices are consistent with principles of economic justice; and (b) will address the needs of both communities in Northern Ireland and will create employment opportunities in regions and communities of Northern Ireland suffering from high rates of unemployment.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination, together with the attached statement setting forth a detailed explanation of the basis for this certification, to the Congress.

This determination shall be effective immediately and shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Proclamation 7431—Law Day, U.S.A., 2001

April 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year marks the 44th commemoration of May 1 as Law Day, U.S.A., a national day of observance to celebrate our legal heritage. On this occasion, we reflect on the role our legal system plays in the lives of every American and how the freedoms we enjoy would not be possible without a strong and independent judiciary. The theme of this year's Law Day, "Ensuring the Rights of Victims," acknowledges our gratitude for a legal system that recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of those who are victimized by crime.

This Law Day, I call upon all Americans to consider how the law, communities, and individuals can better assist and support victims of crime. We must continue to strive for a legal system in which victims receive timely and accurate information regarding offenders and relevant public proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, a victim of crime should have an opportunity for restitution. In addition, social services provided to victims of crime can give the assistance and support that victims deserve in the aftermath of crime.

We are encouraged by the progress our country has made over the last three decades toward better assisting those whose lives are affected by criminal offenses. However, government and laws cannot effectively address this issue alone. More than 10,000 State- or community-based organizations provide help and hope to crime victims. I encourage Americans to celebrate, support, and consider joining these volunteers and other workers in service to their fellow citizens.

Keeping faith with our commitment to the victims of crime also drives us to increased efforts to prevent crimes and effectively punish those who commit them, to ensure that similar violations are discouraged and law-abiding citizens are protected.

Law Day provides an opportunity to express appreciation to professionals who accept the responsibility to serve justice. From attorneys to judges to the many other professionals working in our legal system, those who serve justice uphold the rule of law on which our democracy is built. They join with law enforcement professionals to give our people confidence to live without fear for their safety.

We must each do our part to build a Nation in which civility and respect for our neighbors overwhelm the powers of injustice. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "It is reasonable that every one who asks justice should do justice." I encourage all Americans to join with members of the legal community in protecting the rights of crime victims and in celebrating a legal system that, while not perfect, is the best the world has ever known.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2001, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 3.

Remarks at the National Defense University

May 1, 2001

Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. I appreciate you being here. I also want to thank Secretary Powell for being here, as well. My National Security Adviser, Condi Rice, is here, as well as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Myers. I appreciate

Admiral Clark and General Ryan here—for being here, as well. But most of all, I want to thank you, Admiral Gaffney, and the students for NDU for having me here today.

For almost 100 years, this campus has served as one of our country's premier centers for learning and thinking about America's national security. Some of America's finest soldiers have studied here—Dwight Eisenhower and Colin Powell. Some of America's finest statesmen have taught here—George Kennan.

Today, you're carrying on this proud tradition forward, continuing to train tomorrow's generals, admirals, and other national security thinkers, and continuing to provide the intellectual capital for our Nation's strategic vision.

This afternoon I want us to think back some 30 years to a far different time in a far different world. The United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a hostile rivalry. The Soviet Union was our unquestioned enemy, a highly armed threat to freedom and democracy. Far more than that wall in Berlin divided us. Our highest ideal was—and remains—individual liberty; theirs was the construction of a vast Communist empire. Their totalitarian regime held much of Europe captive behind an Iron Curtain.

We didn't trust them, and for good reason. Our deep differences were expressed in a dangerous military confrontation that resulted in thousands of nuclear weapons pointed at each other on hair trigger alert. Security of both the United States and the Soviet Union was based on a grim premise that neither side would fire nuclear weapons at each other because doing so would mean the end of both nations.

We even went so far as to codify this relationship in a 1972 ABM Treaty, based on the doctrine that our very survival would best be ensured by leaving both sides completely open and vulnerable to nuclear attack. The threat was real and vivid. The Strategic Air Command had an airborne command post called the Looking Glass aloft 24 hours a day, ready in case the President ordered our strategic forces to move towards their targets and release their nuclear ordnance.

The Soviet Union had almost 1.5 million troops deep in the heart of Europe, in Poland and Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. We used our nuclear weapons not just to prevent the Soviet Union from using their nuclear weapons but also to contain their conventional military forces, to prevent them from extending the Iron Curtain into parts of Europe and Asia that were still free.

In that world, few other nations had nuclear weapons and most of those who did were responsible allies, such as Britain and France. We worried about the proliferation of nuclear weapons to other countries, but it was mostly a distant threat, not yet a reality.

Today, the Sun comes up on a vastly different world. The Wall is gone, and so is the Soviet Union. Today's Russia is not yesterday's Soviet Union. Its Government is no longer Communist. Its President is elected. Today's Russia is not our enemy but a country in transition with an opportunity to emerge as a great nation, democratic, at peace with itself and its neighbors. The Iron Curtain no longer exists. Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic are free nations, and they are now our Allies in NATO, together with a reunited Germany.

Yet, this is still a dangerous world, a less certain, a less predictable one. More nations have nuclear weapons and still more have nuclear aspirations. Many have chemical and biological weapons. Some already have developed the ballistic missile technology that would allow them to deliver weapons of mass destruction at long distances and at incredible speeds. And a number of these countries are spreading these technologies around the world.

Most troubling of all, the list of these countries includes some of the world's least responsible states. Unlike the cold war, today's most urgent threat stems not from thousands of ballistic missiles in Soviet hands but from a small number of missiles in the hands of these states, states for whom terror and blackmail are a way of life. They seek weapons of mass destruction to intimidate their neighbors and to keep the United States and other responsible nations from helping allies and friends in strategic parts of the world.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, the world joined forces to turn him back. But the international community would have faced a very different situation had

Hussein been able to blackmail with nuclear weapons. Like Saddam Hussein, some of today's tyrants are gripped by an implacable hatred of the United States of America. They hate our friends. They hate our values. They hate democracy and freedom and individual liberty. Many care little for the lives of their own people. In such a world, cold war deterrence is no longer enough.

To maintain peace, to protect our own citizens and our own allies and friends, we must seek security based on more than the grim premise that we can destroy those who seek to destroy us. This is an important opportunity for the world to rethink the unthinkable and to find new ways to keep the peace.

Today's world requires a new policy, a broad strategy of active nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and defenses. We must work together with other like-minded nations to deny weapons of terror from those seeking to acquire them. We must work with allies and friends who wish to join with us to defend against the harm they can inflict. And together we must deter anyone who would contemplate their use.

We need new concepts of deterrence that rely on both offensive and defensive forces. Deterrence can no longer be based solely on the threat of nuclear retaliation. Defenses can strengthen deterrence by reducing the incentive for proliferation.

We need a new framework that allows us to build missile defenses to counter the different threats of today's world. To do so, we must move beyond the constraints of the 30-year-old ABM Treaty. This Treaty does not recognize the present or point us to the future; it enshrines the past. No treaty that prevents us from addressing today's threats, that prohibits us from pursuing promising technology to defend ourselves, our friends, and our allies is in our interests or in the interests of world peace.

This new framework must encourage still further cuts in nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons still have a vital role to play in our security and that of our allies. We can and will change the size, the composition, the character of our nuclear forces in a way that reflects the reality that the cold war is over.

I am committed to achieving a credible deterrent with the lowest possible number of nuclear weapons consistent with our national security needs, including our obligations to our allies. My goal is to move quickly to reduce nuclear forces. The United States will lead by example to achieve our interests and the interests for peace in the world.

Several months ago, I asked Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to examine all available technologies and basing modes for effective missile defenses that could protect the United States, our deployed forces, our friends, and our allies. The Secretary has explored a number of complementary and innovative approaches.

The Secretary has identified near-term options that could allow us to deploy an initial capability against limited threats. In some cases, we can draw on already established technologies that might involve land-based and sea-based capabilities to intercept missiles in midcourse or after they reenter the atmosphere. We also recognize the substantial advantages of intercepting missiles early in their flight, especially in the boost phase.

The preliminary work has produced some promising options for advanced sensors and interceptors that may provide this capability. If based at sea or on aircraft, such approaches could provide limited but effective defenses.

We have more work to do to determine the final form the defenses might take. We will explore all these options further. We recognize the technological difficulties we face and we look forward to the challenge. Our Nation will assign the best people to this critical task. We will evaluate what works and what does not. We know that some approaches will not work. We also know that we will be able to build on our successes. When ready, and working with Congress, we will deploy missile defenses to strengthen global security and stability.

I've made it clear from the very beginning that I would consult closely on any important subject with our friends and allies who are also threatened by missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Today I'm announcing the dispatch of high level representatives to allied capitals in Europe, Asia, Australia, and Canada to discuss our common responsibility to create a new framework for security and stability that reflects the world of today. They will begin leaving next week.

The delegations will be headed by three men on this stage: Rich Armitage, Paul Wolfowitz, and Steve Hadley; Deputies of the State Department, the Defense Department, and the National Security staff. Their trips will be part of an ongoing process of consultation involving many people and many levels of government, including my Cabinet Secretaries.

These will be real consultations. We are not presenting our friends and allies with unilateral decisions already made. We look forward to hearing their views, the views of our friends, and to take them into account.

We will seek their input on all the issues surrounding the new strategic environment. We'll also need to reach out to other interested states, including China and Russia. Russia and the United States should work together to develop a new foundation for world peace and security in the 21st century. We should leave behind the constraints of an ABM Treaty that perpetuates a relationship based on distrust and mutual vulnerability. This Treaty ignores the fundamental breakthroughs in technology during the last 30 years. It prohibits us from exploring all options for defending against the threats that face us, our allies, and other countries.

That's why we should work together to replace this Treaty with a new framework that reflects a clear and clean break from the past and especially from the adversarial legacy of the cold war. This new cooperative relationship should look to the future, not to the past. It should be reassuring rather than threatening. It should be premised on openness, mutual confidence, and real opportunities for cooperation, including the area of missile defense. It should allow us to share information so that each nation can improve its early warning capability and its capability to defend its people and territory. And perhaps one day, we can even cooperate in a joint defense.

I want to complete the work of changing our relationship from one based on a nuclear balance of terror to one based on common responsibilities and common interests. We may have areas of difference with Russia, but we are not and must not be strategic adversaries. Russia and America both face new threats to security. Together, we can address today's threats and pursue today's opportunities. We can explore technologies that have the potential to make us all safer.

This is a time for vision, a time for a new way of thinking, a time for bold leadership. The Looking Glass no longer stands its 24-a-hour-day vigil. We must all look at the world in a new, realistic way to preserve peace for generations to come.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. outside Eisenhower Hall at Fort McNair. In his remarks, he referred to Vice Adm. Paul G. Gaffney II, USN, president, National Defense University; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks on the Bipartisan Congressional Tax Relief Agreement and an Exchange With Reporters

May 1, 2001

The President. Good afternoon. This is a great day for the American people and the American taxpayer. Working together, Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate have agreed on a proposal that will provide $1.35 trillion in tax relief over the next 11 years. One hundred billion will be distributed right away, this year and next, to help stimulate our economy and put money in people's pockets quickly. The rest of tax relief will be provided over the next decade.

I congratulate the Members of the Senate and the House, Republicans and Democrats, who have worked so hard to achieve this bipartisan agreement. You all deserve great credit for agreeing to provide the American people with meaningful, significant, sweeping tax relief—the most tax relief in a generation.

Today Republicans and Democrats have agreed to help Americans send their children to college, pay off their mortgages a little faster, or cope with rising energy costs. In short, once we've funded our Nation's priorities, we've agreed to let the American people spend their own money on their own priorities.

Today's agreement has a larger message, as well. By finding common ground on an issue that divided the two parties throughout

last year's campaign, Republicans and Democrats have today proven we can work together to do what is right for the American people. Achieving the agreement on significant tax relief can help pave the way for consensus on other vital issues, including reforming our public schools, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and transforming our national defense.

When I spoke to a joint session of Congress just a few months ago to outline my budget and tax relief proposals, I said that in the end, we'll be judged not only by what we say but by what we're able to accomplish.

We have more work to do to complete the full budget. But today we have accomplished significant tax relief and shown we can work together in a constructive way to get things done for the people of this country.

Thank you.

Federal Spending

Q. Mr. President, are you going to be able to keep spending in check in order to be able to fund your tax cuts?

The President. Well, I'm absolutely convinced we'll be able to fund the tax cuts.

Q. Are you going to be able to keep spending——

The President. I've worked with Members of the House and the Senate to have a discretionary spending at a reasonable level. I hope—we're making progress. There's a lot of discussions going on. I suspect I'm going to have to remain diligent over the next year to keep the spenders in check. That's a good job for the Chief Executive Officer.

Conversation With President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. Mr. President, how did your conversation with President Putin go?

The President. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], it was good. We had a very constructive conversation. I called him early this morning to let him know that I'd be giving the speech that I just gave. I wanted to assure him that my plans were in the best interests of our two countries, that we are going to consult with the Russians, as well as our other friends and allies.

But I also made it clear to him that it's important to think beyond the old days of when we had the concept that if we blew each other up, the world would be safe. I told him the cold war is over and that Russia was not our enemy, and I'd help try to define the threats as realistically as I could and that we needed to have defenses to meet those threats.

I also told him that we would work to reduce our own nuclear arsenals and would do so in time. He asked me whether or not there is a chance we could meet before our upcoming summits. I told him I would love to meet with him beforehand to look him in the eye and let him know how sincere I am about achieving a new way of keeping the peace.

He reminded me at one point in time that he talked about the need to address current threats in our world with systems that might be able to intercept missiles on launch—boost phase—I talked about today. So I felt that it was a very constructive meeting.

Resignation of FBI Director

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned about Director Freeh's resignation? Did that catch you by surprise?

The President. Actually, Director Freeh came to see me late yesterday afternoon. And he asked if we could meet alone. I said, "Of course." And he said, "I'm resigning." And it did catch me by surprise. And I'm disappointed. I would hope—I was hoping that he would stay on. I think he's done a very good job. I'm sure he explained to you—I didn't see his press conference, but I suspect he explained to you the reason why, and that is, he wanted to spend more time with his family. I found Louie Freeh to be a fine public servant, and our Nation owes him a great debt of gratitude for his service to our country. And now we'll begin the process of finding replacements.

National Missile Defense

Q. What response do you expect from the European allies on missile defense? Do you think they will get along—go along eventually, and will participate?

The President. Well, I think we've got a lot of explaining to do. That's why yesterday I called the leaders of France and Britain

and Canada and Germany to explain to them exactly what I—and the head of the NATO—to explain to them exactly what I just explained—I told you, that—Mr. Putin. The phone call I made yesterday was nothing new, however. I had met with those leaders before and talked to them about what I meant.

And during the course of the campaign, when I talked about providing defenses to meet the true threats of—that all of us are now faced with, the leaders were pleased that we're sincere about our desire to go through consultations. I've sent a high level team—a team of high level members of my administration, Deputies Armitage, Hadley, and Wolfowitz. It's a clear signal about how, one, important this issue is and how, two, how seriously we take the idea of consulting with our allies and friends. They are very pleased with that.

But they are going to have to speak for themselves. I am a little hesitant to put words in their mouth.

Social Security Reform

Q. Mr. President, on the Social Security Commission, some are saying that if the membership is going to be sort of stacked in a way that preordains a recommendation of privatization. What is your——

The President. Well, I think—I think—let us—tomorrow is a day when we will be talking about Social Security and that would be a very good question to the members of the Commission, to make sure that there is an objective analysis of Social Security: How do we save it; what do we do to make sure it is viable in the future?

There is a lot of speculation about the Commission that will be cleared up tomorrow afternoon, if I'm not mistaken, right here in this very spot.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder of Germany; and NATO General Secretary George Robertson.

Statement on the Retirement of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Louis J. Freeh

May 1, 2001

Louis Freeh is a dedicated public servant who has served his country and the FBI with honor and distinction. I regret the Director is leaving Government. We are fortunate to have had a man of his caliber serve our country, and we will miss him.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Proposed Legislation To Extend the Filing Deadline for Undocumented Immigrants

May 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am a strong proponent of government policies that recognize the importance of families and that help to strengthen them. To the extent possible, I believe that our immigration policies should reflect that philosophy. That is why I support legislation to extend the window created under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act during which qualified immigrants may obtain legal residence in the United States without being forced to first leave the country and their families for several years.

According to agency estimates, there are more than 500,000 undocumented immigrants in the country who are eligible to become legal permanent residents, primarily because of their family relationship with a citizen or legal permanent resident. However, the law generally requires them to go back to their home country to obtain a visa, and once they do so, they are barred from returning to the United States for up to 10 years. Many choose to risk remaining here illegally rather than to be separated from their families for those many years. This issue has been the subject of discussion in the Working Group that Attorney General Ashcroft and Secretary of State Powell co-chair with officials of the Mexican government, and should be addressed to ensure a more orderly, legal, and humane migration flow between our countries.

I encourage the Congress to consider whether there was adequate time for persons eligible under section 245(i) to apply for adjustment of status before the filing deadline expired yesterday. Information indicates an estimated 200,000 were eligible to file but did not meet the deadline. Preliminary reports suggest that many applicants were unable to complete their paperwork in time, due in part to the fact that the rules explaining how the provision would be applied were not issued until late March. It remains in our national interest to legitimize those resident immigrants, eligible for legal status, and to welcome them as full participants of our society. But we will only be able to do this if the path to legalization encourages family reunification. For this reason, I would support legislation that temporarily extends the recently expired April 30, 2001, filing deadline, while maintaining the requirement that the applicant was physically present in the United States on December 21, 2000.

I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; Trent Lott, Senate majority leader; and Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader.

Remarks on Establishing the President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security

May 2, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming. Members of the newly formed Social Security Commission, I want to thank you all for being here. And I want to thank your family members who are here, as well.

Social Security is one of the greatest achievements of the American Government and one of the deepest commitments to the American people. For more than six decades it has protected our elderly against poverty and assured young people of a more secure future. It must continue to do this important work for decades to come.

Yet, it has been apparent for many years that Social Security, itself, is becoming insecure. Social Security was designed for an era when few Americans lived much past the age of 65 and when families of three or four children were more than the exception.

When Social Security was created, there was about 40 workers paying Social Security taxes for every one retiree receiving benefits. Today, there are three workers for every retiree; soon, there will be two. Long life is a blessing. Smaller families are an individual choice. But the consequence of this blessing and this choice is that the Social Security payroll tax, which was once 2 percent, has now passed 12 percent. Economists calculate that it will have to rise past 18 percent if the baby boomers are to receive the same benefits that Social Security has promised, unless we take steps soon to reform the way Social Security is financed.

The threat to the stability of Social Security has been apparent for decades. For years, political leaders have agreed that something must be done, but nothing has been done. We can postpone action no longer. Social Security is a challenge now. If we fail to act, it will become a crisis. We must save Social Security, and we now have the opportunity to do so.

Our Government will run large budget surpluses over the next 10 years. These surpluses provide an opportunity to move to a stronger Social Security system. Two months ago, in my address to Congress, I described the principles that must guide any reform of Social Security. First, Social Security reform must preserve the benefits of all current retirees and those nearing retirement. Second, Social Security reform must return the Social Security system to sound financial footing. Third, Social Security reform must offer personal savings accounts to younger workers who want them. Today, young workers who pay into Social Security might as well be saving their money in their mattresses. That's how low the return is on their contributions. And the return will only decline further—maybe even below zero—if we do not proceed with reform.

Personal savings accounts will transform Social Security from a Government IOU into personal property and real assets, property that workers will own in their own names and that they can pass along to their children. Ownership, independence, access to wealth should not be the privilege of a few; they're the hope of every American, and we must make them the foundation of Social Security.

Today I am naming a Presidential Commission to turn these principles into concrete reforms. This task is not easy, but the mandate is clear: Strengthen Social Security and make its promise more certain and valuable for generations to come. I have asked the Commission to deliver its report later this fall.

Social Security does not belong to any one political party, so the Commission is drawn from both parties. Social Security does not belong to the Government or to the politicians, and so my Commission has members from many different walks of life. It will be chaired by two outstanding Americans: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Richard Parsons of AOL/Time Warner.

Senator Moynihan has been aptly described as the Nation's best thinker among politicians since Lincoln and its best politician among thinkers since Jefferson. A profound mind, a compassionate heart, and a farseeing imagination have distinguished him throughout his career.

Our task today is to preserve what is the best in Social Security, while updating it, and for a new time. And nobody will do that job better than this great student of Social Security's history, and stalwart champion of Social Security's principles.

As cochief operating officer of AOL/Time Warner, Richard Parsons is one of the leaders of this Nation's information age economy. Few people have served more tours of duty in the American Government and business—a senior aide in the Ford administration, managing partner of a distinguished law firm, CEO of a major savings bank before becoming president of Time Warner.

Mr. Parsons serves his community as ably as he's served his country. He chairs the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation, where he mobilized the creativity of the private sector to bring jobs and opportunity to people in need. And he sits on the boards of Howard University and the Lincoln Center. Richard Parsons represents in our time the spirit of business statesmanship at its highest.

Fourteen other fine Americans have joined the Moynihan-Parsons commission; seven of them are Republicans, and seven are Democrats. They include a former aide to Robert Kennedy and a former aide to Ronald Reagan, political leaders, entrepreneurs, eminent experts on the Social Security system. Every one of these fine men and women is passionately committed to the safety, success, and long-term security of Social Security.

I'm giving this Commission a great task, and its members have my full faith. When it makes its report, the Congress and I will face some serious decisions, but we must be inspired by the example of the founder of Social Security, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In his Fireside Chat of September 1934, shortly before Congress enacted Social Security, he warned that there will always be those frightened by boldness and cowed by the necessity for making decisions. "They will complain," he said, "that all we have done is unnecessary and subject to great risks."

But now, as then, bold action and serious decisions are necessary, and we in our time must rededicate ourselves to the great ideal Roosevelt defined 67 years ago: greater freedom and greater security for the average man than he has ever known before in the history of America. That's our charge, and we must keep it.

And now, one of the Cochairmen of this Commission, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

[*At this point, former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Richard D. Parsons made brief remarks.*]

The President. I now have the honor of signing the Commission into being.

[*The President signed the Executive order.*]

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Executive Order 13210—President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security

May 2, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and to preserve Social Security for senior Americans while building wealth for younger Americans, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security (Commission).

Sec. 2. *Membership.* The Commission shall be composed of sixteen members appointed by the President, of which no more than eight shall be members of the same political party. The President shall also designate two members of the Commission to act as co-chairs. The two co-chairs shall not be members of the same political party.

Sec. 3. *Mission.* The mission of the Commission shall be to submit to the President bipartisan recommendations to modernize and restore fiscal soundness to the Social Security system according to the following principles: (a) Modernization must not change Social Security benefits for retirees or near-retirees;

(b) The entire Social Security surplus must be dedicated to Social Security only;

(c) Social Security payroll taxes must not be increased;

(d) Government must not invest Social Security funds in the stock market;

(e) Modernization must preserve Social Security's disability and survivors components; and

(f) Modernization must include individually controlled, voluntary personal retirement accounts, which will augment the Social Security safety net.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* (a) The Social Security Administration shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Commission.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Commission. Members appointed from among private citizens of the United States, however, while engaged in the work of the Commission, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(c) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director, who shall be selected by the President. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Commission shall be provided by executive branch departments and agencies as directed by the President.

(d) The Commission shall receive input from and provide briefings to the Congress, by procedures determined by the President in consultation with the congressional leadership and the Commission. Public hearings shall be held at the call of the co-chairs, in consultation with the President.

(e) The functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except for those in section 6 of that Act, that are applicable to the Commission, shall be performed by the Social Security Administration, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 5. *Reports.* The Commission shall submit reports to the President as follows: (a) *Interim Report.* An interim report shall describe the challenges facing the Social Security system and the criteria by which the Commission will evaluate reform proposals. These criteria may include but are not limited to: solvency, sustainability, benefit adequacy, fair treatment across generations and demographic groups, total annual cost obligations, net impact on the Federal budget, impact upon national savings, impact on workforce participation, impact on employer-provided pension plans, rates of return, and protections against poverty.

(b) *Final Report.* The final report will set forth the Commission's recommendations, in accordance with its stated mission in section 3 of this order, regarding how to strengthen Social Security with personal accounts. The Commission shall submit its final report during the fall of 2001. The submission date shall

be determined by the co-chairs in consultation with the President.

Sec. 6. *Termination.* The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 2, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:58 a.m., May 3, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security

May 2, 2001

Dear Senator Daschle and Congressman Gephardt:

Thank you for your letter of April 12, providing your recommendations concerning the creation of a Social Security commission.

I have pledged that I will work to develop a bipartisan consensus to strengthen Social Security, preserving the program for senior Americans and building wealth for younger Americans. I believe that a bipartisan commission will provide the renewed energy and focus that can help us transform our common commitment to strengthening Social Security into legislative action on behalf of Americans of all ages.

In your letter, you expressed support for some of the principles that I have outlined as cornerstones for any reform of Social Security. Like you, I believe that we must honor our commitment to pay full promised benefits to those who have made a lifetime of contributions to the Social Security program. I also believe that Social Security surpluses must be dedicated to Social Security only.

I was pleased to see that you do not oppose personal accounts, even while acknowledging legitimate differences regarding their appropriate structure and financing. Please be assured that the commission will consider a full and fair analysis of all methods of designing and financing such accounts.

I share your desire that the commission be truly bipartisan. It is my intention that the commission be composed of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, and that the commission make use of the nonpartisan and independent projections embodied in the Social Security Trustees' reports.

As you note, it has been nearly two decades since the last significant legislation to shore up Social Security's finances. Too frequently in recent years, commissions and advisory councils have been constructed in a way that reproduced legislative gridlock. Such structures frustrated needed action to strengthen the programs on which Americans depend. It is not a coincidence that the last commission to have contributed significant legislation, the Greenspan Commission of 1981–83, was not handicapped by restrictive voting and approval procedures.

The best way to ensure that the commission receives the necessary internal and external approval is for both the President and the Congressional leadership to provide our support for the development of its recommendations. Those Americans who depend on Social Security today, as well as those who will depend on it in the future, deserve no less from us.

Thank you for your views. I look forward to working with you in the months to come.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader, and Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

May 2, 2001

Budget Agreement

It's my honor to welcome back to the Cabinet Room leaders in the House and the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, who worked hard on the budget. There is a budget deal; it's an agreement that makes a lot of sense. In the agreement is the largest tax cut in a generation and reasonable levels of spending.

This plan could not have been done without the leadership of the Speaker and the

leader of the Senate, nor could it have been done without two really fine budget chairmen, Congressman Nussle and Senator Domenici, both of whom, and their staffs and their committees, worked long, hard hours.

And finally, it couldn't have been done without the cooperation and work of some of our Democrat friends: Breaux in Louisiana and Miller of Georgia, Condit of California; Members around this table, who realized that it's time—it was time to come together to put a good budget together on behalf of the American people; Members who realize that what we're talking about is not partisan politics but good budget politics, good budget policy. They'll always recognize that we're here to serve the people, and this is the people's budget. It's a good budget for the working people of America, and I'm proud to congratulate you all for a job really well done.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia Courts FY 2002 Budget Submission

May 2, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the District of Columbia Code, as amended, I am transmitting the District of Columbia Courts FY 2002 Budget Submission.

The District of Columbia Courts have submitted a FY 2002 budget request for $111.7 million for operating expenses, $41.4 million for capital improvements to courthouse facilities, and $39.7 million for Defender Services in the District of Columbia Courts. My FY 2002 budget includes recommended funding levels of $105.2 million for operations, $6.0 million for capital improvements, and $34.3 million for Defender Services. My transmittal of the District of Columbia Courts' budget request does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

I look forward to working with the Congress throughout the FY 2002 appropriations process.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 2, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

May 2, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 2, 2001.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Implementation Report on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption

May 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption adopted by the Senate on July 27, 2000, the President must submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations an annual implementation report each year for a 5-year period. Attached is the first such report.

As this report illustrates, countries throughout our hemisphere have taken important steps through legislative and executive actions to implement the Convention. These actions are indications of the realization that corruption threatens political and

economic stability and undermines democracy. This report also outlines the steps taken to establish an evaluation mechanism—known as the Committee of Experts—to oversee implementation of the Convention.

I look forward to working with the Congress to ensure that we continue to combat corruption in our hemisphere and across the globe.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 3.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Energy Advisers and an Exchange With Reporters

May 3, 2001

California Energy Shortages

The President. I want to thank you all for coming today. I've assembled a team within my administration, in particular, the Secretary of Energy, as well as the Deputy Secretary of Defense, to discuss energy.

As the country knows, we're in the process of developing a comprehensive energy plan that will work to increase supplies, as well as encourage conservation. This is a long-run solution to the energy problems we now face.

This administration is deeply concerned about California and its citizens. We're worried about blackouts that may occur this summer, and we want to be a part of any solutions. Since I became sworn-in, we've been working with the State of California to provide regulatory relief to encourage an increase in the amount of supplies available for the consumers in that State.

Today I am instructing all agencies, Federal agencies, to reduce their peak hour electricity use in the State of California. And the Secretary of Energy will be traveling to the State today to consult with the Governor of the State of California, as well as work with our respective agencies in that State.

Secondly, I am pleased to report that the Secretary of Defense, after a careful review, believes that this Department, which has got a large presence in the State of California, can reduce peak hour usage by 10 percent and can do so without harming military readiness.

We're also—and the Secretary is going to make it clear to the officials in the State of California that should Governor Davis, or any other Governor, for that matter, request power generating units owned by the Federal Government, they'll be available to help in the case of an emergency.

As well, FEMA, under Joe Allbaugh, is developing plans to help States that do face blackouts, to make sure the citizenry doesn't get harmed in any way.

This is a serious situation in the State of California. And as I said from the very beginning of my administration, we'll work to help California in any way we can. And the best way we can is to be good citizens. So I want to appreciate very much, Mr. Secretary, all your work, and I know you'd like to say a few words.

[*At this point, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham made brief remarks.*]

The President. And we have with us Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

[*Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz made brief remarks.*]

Government Energy Policy Review

Q. Mr. President, are you asking Federal agencies nationwide to cut back? And what will the White House do?

The President. Well, I think we ought to ask all agencies to review energy policy. We're focused right now on California because that's a State that's going to suffer blackouts. But we've always got to be mindful of being energy efficient.

And since I've asked other agencies to review their policy, I'm going to ask the White House to do the same. Chief of Staff Andy Card has done just that today. We want to be good, efficient users of energy here in the White House.

Stretch [Dick Keil, Bloomberg Radio].

Energy Conservation

Q. Mr. President, your energy team is preparing a long-term report, and the Vice President earlier this week gave a speech in Toronto that really, frankly, gave short shrift to the concept of conservation and concentrated, instead, on exploration, finding new ways to get natural gas pipelines built.

Will conservation be a primary focus of the long-term plan, or is this really just something that's for the here and now and the short-term in California?

The President. Oh, I think conservation has got to be an integral part of making sure we've got a reasonable energy policy. But what the Vice President was saying is we can't conserve our way to energy independence; nor can we conserve our way to having enough energy available. So we've got to do both. We must conserve, but we've also got to find new sources of energy.

I haven't seen the final report yet, but I suspect the American people will find a balanced approach. But what people need to hear, loud and clear, is that we're running out of energy in America. And it is so important for this Nation to improve its infrastructure so we can not only deliver supplies, but we need to go find new supply. And I strongly believe we can do so in an environmentally friendly way.

This Nation is confronted with a major problem. And this administration is going to be honest with the American people about the nature of the problem, and we're going to come up with some solutions. And it's going to take a lot of political will for people to buck some of the trends that somehow believe—who believe that without finding additional supplies of energy, this Nation is going to be okay.

Q. If I could follow-up, sir? Will there be a more prominent role for nuclear power, as part of your plan?

The President. You must wait until the report comes out, because I'm going to have to, too, until I see the final copy. But I would suggest that what this Nation needs to do is review all options.

John [John Cochran, ABC News].

Q. Sir, the Vice President seemed to be saying on Monday that Americans were already pretty energy efficient, so there's not much to be gained by conservation. Do you agree with that?

The President. Well, I agree that we've made great strides in energy efficiency; home building materials are more efficient. But we just found a place where we can reduce energy during peak hours by 10 percent. We must continue to find.

But what the Vice President and I understand is that you cannot conserve your way to energy independence. We can do a better job in conservation, but we darn sure have to do a better job of finding more supply. It is naive for the American people and its—and those who purport to speak for the American people, some of those, to say that we can be okay, from an energy perspective, by only focusing on conservation. We've got to find additional supplies of energy.

One thing this administration will do is we're going to do our part when it comes to conservation in the State of California. But we will be honest with the American people. And the American people need to have an honest assessment of the issues this country faces, not only short term but long term. And that's exactly what the Vice President was saying the other day in Canada. And this report will be that way.

Steve, [Steve Holland, Reuters] final question.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. Sir, on the China policy, could you—could I ask you to explain what happened yesterday with the Rumsfeld order, and what will it take now to have military-to-military exchanges with the Chinese?

The President. In terms of what they call the ticktock, you need to talk to the folks at the Defense Department. But what the Secretary was rightly doing was saying that we're going to review all opportunities to interface with the Chinese. And if it enhances our relationship, it might make sense. If it's a useless exercise and it doesn't make the relationship any better, then we won't do that.

But each opportunity will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. That makes sense. We've only been in office for 104 days. We've got to review all policy that we inherited.

But what the Chinese must understand is that we'll be firm in our philosophy, consistent in our beliefs, and we want to work to have a relationship that is a positive relationship for both countries.

Meeting With Israeli Foreign Minister

Q. Do you feel better after seeing Foreign Minister Peres this morning?

The President. Had a good visit with him.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—better after talking to him?

The President. Well, he's an optimistic person. And I was so pleased that Mr. Peres came by. I don't know what his statements were like to the press, but he leaves knowing full well this administration is actively engaged at, first and foremost, trying to break the cycle of terrorism that grips that part of the world.

But he gave me a very good assessment of how he viewed the world. And he's always been an optimistic person, so I do feel better having talked to him. He's a fine statesman, as well.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Gray Davis of California and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Memorandum on Energy Conservation at Federal Facilities

May 3, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Energy Conservation at Federal Facilities

A key component of my Administration's overall commitment to make the most economical use of public dollars and to protect the environment is to improve energy conservation at Federal facilities. Further, with possible electricity shortages in California and in the Northeast and Northwest this summer, the Federal Government should set a good example of conservation by reducing its own energy use, particularly in regions where electricity shortages may occur and during periods of peak electricity demand. Such conservation would save public money, protect the environment, and help to minimize shortages.

Therefore, I hereby direct the heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take appropriate actions to conserve energy use at their facilities to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities. Agencies located in regions where electricity shortages are possible should conserve especially during periods of peak demand.

In addition, agencies should review their existing operating and administrative processes and conservation programs and identify and implement ways to reduce such use. Agencies should report to me, through the Secretary of Energy, within 30 days from the date of this memorandum on the conservation actions taken. The agencies shall take these and other appropriate energy conservation actions using existing budget authority.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a National Day of Prayer Reception

May 3, 2001

Thank you, all. Thank you and welcome to the White House. It's great to see members of my Cabinet here. Secretaries Veneman, Martinez, and Paige, thank you all for coming. Leaders of the United States Congress, thank you all for being here, as well.

Shirley, thank you for the State proclamations. I quickly thumbed through to make sure that Florida was there. [*Laughter*] Otherwise, my little brother might be hearing from me. [*Laughter*] But it was there. And thanks for the beautiful painting. We know how much work it takes to organize the National Day of Prayer, and all of us thank you for your hard work. You've done a very good job.

Wintley, thank you very much for sharing your voice with us. This is the second time I've been privileged to hear your voice since I've been the President. I hope to hear it a lot more. And Angela, it's wonderful to see you again. Thank you for your testimony and your beauty and your grace.

And Reverend Rogers, thank you so much for bringing not only your own words of prayer but that of our mutual friend, Billy Graham, for whom we continue to pray for his health.

This is a day when our Nation recognizes a power above our power and influence beyond our influence, a guiding wisdom far greater than our own. The American character, it's strong and confident, but we have never been reluctant to speak of our own dependence on providence.

Our country was founded by great and wise people who were fluent in the language of humility, praise, and petition. Throughout our history, in danger and division, we have always turned to prayer. And our country has been delivered from many serious evils and wrongs because of that prayer.

We cannot presume to know every design of our Creator, or to assert a special claim on His favor. Yet, it is important to pause and recognize our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

The first President to live in the White House arrived with a prayer. In a letter to his wife, written on his second night here, John Adams offered a prayer that Heaven might bless this house and all those who would call it home. One of his successors, Franklin D. Roosevelt, thought enough of that prayer to have it inscribed on a mantelpiece in the State Dining Room, where you can still find it today.

In this house I make many decisions. But as I do so, as I make those decisions, I know as surely as you said that many Americans lift me up in prayer, those prayers are a gracious gift, and Laura and I and my family greatly appreciate them.

America has many traditions of faith and many experiences of prayer. But I suspect that many who pray have something in common: that we may pray for God's help, but as we do so, we find that God has changed our deepest selves. We learn humility before His will and acceptance of things beyond our understanding. We discover that the most sincere of all prayers can be the simple words, "Thy will be done." And that is a comfort more powerful than all our plans.

Laura and I really appreciate you being here on this special day. We thank you for your concerns for your country and your love of the Lord. It's an honor for me to be here, and I would ask that you join me in the State Dining Room for a little fellowship.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Shirley Dobson, chair, National Day of Prayer Task Force; gospel singer Wintley Phipps; Miss America Angela Perez Baraquio; Rev. Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN, and host, "Love Worth Finding" radio program; and evangelist Rev. Billy Graham.

Remarks to the American Jewish Committee

May 3, 2001

Well, Bruce, thank you very much for that kind invitation. I'm glad I came, and I'm proud to call you friend.

I appreciate, David Harris, your eloquence. I want to say welcome to the foreign dignitaries who are here; Members of the Congress; Justice O'Connor; my friend Mayor Williams. And I'm proud to be here tonight with such close friends of America.

Mi amigo, un hombre muy fuerte, muy inteligente, el Presidente de Mexico, Vicente Fox.

Foreign Minister Fischer and Foreign Minister Peres. I had the honor of meeting with Foreign Minister Peres today in the Oval Office. It is not the first time we have met. He had a sparkle in his eye some 12 years ago when we met; he still has this marvelous sparkle in his eye. I love his optimism. As Bruce mentioned, he said, "When you talk to Shimon Peres, you feel like you're talking to a poet; you know you're talking to a leader." He's been a good friend of the United States throughout his many years of public service, and I look forward to showing him my friendship for the State of Israel over the coming years.

And Mr. Fischer, welcome to Washington. Please take back my best regards to your Chancellor. I had a great visit with him, as well, in the Oval Office.

And Mr. President, thank you for coming by. He also was in the Oval Office. I had

a pretty busy day. [*Laughter*] This is the third time I've met with President Fox, and it's right that it be that way because relations with Mexico and the United States are incredibly important for our future. We want our friend to the south to be strong and vibrant. A strong Mexico, a healthy Mexico is good for the United States of America.

The four of us don't always agree; we occasionally have our differences. But one thing, obviously, we all agree on is when Bruce Ramer invites us somewhere, we go. [*Laughter*]

I took a look at this weekend's program before coming here. I was flattered to read that "understanding the new administration" is called a "central feature" of this year's meeting. Well, I may be able to save you some time. [*Laughter*]

I believe in equal opportunity for all without discrimination or prejudice of any kind. I believe that tolerance and respect must be taught to all our children because too many young minds and souls are lost to hate. I believe that our Government should support the works of charity that are motivated by faith, but our Government should never fund the teaching of faith, itself.

I am a Christian, but I believe with the Psalmist that the Lord God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Understanding my administration should not be difficult. We will speak up for our principles. We will stand up for our friends in the world, and one of the most important friends is the State of Israel.

Incredibly enough, when I visited Israel 2 years ago, I had the honor of touring many parts of that land in a helicopter with Ariel Sharon. I'm pretty confident he didn't think I was going to be the President. [*Laughter*] The truth is, I wasn't sure he was going to be the Prime Minister. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, here we are. I look forward to working with the Prime Minister. As Foreign Minister Peres told me today—and I agree—he's a man who knows how to keep his word, and that's important when it comes to foreign diplomacy.

For a Texan, a first visit to Israel is an eye opener. At the narrowest point, it's only 8 miles from the Mediterranean to the old armistice line. That's less than from the top to the bottom of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. [*Laughter*] The whole of pre-1967 Israel is only about 6 times the size of the King Ranch. It's a small country that has lived under the threat throughout its existence.

At my first meeting of my National Security Council, I told them that a top foreign policy priority of my administration is the safety and security of Israel. My administration will be steadfast in supporting Israel against terrorism and violence and in seeking the peace for which all Israelis pray.

The Middle East is the birthplace of three great religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Lasting peace in the region must respect the rights of believers in all these faiths. That's common sense. But it is also something more: It is moral sense, based upon the deep American commitment to freedom of religion.

That commitment was expressed early and eloquently by our first President, George Washington, in his famous letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. He argued for an attitude beyond mere tolerance—a respect for the inherent and equal right of everyone to worship God as they think best. "The Government of the United States," he said, "which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens." Over the years, Washington's rejection of religious bigotry has matured from a foundation of our domestic politics into a guiding doctrine of our foreign policy.

The American Jewish Committee deserves special credit for this progress. You were among the very first groups to support the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Formed to resist anti-Semitic persecution in czarist Russia, the American Jewish Committee has emerged as a great champion of religious liberty worldwide.

I am proud to say that it was a fellow Texan, Leo Napoleon Levi, who was responsible for one of the earliest American protests against anti-Semitic violence. Levi, a Galveston, Texas, lawyer and the president of the national B'nai B'rith, drafted President Theodore Roosevelt a telegram denouncing a Russian pogrom in 1903. The czar of Russia was so stung by Roosevelt's message that he

formally refused to accept it. Some Americans complained that Roosevelt had gone too far. He replied that there were no crimes so monstrous—that there were crimes so monstrous that the American conscience had to assert itself. And there still are.

Such crimes are being committed today by the Government of Sudan, which is waging war against that country's traditionalist and Christian peoples. Some 2 million Sudanese have lost their lives; 4 million more have lost their homes. Hospitals, schools, churches, and international relief stations have often been bombed by Government warplanes over the 18 years of Sudan's civil war. The Government claims to have halted air attacks, but they continue. Women and children have been abducted and sold into slavery. UNICEF estimates that some 12,000 to 15,000 people are now held in bondage in Sudan.

The story of the Exodus still speaks across the millennium: No society in all of history can be justly built on the backs of slaves. Sudan is a disaster area for human rights. The right of conscience has been singled out for special abuse by the Sudanese authorities. Aid agencies report that food assistance is sometimes distributed only to those willing to undergo conversion to Islam. We must turn the eyes of the world upon the atrocities in the Sudan.

Today I have appointed a special humanitarian coordinator, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios. He will provide the leadership necessary to ensure that our aid goes to the needy without manipulation by those ravaging that troubled land. This is the first step. More will follow.

Our actions begin today, and my administration will continue to speak and act for as long as the persecution and atrocities in the Sudan last.

I'm pleased to say that many countries in the region show considerable and improving respect for religious liberty: Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, and Bahrain among them. But there are other regimes, not only in north Africa and the Middle East, whose disrespect for freedom of worship is seriously disturbing. Iraq murders dissident religious figures. Iran systematically maltreats Jews, Christians, and adherents of the Baha'i faith. The Burmese junta tortures adherents of Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity. Cuba monitors and harasses independent priests and ministers. Afghanistan's Taliban government has horrified the world with its disdain for fundamental human freedoms, epitomized by its destruction of ancient Buddhist works of art. And the newly independent republics of central Asia impose troubling limits on religious expression and missionary work.

We view with special concern the intensifying attacks on religious freedom in China. In many respects, China has made great strides toward freedom in recent decades. China's economy has opened. Chinese people enjoy greater personal mobility, more secure property rights, and enlarged access to information. These are not small achievements, and they do promise even greater change.

But the Chinese Government continues to display an unreasonable and unworthy suspicion of freedom of conscience. The Chinese Government restricts independent religious expression. We hear alarming reports of the detention of worshipers and religious leaders. Churches, mosques have been vandalized or demolished. Traditional religious practices in Tibet have long been the target of especially harsh and unjust persecution. And most recently, adherents of the Falun Gong spiritual movement have been singled out for arrest and abuse.

China aspires to national strength and greatness. But these acts of persecution are acts of fear and, therefore, of weakness. This persecution is unworthy of all that China has been, a civilization with a history of tolerance. And this persecution is unworthy of all that China should become, an open society that respects the spiritual dignity of its people.

No one is a better witness to the transience of tyranny than the children of Abraham. Forty centuries ago, the Jewish people were entrusted with a truth more enduring than any power of man. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "This shall be My covenant with them, said the Lord: My spirit which is upon you, and the words which I have placed in your mouth, shall not be absent from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your children,

nor from the mouth of your children's children, said the Lord, from now, for all time."

It is not an accident that freedom of religion is one of the central freedoms in our Bill of Rights. It is the first freedom of the human soul, the right to speak the words that God places in our mouths. We must stand for that freedom in our country. We must speak for that freedom in the world. And I thank the American Jewish Committee for your willingness to do both.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:22 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Bruce M. Ramer, president, and David A. Harris, executive director, American Jewish Committee; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder of Germany; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo

May 2, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those gathered to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

May 5th marks the triumph of the spirit of freedom for the people of Mexico. The victory of General Ignacio Zaragoza and his Mexican troops over the superior French forces at the Battle of Puebla served as a stirring reminder of the determination to win the fight for Mexico's freedom from foreign intervention. The Cinco de Mayo display of courage and purpose is a source of pride for all freedom-loving people.

We Americans cherish our deep historical, cultural, economic, and, in many cases, family ties with Mexico and Latin America. Cinco de Mayo celebrations remind us how much Hispanics have influenced and enriched the United States. Hispanic Americans contribute to the shared traditions that are part of our history, including entrepreneurship, a sense of community where neighbor helps neighbor, faith, and love of family. On this special day, I encourage Americans to reaffirm the ties of culture and friendship we share with the people of Mexico and with Hispanic Americans.

As you enjoy the day with parades, folkloric dancing, and other festive activities, Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 4.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy Falcons

May 4, 2001

Good morning. Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome you all to the White House. I want to thank the generals who are here, and the members of the congressional delegation that have come. Most of all, I want to welcome Coach DeBerry and the Fighting Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy.

It is my honor to present the Commander in Chief's Trophy, which recognizes gridiron supremacy amongst our Nation's service academies. The Falcons' record of success in service academy football is truly stellar. They won this trophy 10 of the last 12 years—14 times overall. The seniors on this team completed their careers with a 37–12 record. It's the next-to-best record of any group of seniors in academy history, and I want to congratulate you all.

I know you all take special pride in your coach. He's got an outstanding record, as well. This is the 12th time in 17 seasons under Coach DeBerry that the Falcons have won the Commander in Chief's Trophy.

I thought it was interesting that the first time he brought his seniors to the White House was in 1986. Ronald Reagan was still the President; the Berlin Wall still stood; windows were something that you washed. [*Laughter*]

As Coach DeBerry reminded everyone at last year's White House ceremony, Presidents come and go, but coaches do not have

term limits. [*Laughter*] Coach, a word of caution—[*laughter*]—winning this trophy is supposed to be a struggle, not a hobby. [*Laughter*] And the truth is, if you spend any more time in Washington, the folks back in Colorado Springs are going to start saying you're out of touch. [*Laughter*]

I love Coach DeBerry's motto: Faith, family, and Falcons. This is a man who has his priorities straight. And they must be, because he's not just recruiting football talent; he's recruiting character. He's not just recruiting to win football games; he's recruiting to win our Nation's wars, if we have one.

These seniors know that conference titles, bowl victories, and trophies are not nearly as important as the solemn oath they will take in just a few weeks as newest officers in the world's finest Air Force. Today we honor the history that you've made on the playing field. But we look forward to even more of the history you will make serving our Nation.

Coach DeBerry, if the past is prologue, I suspect you, too, will have a bright future. And you've got an opener next season with another team that recently visited the White House, the mighty Oklahoma Sooners. And my hope is that you try to soften them up a bit before they play the Texas teams. [*Laughter*]

But it's my honor to congratulate you, and congratulations in advance for the service you will render to our fabulous Nation.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the South Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, football coach, U.S. Air Force Academy. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Coach DeBerry.

Remarks Honoring the 2000 World Series Champion New York Yankees

May 4, 2001

Thank you. Please sit down. Well, it's my honor to welcome the mighty Yanks to the Rose Garden, a team that broke my heart many a time, as the owner of the Texas Rangers. [*Laughter*]

I'm so glad you all are here, and I appreciate the mayor being here—the Yankees' number one fan—and members of the congressional delegation who are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

It's good to see my old fellow owner, "the Boss." [*Laughter*] What a record you've had. A man who demands excellence and oftentimes gets it. [*Laughter*] But thank you for coming, George. I know the real boss of the Yankees is here, too, Arthur Richman. [*Laughter*] How are you, Arthur? Good to see you. I told you one of these days we would get to the White House. Just don't take any silverware, Arthur. [*Laughter*]

It's good to see Randy and Brian Cashman. Thank you all for coming. I am—I understand something about baseball. It not only takes great players to win a championship, it takes a great manager, too. And I know all sports fans are impressed by the class of Joe Torre. What a heck of a man he is. And Don Zimmer, you're not so bad, either. [*Laughter*]

But one of the things everybody forgets about Joe is that he was a pretty darn good player himself. Thirty years ago, he led the National League with a .363 batting average, 137 RBIs, and it's sure good to welcome you back here, Joe. [*Laughter*]

And there are fellow Texans on this team, and around here that counts for something. [*Laughter*] So it's good to see "the Rocket," a friend of my family's Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Chuck Knoblauch.

I—something about the Yankees. It's one of the greatest names in sport. It's a tradition and a powerful tradition. I mean, you put on a uniform, it's just not work clothes; it's the uniform that Ruth wore or Gehrig wore, and you all have kept up that tradition. And for that, you need to be congratulated.

It's interesting that we're hosting the great Yanks here in the Rose Garden, and then this Sunday there's a little different celebration taking place. It's a baseball celebration. But on the other side of the driveway down there, we've set up a tee-ball park. And it's a chance for moms and dads to bring tee-ball teams to celebrate the great sport of baseball right here on the hallowed grounds of the White House. Yankee Stadium is hallowed grounds, so is the White House.

What's going to be interesting about that day is there is going to be some little kid

trying to adjust his batting gloves just like Jeter does, or somebody trying to look like Mariano Rivera or somebody trying to emulate the swing of Tino Martinez. That's what's going to happen.

And as a reminder to those who are on the field that a lot of kids look at you, they really do. And there's a lot of parents pulling for the Yanks to be champs not only on the field but off the field. And there's no question in my mind that these Yanks will rise to both occasions.

Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, Arthur Richman, senior adviser, Randy Levine, president, Brian Cashman, senior vice president and general manager, Joe Torre, manager, Don Zimmer, assistant manager, Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera, pitchers, Chuck Knoblauch, outfielder, Derek Jeter, shortstop, and Tino Martinez, first baseman, New York Yankees.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 4, 2001

Thank you all. We welcome you to this Cinco de Mayo celebration, even though it's on the *quatro de Mayo*. [*Laughter*] But it's such an important holiday, we decided to start early.

I really appreciate *El Embajador de Mexico,* Juan Jose Bremer. Thank you for your kind words, thank you for your leadership, and welcome.

I appreciate so very much Thalia for being here. I am thankful that she did not ask me to dance. [*Laughter*] But I loved her voice and loved her music. Pablo Montero. Thank you very much, Pablo, for coming. We will treasure that beautiful gift you gave to Laura, via me. [*Laughter*]

It is a pleasure to see my friend Don Francisco. I had the honor of interviewing with Don Francisco before. He's a good man. And finally *por fin, mi amigo* Emilio Estefan. Emilio, thank you very much for coming. He's lucky we didn't let him in without Gloria. [*Laughter*] I know you join me in thanking the fantastic dancers and the mariachis. It's such beautiful music, and the White House is blessed by your presence.

Some in my administration are here that I must introduce. Hector Barreto, he's going to make fine leader of the Small Business Administration; Eduardo Aguirre, who is going to be a senior official at the Export-Import Bank—Eduardo. Rosario Marin is here; she is going to be the Treasurer of the United States. We could go on all day long, but there's one other fellow I want to introduce. He's a friend of Mexico. He's a great United States Senator. The Senator from the State of New Mexico, Pete Domenici. Is Ed Pastor here? I don't see Ed.

Today we remember a proud moment for the people of Mexico, when Mexican soldiers won the Battle of Puebla. When the news of that victory reached this house, it was recognized and recorded by Abraham Lincoln. Then, and for many years afterwards, the United States and Mexico lived two very different histories, often divided by misperceptions and mistrust. It's changed.

The United States and Mexico now share ties of history, *familia*, values, commerce, and culture. We are more united in friendship and common purpose than ever before. Just yesterday I had yet another visit with my friend *El Presidente* Vicente Fox. This is the third time my friend and I have had a chance to dialog about the incredibly important relationship between the United States and Mexico. And I hope people take note that in a few months he'll come back as the honored guest of the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States. We have worked together as Governors; we will work together as Presidents. And we'll always work in the spirit of mutual respect.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for people on—it's a reminder of the pride—of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating.

I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you, so pleased so many folks came.

Again, I want to thank the fantastic artists who are here. *Mi Casa Blanca es su Casa Blanca. Adios.*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Juan Jose Bremer; entertainers Pablo Montero, Emilio Estefan, Gloria Estefan, and Thalia; Spanish-language television host Mario Kreutzberger, popularly known as "Don Francisco"; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Proclamation 7432—Older Americans Month, 2001

May 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In cities, towns, and communities across the United States, older Americans make countless contributions to the life of our Nation. Each year, during the month of May, Americans acknowledge in a special way the contributions of older Americans to our society. This year's theme, "The Many Faces of Aging," calls on us to recognize the richness and the promise of our rapidly increasing older population.

Older adults have much to teach us, from persevering in the face of hardship to sustaining our family structure and caring for those in need. Generations of older Americans have done the hard work of building communities, places of worship, businesses, and schools, laying the foundation for our American way of life. Embodying the steadfast devotion, courage, and sacrifice that our ancestors brought to this country, older Americans continue to energize our national life. Many of these former teachers, leaders of industry, war heroes, and religious figures help new generations learn about our past by taking time out of their lives to share their experiences and to serve as role models. Their values of hard work, determination, compassion, and faith continue to benefit our families and all Americans. As we celebrate Older Americans Month, I encourage Americans to take advantage of the wisdom and experience of our elder citizens.

Working in partnership with States and local organizations, my Administration is proposing that the Federal Government do more to facilitate service opportunities for seniors.

My Administration is committed to improving the quality of life of our Nation's seniors, who are often burdened with concerns about health care. We will strengthen Medicare for the baby boomers and subsequent generations. We will renew the promise made to our seniors and people with disabilities by providing access to affordable prescription drugs and better options to meet their health care needs. By ensuring that our senior citizens live in comfort and security, we honor them and thank them for their service.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2001, as Older Americans Month. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials, businesses, communities, faith-based organizations, families, health care professionals, volunteers, and all citizens of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's continuing commitment to honor older Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Proclamation 7433—Small Business Week, 2001

May 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Small business owners who work long hours, juggling family and career responsibilities and serving as community volunteers, are integral to our country's prosperity and

to the vibrancy of our communities. These entrepreneurs are fundamental to our economy. Through the opportunities offered by the men and women who own and operate our Nation's 25.5 million small businesses, many of our citizens are able to pursue their dreams of a better life.

Federal, State, and local governments can help our small business owners by creating an environment in which the American spirit flourishes, an environment that promotes innovation, risk-taking, and equal opportunity. My Administration is working for lower taxes, reasonable regulations, and a reduction of tariffs and other barriers to free trade that will increase the competitive strength of our small business sector. Education reforms also will ensure that our young people are prepared to enter the global marketplace and small businesses will have the needed pool of talent.

Many of America's entrepreneurs risk everything to make their businesses successful. They are leaders of innovation, and their efforts create a wellspring of new technology, new products, and improved business processes. One of my priorities as President is to encourage that entrepreneurial spirit, and to see that it encompasses all Americans. To that end, we have instituted the New Freedom Initiative, which includes a component to help small businesses better serve customers with disabilities and to hire more people with disabilities. Also, my Administration supports the Drug Free Workplace Program, to help small businesses develop employee education programs and company drug policies. These are examples of our commitment to the ideal that the role of our Government is not to create business barriers, but to help our citizens overcome them.

America's small business owners and their employees represent more than half of the private workforce. These entrepreneurs, who create more than 75 percent of the net new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product, and the employees who work in small businesses, deserve our thanks. We salute them by observing Small Business Week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 6 through 12, 2001, as Small Business Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 28

In the afternoon, the President returned from Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

April 30

The President had separate telephone conversations with Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder of Germany, President Jacques Chirac of France, Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, and NATO Secretary General George Robertson.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark T. Randt, Jr., to be Ambassador to China.

May 1

The President announced his intention to nominate Alexander R. Vershbow to be Ambassador to Russia.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Laurence Connaughton to

be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality. Upon confirmation, he will be designated Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate John W. Gillis to be Director of the Office of Victims of Crime.

May 2

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the RespecTeen National Youth Forum at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hans H. Hertell to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The President declared a disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on April 8 and continuing.

May 3

In the morning, the President met seperately with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, President Vicente Fox of Mexico, and Foreign Minister Josenka Fischer of Germany in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edmund James Hull to be Ambassador to Yemen.

The White House announced that the President invited President Vicente Fox of Mexico to the White House for a state visit on September 5–7.

May 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Weiser to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Matt Fong to be Under Secretary of the Army.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 30

Kathleen Q. Abernathy,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2000, vice Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth.

Othoniel Armendariz,
of Texas, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 1, 2005, vice Donald S. Wasserman, term expired.

Eric M. Bost,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, vice Shirley Robinson Watkins, resigned.

Michael Chertoff,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice James K. Robinson.

Kathleen B. Cooper,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, vice Robert J. Shapiro, resigned.

David Garman,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), vice Dan Reichter, resigned.

John W. Gillis,
of California, to be Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, vice Kathryn M. Turman, resigned.

James Gurule,
of Michigan, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, vice James E. Johnson, resigned.

William T. Hawks,
of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, vice Islam A. Siddiqui.

Robin L. Higgins,
of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs, vice Robert M. Walker, resigned.

Kay Coles James,
of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, vice Janice R. Lachance.

Joseph J. Jen,
of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, vice I. Miley Gonzales.

James J. Jochum,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice R. Roger Majak, resigned.

Walter H. Kansteiner,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), vice Susan E. Rice.

Kevin Keane,
of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Melissa T. Skolfield, resigned.

David D. Lauriski,
of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, vice J. Davitt McAteer.

Leo S. Mackay, Jr.,
of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, vice Hershel Wayne Gober, resigned.

Kevin J. Martin,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2001, vice William E. Kennard, term expiring.

Bruce P. Mehlman,
of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy, vice Kelly H. Carnes, resigned.

J. B. Penn,
of Arkansas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, vice August Schumacher, Jr., resigned.

David A. Sampson,
of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, vice Arthur C. Campbell, resigned.

Peter S. Watson,
of California, to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, vice George Munoz, resigned.

Grover J. Whitehurst,
of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, vice Cyril Kent McGuire, resigned.

Patrick Henry Wood III,
of Texas, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2005, vice James John Hoecker, resigned.

Francis S. Blake,
of Connecticut, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, vice T. J. Glauthier, resigned.

Nora Mead Brownell,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2006 (reappointment).

Nora Mead Brownell,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2001, vice Vicky A. Bailey, resigned.

David S. C. Chu,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, vice Bernard Daniel Rostker.

Shinae Chun,
of Illinois, to be Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, vice Irasema Garza.

James Laurence Connaughton,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality, vice George T. Frampton, Jr.

Gordon England,
of Texas, to be Secretary of the Navy, vice Richard Danzig.

Donald Cameron Findlay,
of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, vice Edward B. Montgomery, resigned.

Carl W. Ford, Jr.,
of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), vice J. Stapleton Roy, resigned.

Richard A. Hauser,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Gail W. Laster, resigned.

Jeffrey R. Holmstead,
of Colorado, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Robert W. Perciasepe, resigned.

Robert D. McCallum, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice David W. Ogden, resigned.

Susan B. Neuman,
of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, vice Michael Cohen, resigned.

Jessie Hill Roberson,
of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management), vice Carolyn L. Huntoon, resigned.

John E. Robson,
of California, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2005, vice James A. Harmon, resigned.

Christina B. Rocca,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, vice Karl Frederick Inderfurth.

Romolo A. Bernardi,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Cardell Cooper, resigned.

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Bill Lann Lee, resigned.

William J. Burns,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs), vice Edward S. Walker, Jr.

Ann Laine Combs,
of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Leslie Beth Kramerich.

Michael Joseph Copps,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 1999, vice Susan Ness, term expired.

Lorne W. Craner,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, vice Harold Hongju Koh.

Ruth A. Davis,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, vice Marc Grossman.

Linnet F. Deily,
of California, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Rita D. Hayes, resigned.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, vice Jill L. Long, resigned.

Douglas Jay Feith,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, vice Walter Becker Slocombe.

Linda J. Fisher,
of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice W. Michael McCabe, resigned.

Peter R. Fisher,
of New Jersey, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Gary Gensler, resigned.

J. Steven Griles,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, vice David J. Hayes, resigned.

Eugene Hickok,
of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Education, vice Judith A. Winston, resigned.

Alphonso R. Jackson,
of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., resigned.

Brian Jones,
of California, to be General Counsel, Department of Education, vice Judith A. Winston, resigned.

Jacob Lozada,
of Puerto Rico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, vice Eugene A. Brickhouse, resigned.

Gordon H. Mansfield,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs), vice Edward P. Scott, resigned.

Alfred Rascon,
of California, to be Director of Selective Service, vice Gil Coronado, resigned.

Eugene Scalia,
of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, vice Henry L. Solano, resigned.

Thomas Scully,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, vice Nancy-Ann Min Deparle.

John Charles Weicher,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice William C. Apgar, Jr., resigned.

Submitted May 1

Hector V. Barreto, Jr.,
of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, vice Aida Alvarez, resigned.

Thomas E. White,
of Texas, to be Secretary of the Army, vice Louis Caldera.

Kathleen Q. Abernathy,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 1999, vice Susan Ness, term expired.

Michael Joseph Copps,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2000, vice Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth.

Withdrawn May 1

Kathleen Q. Abernathy,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2000, vice Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, which was sent to the Senate on April 30, 2001.

Michael Joseph Copps,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 1999, vice Susan Ness, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on April 30, 2001.

Submitted May 2

Robert Gordon Card,
of Colorado, to be Under Secretary of Energy, vice Ernest J. Moniz, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 1

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Vicente Fox of Mexico

Released May 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of John A. Cloud as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for

International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of Iowa

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for Macedonia

Released May 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: State Visit by President Fox of Mexico

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the first Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on the South Lawn of the White House

Released May 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, May 11, 2001

The President's Radio Address

May 5, 2001

Good morning. Today I want to offer a special greeting to everyone celebrating Cinco de Mayo. This day marks the proud moment when Mexican soldiers threw back an invading army at the Battle of Puebla. One hundred and thirty-nine years later Cinco de Mayo pays tribute to the strong and independent spirit of the Mexican people.

We celebrated a little early at the White House this year, on *quatro de Mayo*, with a fiesta on the South Lawn, with the mariachi music, folkloric dancing, and an ample supply of Mexican food. For a little while, it was just like being in Texas again.

Growing up in Texas gave me many things I'm thankful for, and one of them is an appreciation of the Hispanic culture. In Texas, it's in the air you breath. Hispanic life, Hispanic culture, and Hispanic values are inseparable from the life of our State and have been for many generations. The history of Mexican-American relations has had its troubled moments, but today our peoples enrich each other in trade and culture and family ties.

To affirm that friendship, Laura and I have invited Mexican President Vicente Fox to be the guest of honor at the very first state dinner of my administration. President Fox is a fine man, a man of powerful ideals and a great vision for his country. We have already met three times this year. I consider him a friend. We are committed to working together in common purpose for the good of both countries. Whether the issue is free trade or energy production, environmental protection or the control of illegal drugs, our interests are often the same.

In the United States, I'm happy to say, we're putting old fears and quarrels behind us. We know that we must protect the integrity of our border, yet we understand how that border can be viewed from the other side, as the gateway to better wages and a better life. I've often said that family values don't stop at the Rio Grande. The best way to have a stable border is better opportunity in both our nations, opportunity built by trade and education and freedom.

And when immigrants come to America legally, their culture and contribution must be treated with respect. They have an equal place in the American story, a story written in many hands and told in many languages. This welcoming spirit is the heritage of the immigrant Nation and the commitment of my administration.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for all of Mexico. And for all Americans, it is a reminder of the heritage we share with our neighbor to the south and the great promise of the future.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on May 4 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 5. The address was also recorded in Spanish. Both transcripts were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 4 but were embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Amir Hamad Khalifa of Bahrain

May 7, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome His Highness to America. Bahrain is a close friend of our country. It housed our 5th Fleet—strong allies. He has made a big difference in his own country, been on the leading edge of reform. He believes in human rights and believes in the full participation of the people of his land. And we're really grateful for your leadership. It's such an honor to welcome you here.

Amir Khalifa. Thank you. I am pleased to have this honor today to meet with the President, who has been promising from the day he wanted to be in this job. And I'm

sure America will do a great thing and move forward in all fields, for the stability and security, mainly, of my region, the Gulf region.

We have an old relationship that's lasted for more than a hundred-and-something years. And I think we will keep that one. And that's why I'm here, to consult on matters of security, on matters of trade, on matters of development. And I thank the President for his invitation, his kind invitation.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Council of the Americas Conference

May 7, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Rhodes, I'm honored; and thank you for having me, sir. It's an honor to be here with Senator Chuck Hagel. He's a man who's got a good vision of the world. He's also a fine United States Senator, I might add. Thank you for being here, Senator. It's good to see Ambassadors from nations in our hemisphere. Mr. Rockefeller, thank you very much for your support of trade in our hemisphere.

It's an honor to be here with the best pick I could have possibly made to be the Secretary of State, and that's Colin Powell. He's doing a really good job of making the case for our country in a strong and humble way. When it's all said and done, his tenure is going to mean the world is more peaceful and more prosperous.

I appreciate so very much, Peter Romero from the State Department, who has been working side by side with those of us at the White House. I appreciate Thomas McNamara and Bill Pryce, as well. And thank you all for coming, and thank you for letting me talk about a subject near and dear to my heart.

The Council of the Americas was formed 36 years ago, in a different America. And it's certainly a different world. In 1965 international trade and investment mattered much less to the U.S. economy. We traded mostly with the countries of Europe. Interestingly enough, at that point in time, Mexico was our fifth largest trading partner. Today, she's the second largest trading partner, behind Canada.

In 1965 so few Americans traced their ancestry to Latin America that the census didn't even bother to tabulate them. Today, some 35 million Americans are of Hispanic origin. In 1965 military and authoritarian regimes ruled all too many of the countries of the Americas. Today, with one sad, solitary exception, every nation in our hemisphere has an elected government.

Our recent summit in Quebec symbolized the new reality in our hemisphere, a unity of shared values, shared culture, and shared trade. And together, we made good progress at that summit, the beginnings of a really strong and fruitful relationship all throughout the hemisphere.

In 1980s and the early nineties, our Nation negotiated many important trade agreements: the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. Since then, efforts have stalled as U.S. trade promotion authority was allowed to lapse. The inactivity of the American Government has had real costs for the American people. The United States has few better friends, for example, than the Republic of Chile, but the fact is, Canadian goods sold in Chile pay a lower tariff than American goods do, because the United States has left its trade talks with Chile unfinished.

Free trade agreements are being negotiated all over the world, and we're not a party to them. And this has got to change.

Americans are the world's preeminent inventor of new technology and the world's biggest foreign investor. We're the world's most efficient food producer and the world's leading source of information and entertainment. For our farmers and our inventors, for our artists and for ordinary savers open trade pays off in the form of higher incomes and higher returns.

We benefit from open trade in less tangible ways, as well. Americans want to live on a cleaner planet; we want labor standards

upheld and children protected from exploitation. Americans want human rights and individual freedom to advance. Open trade advances those American values, those universal values.

By failing to make the case for trade, we've allowed a new kind of protectionism to appear in this country. It talks of workers, while it opposes a major source of new jobs. It talks of the environment, while opposing the wealth-creating policies that will pay for clean air and water in developing nations. It talks of the disadvantaged, even as it offers ideas that would keep many of the poor in poverty.

Open trade is not just an economic opportunity; it is a moral imperative. Trade creates jobs for the unemployed. When we negotiate for open markets, we are providing new hope for the world's poor. And when we promote open trade, we are promoting political freedom. Societies that open to commerce across their borders will open to democracy within their borders, not always immediately and not always smoothly, but in good time.

Look at our friends, Mexico, and the political reforms there. Look at Taiwan. Look at South Korea. And some day soon, I hope that an American President will end that list by adding, look at China. I believe in open trade with China, because I believe that freedom can triumph in China.

Later this week, I will send the outline of my trade agenda to Congress. My administration wants to work with Congress and to listen to what the Members have to say. We've been especially impressed by the fresh new thinking of many Members about how to advance environmental and worker protection concerns in ways that open trade rather than closing trade. They recognize that one-size-fits-all policies can't succeed. They know we need a toolbox equipped to match diverse tools with diverse problems, and I agree.

And one tool I must have is renewed U.S. trade promotion authority. I urge the Congress, restore our Nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements. And I will use that authority to build freedom in the world, progress in our hemisphere, and enduring prosperity in the United States.

We must pass the free trade agreement with Jordan, one of our best friends in the Middle East. We need to complete our free trade agreement with Singapore. We must proceed with other bilateral and regional agreements. And the time has come for a new global trade round.

I'm optimistic about trade. I'm also realistic about trade. I will enforce our laws against unfair trade practices. And I want to consider how we can improve our program for trade adjustment assistance when it comes up for reauthorization next year. But we must understand that the transition costs of open trade are dwarfed by open trade's benefits that are measured not only in dollars and cents but in human freedom, human dignity, human rights, and human progress.

We must make those benefits a reality for all the people of our hemisphere. And that's the task ahead. I accept it with enthusiasm. And I'm counting on the Council's help to bring sanity to the United States Congress.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. at the State Department. In his remarks, he referred to William R. Rhodes, member, David Rockefeller, honorary chair, and Thomas E. McNamara, president, board of directors, and William T. Pryce, vice president, Washington operations, Council of the Americas; and Peter F. Romero, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Proclamation 7434—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2001

May 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we move into the 21st century, the United States continues to greatly benefit from the contributions of its diverse citizenry. Among those who have influenced our country, Asian/Pacific Americans merit special recognition. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the course of our Nation's future.

Many immigrants of Asian heritage came to the United States in the nineteenth century to work in the agricultural and transportation industries. Laboring under very difficult conditions, they helped construct the western half of the first transcontinental railroad. Their hard work was invaluable in linking together the East and West coasts, thus vastly expanding economic growth and development across the country. Over time, other immigrants journeyed to America from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Asian Subcontinent. Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing segments of our population, having increased in number from fewer than 1.5 million in 1970 to approximately 10.5 million in 2000.

Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities, and religious traditions. Whether in government, business, science, technology, or the arts, Asian/Pacific Americans have added immeasurably to the prosperity and vitality of our society. As family members, citizens, and involved members of the community, they reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our Nation.

Diversity represents one of our greatest strengths, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, our Nation celebrates the importance of inclusion in building a brighter future for all our citizens.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102–450, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2001, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the contributions and history of Asian/Pacific Americans and to celebrate the role they have played in our national story.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 10.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Burdensharing in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

May 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 3(2)(B) of the Senate's resolution of April 30, 1998, providing its advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, I hereby transmit to you the report concerning NATO membership, burdensharing in the Alliance, and other matters.

The report is comprised of two sections that provide the required information to the extent that such information is available. An unclassified section covering common NATO budgets, national defense budgets, costs incurred to date in connection with the membership of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, and the status of discussions concerning NATO membership for Partnership for Peace countries. A separate, confidential section covers NATO members' capabilities to deploy and sustain combat forces and the adequacy of European defense budgets to meet the requirements of NATO force goals and capabilities initiatives.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J.

Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; Bob Stump, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 8.

Remarks Honoring the Small Business Person of the Year

May 8, 2001

Thank you very much. Be seated, please. Welcome to the people's house for the Small Business Person of the Year Award ceremony. It's an honor for me to be here. Can't wait to find out who won. [*Laughter*]

John, thank you very much for hosting this event. It's good to see Members of the United States Senate here—Senator Bond and Senator Shelby, strong advocates of small-business growth in America. Welcome, Senators.

It's good to have Don Manzullo here, as well as Frank Mascara. Thank you all for coming. Congressman, thank you for being here, as well. It's an honor to have Members of the United States Congress who care deeply about making sure that the environment for small-business growth is strong and positive in America. These Members understand what I know: The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which people who have a dream of owning their own business are able to do so if they've got the good idea and are willing to work hard for it.

We've had some pretty negative news recently about employment figures. But one thing Congress must always remember is that to make sure that the employment figures improve, we must remember that small businesses create most of the new jobs in America, and therefore, we've got to put forth good policy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish. And I can't think of better policy than to reduce all the marginal rates of income tax.

We're getting a budget about done. And then we're going to have to figure out the details of the tax policy, and you can help. You can help by reminding Members of the United States Congress, both in the Senate and the House—you don't have to remind these, because they already know what I'm about to say—but that all rates need to be cut.

We don't need any targeted tax cuts. That means Congress gets to pick. Some people get tax cuts; some people don't. That's not fair; that's not the American way. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. And the Congress needs to hear this, as well, that many small businesses in America are unincorporated. They are sole proprietorships. They pay rates on the personal scale. And by cutting that top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we encourage entrepreneurial growth in America; we encourage small-business formation.

We're saying that we understand the power of small business in America, the importance to the future of this country, and by letting small-business owners keep more of their own money, it's good for America. Congress needs to hear that message, that this tax cut is good for small-business growth. And you can help.

I found out voices make a difference up here in Washington, particularly when they're calling on the phone saying, "Let's get something good done on the tax cut. Let's make sure you understand growth—a pro-growth environment."

And there's another place you can help, too. And that's on getting rid of one part of the Tax Code that's incredibly unfair to small-business people, and that's the death tax. The death tax is unfair.

People need to hear from you. They need to hear it's unfair to tax a person's assets twice, once when they're building the asset up and then when you try to pass it on to your heirs. People work in the small-business sector—you know this as well as I do—to build something up to leave it to maybe a son or a daughter. Nothing more prideful for people than to work their life and to be able to say to a son or a daughter, "Here's the business. You go run it now. You take it to new heights."

But that's not the way our—that's not the way this Tax Code works. It says, when you pass on, your heirs are going to have to pay an incredibly high tax. It's especially onerous—this death tax is especially onerous on

small-business entrepreneurs in America, and we need to get rid of it. And we need to get rid of it right now.

One thing I know, and you know, that a small business is built on values. And good, strong values are what distinguish all four of the finalists who are here today. Cindy McEntee * is an active member of her community, a selfless volunteer, a devoted employer. I was struck about the story about one—a longtime employee had to be airlifted for emergency hospital care in the middle of the night, one of her fellow employees. She woke up the next morning to drive 120 miles, from Newport to Portland, Oregon, to make sure that that person was getting the care she needed. That's the sign of a good boss. That's the sign of a good small-business owner. I bet morale is high in her company.

Thornton Stanley is a deacon in his church, a good dad, a loyal alumnus of Alabama A&M, a fine family man. He built his business on quality, on what he calls "playing it straight." It's a pretty good motto.

Frank Sarris shows what drive and determination and frugality can build. He's a dreamer who worked hard to achieve his dream.

Brindley Pieters is a man who took risk, never lost hope.

All four of these fine Americans represent the best of small businesses. I can't wait to find out who won. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you for what you all do for America. I want to thank you for being good employers. I want to thank you for expanding the job base. I also want to thank you for being good stewards in your community. You recognize what I know, that our communities are only as strong as the willingness of people to put time and effort and love into our neighborhoods. Small-business people do that every day.

Thank you all for coming to the White House, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John D. Whitmore, Jr., Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration; Cindy M. McEntee, owner and president, Mo's Enterprises, Inc., Newport, OR; Brindley B. Pieters, president, Brindley Pieters & Associates, Inc., Altamonte Springs, FL; Frank Sarris, president, Sarris Candies, Inc., Canonsburg, PA; and Thornton Stanley, president, Stanley Construction Co., Inc., Huntsville, AL.

* White House correction.

Statement on Domestic Preparedness Against Weapons of Mass Destruction

May 8, 2001

Protecting America's homeland and citizens from the threat of weapons of mass destruction is one of our Nation's important national security challenges. Today, more nations possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons than ever before. Still others seek to join them. Most troubling of all, the list of these countries includes some of the world's least responsible states—states for whom terror and blackmail are a way of life. Some non-state terrorist groups have also demonstrated an interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that the threat of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons being used against the United States—while not immediate—is very real. That is why our Nation actively seeks to deny chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons to those seeking to acquire them. That is why, together with our allies, we seek to deter anyone who would contemplate their use. And that is also why we must ensure that our Nation is prepared to defend against the harm they can inflict.

Should our efforts to reduce the threat to our country from weapons of mass destruction be less than fully successful, prudence dictates that the United States be fully prepared to deal effectively with the consequences of such a weapon being used here on our soil.

Today, numerous Federal departments and agencies have programs to deal with the consequences of a potential use of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapon in the United States. Many of these Federal programs offer training, planning, and assistance to State and local governments. But to maximize their effectiveness, these efforts need to be seamlessly integrated, harmonious, and comprehensive.

Therefore, I have asked Vice President Cheney to oversee the development of a coordinated national effort so that we may do the very best possible job of protecting our people from catastrophic harm. I have also asked Joe Allbaugh, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to create an Office of National Preparedness. This Office will be responsible for implementing the results of those parts of the national effort overseen by Vice President Cheney that deal with consequence management. Specifically, it will coordinate all Federal programs dealing with weapons of mass destruction consequence management within the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other Federal agencies. The Office of National Preparedness will work closely with State and local governments to ensure their planning, training, and equipment needs are addressed. FEMA will also work closely with the Department of Justice, in its lead role for crisis management, to ensure that all facets of our response to the threat from weapons of mass destruction are coordinated and cohesive. I will periodically chair a meeting of the National Security Council to review these efforts.

No governmental responsibility is more fundamental than protecting the physical safety of our Nation and its citizens. In today's world, this obligation includes protection against the use of weapons of mass destruction. I look forward to working closely with Congress so that together we can meet this challenge.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Peacekeeping Operations

May 8, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the 2000 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping required by section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287b).

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations conducted under the previous Administration helped us protect U.S. interests before they were directly threatened and helped ensure that other nations shared with us the risks and costs of maintaining international stability.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that, under the right circumstances, peacekeeping remains a viable option for dealing with international conflicts.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; Bob Stump, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks at the Electronic Industries Alliance Dinner

May 8, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Dave, thank you very much. I thought for a minute he was going to bring up the OU-Texas score, but—[*laughter*]—he's a diplomat at heart. I appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate your friendship, and I want to thank you for inviting me here to the Electronic Industry Alliance dinner.

I want to thank the chairman, Cliff Smith, for his hospitality as well. I see the Ambassador from our great friend, the nation of Israel, here. Ambassador Ivry, good to see you, sir. Thank you very much for being here. I wasn't exactly sure why you were going to be here until I realized that this banquet is going to honor Felix Zandman for his contribution. Mr. Zandman, congratulations, sir.

It must be a pretty big deal to get the Ambassador to come to a black tie dinner like this. I know Members of the Congress are here: Congressmen Barr, Hutchinson, Issa; Sheila Jackson Lee from my old hometown of Houston, Texas; and Congressman Nick Smith. It's good to see the Members of Congress who are here, as well.

I'm honored to speak here, and I want to thank you for giving me a chance. First, it gives me a chance to tell you that Laura and I are doing great. I love my job. It's hard

to describe the honor I feel every morning walking into the Oval Office. I'm confident that my last day in office will be just like my first—that Oval Office just inspires an awesome sense of responsibility. And I accept it.

On my way out, Laura, the First Lady, said, "Where are you going?" I said, "Well, I'm going to go speak to a banquet of high-tech entrepreneurs and people who are making the economy grow." She said, "Whatever you do, don't try to be charming, witty, or debonair." [*Laughter*] "Just be yourself." [*Laughter*] She sends her best. [*Laughter*]

It is my honor to be with innovators and visionaries, the folks that really epitomize what America is all about. Ours is a land of people who dream big and are willing to work hard to achieve the dreams, which means that Government has got a unique role. And the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of our Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which minds can expand, in which technologies can reach new frontiers.

And so, tonight, I want to talk about three areas where Government can help. And the first comes with understanding the role of taxation in our society. I remember campaigning throughout our great land and talking about the need to cut taxes. And there were a lot of blank stares for quite a while. I suspect some thought that I was just saying that we ought to have tax relief because it might have sounded good.

But I campaigned for tax relief because I thought it was right for America. And I'm pleased to report that we're making good progress. I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats for setting out a budget that understands the projected surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money, and we need to share some of that surplus with the people who pay the bills.

It's been an interesting debate. But fortunately, the debate understands the role of the entrepreneur in our society. The budget should be passed here this week, and then the respective committees will begin deciding how to cut the taxes.

My strong suggestion is that we focus first on cutting all marginal rates; that the idea of Congress trying to pick and choose winners and losers in the Tax Code is not fair, and it's not right. We need to reduce every rate on every taxpayer in America, including the top rate.

I'm confident we'll be able to work together to make the code more fair. Our Tax Code is unfair for people who live on the outskirts of poverty. The example I like to use is this one: If you're a single mother in America—by the way, she works the toughest job in America, raising children by herself—and if you're making $22,000 a year, for every additional dollar this hard-working woman makes, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is successful in America. And folks, that's not right.

The American experience says to us that the harder you work, the more easy your life ought to be. And therefore, to reduce the high marginal rates on people trying to get ahead, we need to drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. The code will be more fair. It's as if we will eliminate a toll booth that sits right in the road—in the middle of the road to the middle class.

But I want Congress to also understand that it's not only important to drop the bottom rate; it's important to drop the top rate, as well. By dropping the top rate, we encourage growth, capital formation, and the entrepreneurial spirit.

It's important for Congress to understand that many small businesses in our society are sole proprietorships or Subchapter S's. They don't pay the corporate tax rate; they pay high personal rates. And when you drop the top rate, we're sending a strong signal that says we want the small business to flourish. We want the small business to become the big business.

No, tax rates need to be cut. We can afford tax cuts, and the way our economy is behaving today, we can't afford not to have tax cuts. And it's time for the Congress to act.

We need to ban Internet access taxes. We need to understand how powerful the Internet can be to commerce and growth. We need to have a permanent R&D tax credit

in our system. You see, it's important to create certainty. It's important for planners and corporate executives to understand the rules and that the rules won't change. It's important for Congress to understand that tax relief provides consumer confidence. Long-term, steady tax policy is necessary to encourage deployment of capital throughout our society.

I believe we're going to have good tax relief, but I'd like for you to continue to work with us. You're only an e-mail away or a call away. It's important. Now is the time to act.

It's also important for this Nation to develop an energy policy. For too long, we have had no energy policy. And like you, I'm deeply concerned about consumer prices. They're going up. I'm concerned about rolling blackouts in California. I'm concerned what that could mean to entrepreneurial growth and to the high-tech industry.

It is so important for our Nation to work on conservation. And I believe there are new technologies coming aboard that will encourage conservation, that will make it easier for all of us, consumer and business alike, to conserve precious energy. But we can't conserve our way to energy independence, folks. We need a policy that encourages exploration and expansion of the infrastructure, necessary not only to find natural gas that's fueling many of the new plants being brought online but the pipelines necessary to carry that natural gas to places where they'll be used. We need more electricity wires carrying product across the country. It is time for an administration to step up and develop an energy policy that's good for the long-term economic growth of this country. And that's exactly what this administration is going to do.

There is concern about our environment in our society, and there should be. Mine is an administration that wants to foster good, commonsense conservation policy. But I believe strongly, with the technological advances we have made in our country, that we can not only find new product, but we can do so in a way that is sensitive to the environmental concerns of many in America.

And finally, an area that will help create an environment that fosters growth and wealth and expands opportunity to anybody who's fortunate enough to be an American is trade. It is important for our Nation to understand the benefits of open markets around the world. It's important for those who not only create jobs but those who work, to realize that a confident nation that opens up markets is one that will create not only opportunities at home but opportunities abroad.

I've seen the benefits of open trade. As the Governor of the State of Texas, of course, I was deeply concerned about our policies to our neighbor to the south, Mexico. I always felt like Mexico was our friend, and we wanted our friend to be strong and vibrant and successful. We wanted our neighborhood to have opportunity for all.

There are some in our country who want to build walls between the United States and other nations such as Mexico. But those who build walls aren't confident about America and our potential and our ability to compete. Those who build walls don't realize what a wall would do in our own neighborhood. It's time to tear down walls not only in our hemisphere but around the world. It's time to promote open markets. I strongly believe open markets will lead to better lives for people.

I've been questioned about my policy toward China. China is a great emerging nation. I strongly support trade with China. I not only do so because I know it's good for our entrepreneurs, our high-tech folks, our farmers and ranchers, but for those of us—and I know we all share the same thing in America—who adhere to the ideals of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to—freedom of press.

Open markets eventually will cause folks to demand more freedoms—when they get a taste of the marketplace—inside countries that restrict freedom. When they get that sense of freedom of demand and freedom to produce, they will eventually demand from their governments the other freedoms that we take for granted. Open trade is good for the promotion of freedom around the world.

And so I ask Congress to give the President something other Presidents have had in the past, and that's trade promotion authority, so an administration can negotiate with confidence free trade agreements, not only in

the hemisphere but trade agreements with countries like Jordan and Singapore.

There's a new protectionist sentiment in America that we need to resist. And sometimes it's couched in words like "the environment" or "labor agreements." But I want to remind the skeptics that as we spread wealth around the world, it is more likely that a worker will have better conditions where he or she works. And it is impossible for poor nations to achieve environmental successes. By encouraging wealth in developing nations, it will help those nations improve their own environmental policy. We should resist protectionism, and we should fight those who want to wall off America from the benefits of free trade.

And so I ask for your help. As we get trade promotion authority moving through the Congress, I hope you remind Members of the Congress and the Senate the good benefits that open trade can mean not only to the entrepreneur but to the working people in our country and with those with whom we trade.

And along those lines, during the campaign I promised to lead an effort to reform our export control system so that it safeguards genuine military technology while letting American companies sell items that are already widely available. And we're making good progress. I want to thank Dave for his help.

I've been working with my friend Senator Phil Gramm from Texas to reform the Export Administrative Act, to strengthen both national security and our high-tech industry. In March, I'm pleased to report, the Senate Banking Committee passed a revised EAA, which my administration strongly supports. It's now time to pass it for the House, so I can sign it into law.

I've got a bigger job than just passing laws, and it's one to really change the tone in Washington. I think that's an important mission for my administration to say to the good folks in this town that, whether you're Republican or Democrat, we need to treat each other with respect. It is so important that all of us work together to develop a culture of respect, so that when people look at our Nation's Capital, they like what they see. And I think we're making some progress. There's still the occasional shrill voice that is trying to tear somebody down. There are those who still believe in zero-sum politics—if so-and-so gets his bill, so-and-so loses. That's not how I view my job, nor how I view good public policy.

I try to separate politics from policy. We've had plenty of politics; it's now time for good public policy. It's time to understand that we'll be judged based upon what we do, not how we talk—thank goodness. [*Laughter*]

I believe when it's all said and done, we will have developed a culture of accomplishment here in Washington, as well. I think people are beginning to realize that this President will share credit, that this President isn't trying to figure out how to one-up somebody, that my focus is on the people, the people of this great land.

Which leads me to my final hope, and that is, we need to develop a culture of responsibility in America, a responsibility that spreads all throughout this great land, where people understand that if you're a mom or a dad, if you're fortunate enough to be a parent, that your main responsibility is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. That's your most important job.

It's important, in a period of personal responsibility, to understand that you must love a neighbor like you would like to be loved yourself. One of the most important initiatives we're working with the Congress on is a faith-based, community-based initiative that recognizes the limitations of government and also recognizes that there are fantastic programs all across America where somebody has said, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help change somebody's life?"

One of the most important initiatives we're working with Congress on is to provide grant monies to encourage mentoring to children whose parents may be in prison, so that some soul who lives in the greatest land on the face of the Earth will understand there's hope and a future, will understand when somebody puts his arm around them and says, "I love you. I care for you."

Government can't make people love one another. But Government can encourage those who do love, and Government can also set an example. Government can uphold the high responsibilities of the offices to which

we have been elected. It's an important task for America, that when they look at their Government they're proud of what they see. I think we're making progress. I certainly hope so. It is a charge I intend to keep.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:20 p.m. in the Constitution Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Washington at a dinner for leaders of Government and industry. In his remarks, he referred to Dave McCurdy, president, and Cliff Smith, chairman, Electronic Industries Alliance; David Ivry, Israeli Ambassador to the United States; and Felix Zandman, chairman and chief executive officer, Vishay Intertechnology, Inc.

Proclamation 7435—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2001

May 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each day, law enforcement officers encounter grave risk to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Their commitment and sacrifice make our streets safer, our neighbor hoods stronger, and our families more secure. Police Week provides an opportunity to recognize the selfless dedication of the brave men and women who devote their lives to protecting and serving our communities.

This Nation owes a considerable debt of gratitude to all law enforcement officers who protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans. From patrolling our highways, to investigating crime, to protecting victims' rights, these committed professionals make a valuable difference in our communities. We look to them to uphold the principle that no one is beyond the protection or reach of the law. These men and women, through their patriotic service and dedicated effort, have earned our gratitude and respect.

We pause during Police Week, and in particular on Peace Officers Memorial Day, to honor those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their sworn duty. I urge all Americans to use this occasion to pay tribute to these fallen heroes by recalling their devotion, celebrating their lives, and honoring their service.

Tragically, making America safer often requires great sacrifice. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 150 law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2000. Although we can never repay the debt we owe these valiant officers and their families, we pay tribute to their memory by committing ourselves to being law-abiding citizens, working to lower crime in our communities, and investing time and love in our Nation's young people.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962 (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and, by Public Law 103–322 (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2001, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 13 through May 19, 2001, as Police Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I also encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11.

Proclamation 7436—National Salvation Army Week, 2001

May 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since its founding in Great Britain in 1865, the Salvation Army has provided humanitarian relief and spiritual guidance to people throughout the world. Its members continue its compassionate tradition of helping wherever there is hunger, disease, destitution, and spiritual need.

Through countless acts of service, members of the Salvation Army actively assist those who suffer in body and spirit. Their victories result in shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, and self-sufficiency for the disabled. In more than 100 countries, speaking more than 140 languages, the Salvation Army follows Christ's call to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Members of the Salvation Army demonstrate this love in many ways. Perhaps the best-known services they provide involve meeting the needs of the homeless. However, they also offer assistance to countless other individuals seeking help. Those addicted to drugs or alcohol find a vast network of rehabilitation programs; children born into poverty discover camps and educational opportunities; and those who are ill receive care.

I commend the Salvation Army officers, soldiers, and those who support its mission for their continued dedication to helping meet the physical and spiritual needs of people across the Nation. During this week, I encourage Americans to express their appreciation for the Salvation Army's good works and to follow their example of serving a cause greater than themselves.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 14 through May 20, 2001, as National Salvation Army Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to honor the Salvation Army during that week for its faithful ministry in the United States for over 120 years.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11.

Remarks Announcing Nominations for the Federal Judiciary

May 9, 2001

Thank you all very much. Attorney General, it's good to see you, sir, and happy birthday. Today is his birthday. Also, Judge Al Gonzales is here. Judge Gonzales is a great friend of mine who, fortunately, is my lawyer and is a part of the process, judicial selection process. Thank you for being here, Judge.

I'm also honored to welcome Members of the United States Senate who are here to welcome the nominees to Washington: of course, Senator Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Judiciary; as well as Senator Patrick Leahy, ranking member on the Judiciary. It's good to see you men. Thank you both for coming. John Warner, George Allen, George Voinovich, and last but not least, Senator Strom Thurmond, welcome. Thank you all for coming.

I'm pleased to welcome my judicial nominees to the White House. And I'm pleased to welcome their family and friends, as well.

This is a proud moment for all of you, and it's a proud moment for me, as well. A President has few greater responsibilities than that of nominating men and women to the courts of the United States. A Federal judge holds a position of great influence and respect and can hold it for a lifetime.

When a President chooses a judge, he is placing in human hands the authority and majesty of the law. He owes it to the Constitution and to the country to choose with care. I have done so.

With me this afternoon are my first 11 judicial nominees, individuals of experience and character. Four of them serve as United States district judges, all four confirmed by unanimous votes. Two others are sitting judges on State supreme courts. Four have served as law clerks in the Supreme Court of the United States. One has served here as an Associate Counsel to the President. One already holds the position for which I nominate him, by recess appointment of President Clinton.

These men and women have followed different paths to this nomination. They come from diverse backgrounds and will bring a wide range of experience to the bench. All have sterling credentials and have met high standards of legal training, temperament, and judgment. As a group, they command broad, bipartisan support among those who know them and who have served with them. I submit their names to the Senate with full confidence that they will satisfy any test of judicial merit.

These first nominations are also an opportunity to outline the standards by which I will choose all Federal judges. The American people expect judges of the highest caliber, and my nominees will meet that test. A judge, by the most basic measure, has an obligation shared by the President and Members of Congress. All of us are constitutional officers, sworn to serve within the limits of our Constitution and laws. When we observe those limits, we exercise our rightful power. When we exceed those limits, we abuse our powers.

Every judge I appoint will be a person who clearly understands the role of a judge is to interpret the law, not to legislate from the bench. To paraphrase the third occupant of this house, James Madison, the courts exist to exercise not the will of men but the judgment of law. My judicial nominees will know the difference. Understanding this will make them more effective in the defense of rights guaranteed under the Constitution, the enforcement of our laws, and more effective in assuming that justice is done to the guilty and for the innocent.

My standard is informed by the oath that each judge will take: to administer justice without respect to persons and to do equal right to poor and to the rich. A good judge exercises these powers with discernment, courage, and humility. These are commitments, not just to philosophy but of character.

My nominees today and in the years to come will be notable for their distinction and accomplishments. And all will be exceptional for their humanity and their integrity. With today's 11 nominees, we continue a constitutional process that involves all three branches of Government.

For many weeks now, we have sought and received advice from Senators of both parties. I now submit these nominations in good faith, trusting that good faith will also be extended by the United States Senate. Over the years, we have seen how the confirmation process can be turned to other ends. We have seen political battles played out in committee hearings, battles that have little to do with the merits of the person sitting before the committee. This is not good for the Senate, for our courts, or for the country.

There are today over a hundred vacancies on the Federal courts, causing backlogs, frustration, and delay of justice. I urge Senators of both parties to rise above the bitterness of the past, to provide a fair hearing and a prompt vote to every nominee. That should be the case for no matter who lives in this house and no matter who controls the Senate.

I ask for the return of civility and dignity to the confirmation process. And with this distinguished group of nominees awaiting confirmation, there is no better opportunity than right now. I congratulate all of you on your service past and for your service to come.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Budget

May 9, 2001

Today's bipartisan budget vote in the House is a victory for fairness and the American people. I commend Republicans and

Democrats for joining together to pass a budget framework that will return money to the taxpayers and provide reasonable spending increases. The economy continues to show troubling signs, and we must take decisive steps, like this vote today, to ensure sound fiscal policy. The American people can take heart that tax relief is one important step closer to reality.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Education Reform Legislation

May 9, 2001

I commend members of the House Education and Workforce Committee for taking the first step toward reforming America's education system and making sure no child is left behind. This legislation includes monumental reforms that promote real accountability, annual testing, and funding flexibility. Parents need to know if their children are making progress, and this legislation meets that priority. I am also pleased that this bill gives unprecedented freedom and flexibility to States and local school districts to determine the best way to spend their Federal education dollars.

I urge Members of Congress to continue building upon our efforts to expand parental options. I will support amendments on the House floor that increase parental options and involvement.

I applaud Chairman John Boehner and Ranking Minority Member George Miller for working in a bipartisan way to move this important piece of legislation forward.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

May 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 9, 2001.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John P. Walters To Be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

May 10, 2001

The President. Thank you all so very much for being here. It's an honor to see so many Members of the United States Congress who are here. Thank you so very much for coming—and members from both political parties, members who are dedicated to joining with an administration which is dedicated to reducing drug abuse around America. Thank you for being here.

I'm pleased that members of my Cabinet have joined us: the Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Thank you all for being here. Mr. Surgeon General, thank you for being here, as well, sir. We're honored to have you here.

Also with us is John J. DiIulio, who is the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. John is on the leading edge of encouraging faith-based programs to become energized to help people who need help. And John, thank you so much for being here, as well.

I'm honored to be joined on stage by five Americans—well, six Americans—five Americans who won't speak—[*laughter*]—which is saying something for the first American I'm going to introduce, William J. Bennett—[*laughter*]—he was our Nation's first drug czar, former Secretary of Education, a fearless, fearless fighter against drug abuse—as well, as Joe A. Califano, who has a center on addiction and substance abuse at Columbia University, former Secretary of Health and Education and Welfare under President Jimmy Carter, as well, like Mr. Bennett, a fearless advocate for those of us who are

dedicated to reducing drug abuse. Thank you both for being here.

And we have three members from the community—antidrug community who have joined us. Arthur R. Dean is the chairman and CEO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Thank you so much for coming. I appreciate you being here. Jessica Hulsey is a member of the Drug-Free Communities Advisory Commission. Thank you, Jessica—and Henry Lozano, Californians for Drug-free Youth, a member of the DFCAC, a graduate from Teen Challenge.

I'm pleased to announce that as of today the Federal Government is waging an all-out effort to reduce illegal drug use in America. And I'm proud to nominate John P. Walters as my Director of National Drug Control Policy, where he will serve as a valuable member of my Cabinet.

Mr. Walters has had a distinguished career in Government. He served as the chief of staff to Bill Bennett and later served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. John will bring tremendous skill, knowledge, and good judgment to this job. He's an articulate advocate, an able administrator, and a man of deep and reasoned convictions. He has repeatedly been called on to provide guidance to the United States Congress. John cares passionately about this issue, and he is the right person to lead America's antidrug efforts.

Our effort rests on the firm belief that by focusing more of our Nation's attention, energy, resources, real progress will be made. From the early 1980s until the early 1990s, drug use amongst high school seniors was reduced every year. We had made tremendous strides in cutting drug use. This cannot be said today. We must do and we will do a better job.

Fortunately today, we know more about what works in prevention and education, treatment and law enforcement. We will put this knowledge to use. But above all, our efforts rest on an unwavering commitment to stop drug use. Acceptance of drug use is simply not an option for this administration.

Illegal drugs impose a staggering cost of more than $100 billion every year, principally from lost productivity. Yet this dollar figure does not capture the human tragedy of drug use: lost lives, educational and job opportunities unmet, families torn apart, health care costs, school dropout rates, and more. Drug use harms people of every economic class, but drug use is doing the most damage to the poor.

John Jacob, former president of the National Urban League, has said that drugs are destroying more children and more families than poverty ever did. John Walters and I believe the only humane and compassionate response to drug use is a moral refusal to accept it. We emphatically disagree with those who favor drug legalization.

Drug legalization would be a social catastrophe. Drug use and addiction would soar. Hospitals would be filled with many more drug emergency cases. Child abuse would increase. The cost of treatment and social welfare would rise. There would be more drug-related accidents at work and on the road. And legalizing drugs would completely undermine the message that drug use is wrong.

A successful antidrug effort depends on a thoughtful and integrated approach. Mr. Walters understands this as well as anybody in America. During his career, he's worked to improve the effectiveness of drug education and prevention programs. He played a key role in ensuring a record commitment of resources to drug treatment and research in a previous administration. He helped ensure that the Federal Government did its part in source countries, on our borders, and on our streets.

My administration will continue to work with nations to eradicate drugs at their source and enforce our borders to stop the flow of drugs into America. This will make working in close cooperation with Mexico a priority. It will make having strong relations in our hemisphere a priority, a priority which I will keep.

However, the most effective way to reduce the supply of drugs in America is to reduce the demand for drugs in America. Therefore, this administration will focus unprecedented attention on the demand side of this problem. We recognize that the most important work to reduce drug use is done in America's living rooms and classrooms, in churches and

synagogues and mosques, in the workplace, and in our neighborhoods.

Families, schools, communities, and faith-based organizations shape the character of young people. They teach children right from wrong, respect for law, respect for others, and respect for themselves. They're indispensable, and my administration stands ready to assist them in every possible way.

Joe Califano is the president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse and a man whose research has helped shape my thinking. Joe has said that teens of parents who eat, talk, pray, and play together are not likely to be lured into the world of drugs. A child who reaches age 21 without using illegal drugs is virtually certain never to do so. And children cite parents as the number one reason they don't use drugs. And so we'll energize the parents movement by creating a Parent Drug Corps, which will provide needed support to educate and train parents in effective drug prevention.

We must increase funding for drug-free communities programs and for the drug-free workplace program. And within 30 days, Professor John DiIulio will compile a complete inventory of existing Federal antidrug partnerships with local faith-based and community groups and work with John Walters to strengthen those efforts.

Despite every effort, however, some individuals will become addicted to drugs. There are around 5 million hardcore users of illegal drugs in America today. And while they represent one-third of the drug users, they consume two-thirds of all drugs. It is estimated that more than half of them are not receiving any treatment.

I am, therefore, asking Secretary Tommy Thompson to conduct a State-by-State inventory of treatment needs and capacity, and report back within 120 days on how to most effectively close the treatment gap in this country. In order to close that treatment gap, we'll provide $1.6 billion over the next 5 years.

We want to advance our understanding of drug abuse and addiction, so we're planning to significantly increase funding for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. We also recognize the benefits of coerced abstinence, and so we will support drug courts and drug testing for prisoners, probationers, and parolees.

We know that inmates receiving drug treatment are 73 percent less likely to be rearrested and 44 percent less likely to use drugs than those who receive no treatment at all. I'm, therefore, asking the Attorney General, John Ashcroft, to come up with a comprehensive plan within 120 days to ensure our Federal prisons are drug-free, to expand drug testing for probationers and parolees, and to strengthen our system of drug courts around the Nation.

We must reduce drug use for one great moral reason: Over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character. Illegal drugs are the enemies of innocence and ambition and hope. They undermine people's commitment to their family and to their fellow citizens. My administration will send a clear and consistent message that drug use is dangerous and drug use is wrong.

John Walters will lead that effort with firm resolve and a caring heart. He will do an exceptional job. I am proud to submit his name to the United States Senate, and I look forward to working with Members of the House and the Senate from both political parties to reduce drug use in America.

I'm honored to welcome so many people who devote their lives to the well-being of others to the Rose Garden here in the White House. I want to God bless—thank you for your work and ask God's blessings on your work and this great Nation of ours.

It's my honor to welcome John Walters.

[*At this point, Director-designate Walters made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Walters.

Remarks to the Vienna-Madison Community Anti-Drug Coalition in Vienna, Virginia

May 10, 2001

Thank you so very much for that gracious welcome. It's my honor to be here with my newly designated Director of the National Drug Policy, and that is John Walters.

I appreciate so very much General Arthur Dean for being here, as well. He's the chairman and CEO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. I want to thank Clarence Jones, who is the coordinator of Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section of the Fairfax County Public School System. Thank you very much. And Diane Eckert, program specialist in Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section of the Fairfax County Schools, thank you, Diane. And thank you for the tour.

It's also a great pleasure to be here with the Congressman from this district, Tom Davis. Thank you very much for being here, Tom. And the mayor of Vienna, Virginia—thank you, Madam Mayor, for coming. I appreciate you being here. I know we have members of the House of Delegates here from the State of Virginia. Thank you for coming. The Speaker is here. I appreciate you for being here, Mr. Speaker.

It is my honor to tour this center. And the reason I'm here is because today I talked about a goal of my administration and a goal of this Nation, and that is to wage a war on drug abuse in America, a serious effort. In my speech, when I introduced John to the Nation, I talked about the need for us to continue serious efforts of interdiction, to work with neighbors to the south of ourselves, to make sure that we interrupt the supply of drugs coming into America.

One of the things I'm proud of is my close relations with Vicente Fox, the President of Mexico. The President of Mexico has pledged to work with us to do a good job of stopping the flow of drugs across our borders. We're very much involved in the—Colombia, in the Andes, trying to eradicate coca leaves before they're manufactured into cocaine. So we'll continue to do the best we can to interdict supplies.

But the best ways to affect supply is to reduce demand for drugs. The best way to impact supply of drugs coming into America is to convince our fellow citizens not to use drugs in the first place.

This is a national problem, but our administration believes the solution is found at the local level, through community coalitions, where people of good faith and good heart come together; people from all walks of life and the communities around America come together with the dedicated proposition that through hard work and love, we can convince kids not to use drugs.

So we've come to this center because it is a part of a coalition that makes a big difference in the lives of people this part of Virginia. There are people who have said, "What can we do to make our community a better place?" And they formed a coalition; 22 groups have come together. And it's making a big difference. It's a tangible difference.

One of the things Diane and I talked about is, we want to be a results-oriented world. We want to be measurable. And this coalition is successful because it's not afraid to say, "Measure us. Let us prove to you that we do a good job." And a good job is being done. And for that, all of us say thanks to the folks who are involved in these efforts.

And the Federal Government can help. And so one of the announcements I made today was that over the next 5 years we'll double the amount of money for drug-free communities programs around America. It is necessary funding. It's a part of achieving the goal of reducing the demand for drugs in America.

Again, it also recognizes that the most effective policy really does start at the local level. The most local of all levels, by the way, is in somebody's home, where a mom or dad works with the children to help them make the right decisions, or in schools, where schools are willing to teach character education, willing to not only teach a child to read and write but also the difference between right and wrong. It comes when role models stand up and clearly say, "Drugs will destroy your life. Don't use drugs."

There's another initiative that we announced today that I think makes a lot of sense, and that is we want to set up a Parent Drug Corps all around America. It is the use of Federal dollars to help local folks develop

curriculum to teach parents in all communities across America how to deal with reduction of demand of drugs—what to say, how to say it, kind of a best practices effort. And we're determined to get the Congress to fund this new concept about involving parents more actively in the communities in which we live.

And finally, the third initiative I talked about today was how do we make sure that people get treatment in America. We've got to make sure that those who are hooked on drugs are treated, and that's why I'm asking Congress to spend 1.6 billion additional dollars for treatment over the next 5 years. It is so important. I think an amazing statistic is that a third of the drug users consume two-thirds of the drugs. We've got people that know no other life than drugs. And a compassionate society is one that does something about drug—people who are addicted. And we're going to do so.

I believe strongly that many of the best drug programs are those founded upon faith, that they exist because people understand that if you change a person's heart, you can change their life. If a person's heart becomes changed, they themselves begin to make the right, necessary choices, make the tough choice of kicking the drug habit. A Government should never fund religion, but Government should welcome and energize faith-based programs which exist to help people kick drugs.

Ours is a strategy based upon common sense. But in order to make it work, it's going to be a strategy that is tenacious, that recognizes that this isn't about giving speeches. It is about an administration that's willing to follow through and to stay focused. And my pledge to the American people is because I understand what a drug-free America can mean for our future and for the hopes and concerns of citizens from all walks of life, that this isn't a one-day event for the Bush administration. This is a high priority. The idea of substantially reducing drug abuse in America is a priority of mine today, and it will be a priority of mine so long as I'm fortunate enough to hold this high office.

I have picked a good man in John Walters to lead this effort. He's got a lot of experience. He understands the need to reduce demand. He understands the intricacies of interdicting supplies that come into the country. He has been in this office before, working with Bill Bennett. But like me, he is tenacious and focused. Like me, he is dedicated to the single proposition of reducing demand in America. And I look forward to working with John. John's going to find that with this President, when called upon, I'll act. If he says this is a program that needs a boost or a thank, I'll be there, giving a boost or giving the appropriate thanks.

We're here to give thanks to the folks at this program and in this center. So on behalf of the American people and the people of this community, thank you for your hard work, for your love and for your compassion, for your deep concerns about the youth of this country. And thank you all for being here and giving me such a warm welcome.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the Vienna Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor M. Jane Seeman of Vienna; Speaker Vance Wilkins, Jr., Virginia House of Delegates; and author William J. Bennett, former Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy. The Vienna-Madison Community Coalition is one of 22 Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America chapters in the Fairfax County Public Schools—Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Hockey Champion Boston College Eagles

May 10, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. Welcome to the White House. My honor to host you. I know some of the players up here are from Canada. I hope you feel just as welcome in this house as your U.S. counterparts do.

I want to thank Father Leahy for being here. I want to thank the athletic director. Of course, I want to thank Coach York. It's an honor for me to host the mighty Eagles. One of the great benefits of having my job is, I do get to welcome championship teams from all across our country. As a Governor of Texas, the truth of the matter is I didn't get to welcome a lot of hockey teams. [*Laughter*]

I'm also pleased to see some folks who sometimes think I—on thin ice. [*Laughter*] I think they know who I'm talking about.

Senator Kerry, thank you for being here, sir. I appreciate Representatives Frank and Markey. I appreciate Representative Capuano. I'm glad you all are here. One of the things that happens sometimes in politics is, we disagree. But I think we're learning to disagree in an agreeable way. So you're welcome to the people's house.

I also want to welcome my friend Ambassador Paul Cellucci. I made a good pick when I picked Paul to become the Ambassador to Canada. He, of course, takes credit for the fact that the BC Eagles won the national championship, since he was the Governor at the time.

Also before I turn to the coach, want to remind folks that my sister is a BC Eagle, and proudly so. She's probably wondering why I didn't invite her here today. [*Laughter*]

This is a great place to honor champs. It's also a great place to play sports. We've got a basketball court here. There's a bowling alley. There is a swimming pool. Recently, there was a baseball yard for a tee-ball game. I asked them why there's no hockey rink, and the truth of the matter is, Coach, there's no place to park the Zamboni. [*Laughter*]

But I do want to congratulate you all for a great victory and a great championship. I know your win over North Dakota was a tough win. But I want to quote what one of your players said—Mark McLennan. Where are you, Mark? He said this about the team, "There were no egos on this team. We had great individual players, but nothing was bigger than the team." And that's why you're the champs. I want to congratulate you all for being champs.

I want to remind you that life is more than just being champs on the ice. It's important to be a champ off the ice, as well. I'm sure there's some little kid up there in the Boston area wondering how a champ behaves off the ice. And you have the responsibility as a champion to set the right example.

Coach, welcome to the White House. Congratulations for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. William P. Leahy, S.J., president, Jeremiah F. York, hockey coach, and Eugene B. DeFilippo, athletic director, Boston College.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Outline of the 2001 Legislative Agenda for International Trade

May 10, 2001

Dear _____ :

I am pleased to provide you with an outline of my 2001 legislative agenda for international trade. I look forward to working closely with you to enact it this year.

The trade agenda reflects my strong commitment to open markets around the world for the benefit of American workers, farmers, and businesses. I also am committed to open markets to provide lower prices and greater choices for U.S. consumers and industries. Open trade fuels the engine of economic growth that creates new jobs and new income in the United States and around the world.

We have no time to waste in reasserting America's leadership on trade. The President has not had trade negotiating authority since it expired in 1994. We can no longer afford to sit still while our trading partners move ahead without us.

For that reason, I have placed the enactment of U.S. Trade Promotion Authority at the top of my trade legislative agenda. U.S. Trade Promotion Authority tells the world that the President and the Congress are united at the negotiating table in seeking to strike the best possible deals for our country. I am committed to working with the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, to rebuild the consensus needed to allow America to reassert its leadership in the trade arena. I hope the enclosed framework for U.S. Trade Promotion Authority will help us redouble our efforts to secure the benefits of expanded trade for the American people.

I hope you also will join me in moving the other important components of my trade legislative agenda to enactment this session as well.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; Trent Lott, Senate majority leader; Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader; Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Tom Harkin, ranking member, Senate Committee on Agriculture; Charles E. Grassley, chairman, and Max Baucus, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Larry Combest, chairman, and Charles W. Stenholm, ranking member, House Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Philip M. Crane, chairman, and Sander M. Levin, ranking member, House Subcommittee on Trade; and William M. Thomas, chairman, and Charles B. Rangel, ranking member, House Committee on Ways and Means.

Proclamation 7437—Mother's Day, 2001

May 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

No matter what direction life takes us, a mother's love and guidance are a tremendous blessing that help us to grow up as stable, responsible, and caring individuals. As nurturers, teachers, and protectors, mothers' unconditional affection helps their children to blossom into mature adults. In partnership with fathers, mothers play a critical role in building healthy families.

Anna M. Jarvis is credited with influencing the Congress in 1914 to establish an official Mother's Day as a tribute to her beloved mother and to all mothers. She conceived of the day as a time when children could formally demonstrate respect for their mothers and reinforce family bonds.

Mothers who teach us right from wrong and to love our neighbors merit our deepest gratitude and appreciation. Beyond their more traditional role in rearing children, many mothers also face responsibilities outside the home as members of the workforce. At the same time, they may be caring not only for their biological or adopted children but also for stepchildren or foster children.

Many American families are now headed solely by women, and these women shoulder enormous responsibilities. For the good of their families and our Nation, we must strive to provide support and assistance to those mothers, such as, opportunities for training and employment; early childhood education for their young ones; and safe, affordable, and high-quality childcare. But fathers must also remain committed and involved in the lives of their children. By fulfilling their financial and nurturing responsibilities, fathers help ensure the well-being of their children and ease the burden on those women who carry the primary responsibility of caring for their families.

Whatever their circumstances, mothers demonstrate daily how their devotion, strength, and wisdom make all the difference in the lives of their children. To honor mothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 13, 2001, as Mother's Day. I encourage all Americans to honor the importance of mothers and to celebrate how their love and devotion are crucial to the well-being of children, families, and our society.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 11, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

May 11, 2001

Global Fund To Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome our friend, the President of Nigeria, to the Rose Garden. Mr. President, welcome to Washington, the Rose Garden. And of course, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Secretary-General, thank you for coming.

As well, we are joined by two members of my Cabinet: Secretary of State Powell, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. I want to thank them both for being here. Scott Evertz, who is the Director of the National AIDS Policy Office is with us. Scott, thank you for being here. And of course, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser.

I am looking forward to meeting with the President on a range of issues that are important to our nations. This morning, we've spoken about another matter that involves countless lives. Together, we've been discussing a strategy to halt the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases across the African continent and across the world.

The devastation across the globe left by AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, the sheer number of those infected and dying is almost beyond comprehension. Suffering on the African continent has been especially great. AIDS alone has left at least 11 million orphans in sub-Sahara Africa. In several African countries, as many as half of today's 15-year-olds could die of AIDS. In a part of the world where so many have suffered from war and want and famine, these latest tribulations are the cruelest of fates.

We have the power to help. The United States is committed to working with other nations to reduce suffering and to spare lives, and working together is the key. Only through sustained and focused international cooperation can we address problems so grave and suffering so great.

My guests today have been doing their part and more, and I thank them for their leadership. President Obasanjo last month led the nations of Africa in drafting the Abuja declaration which lays out crucial guidelines for the international effort we all envision. Secretary-General Annan, too, has made this issue an urgent priority. He has been an eloquent voice in rallying the resources and conviction needed in this cause. When he visited the White House in March, we talked about the AIDS pandemic. We agreed on the goal of creating a global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. The G–8 has been discussing the potential fund.

Our high-level task force chaired by Secretaries Powell and Thompson has developed a proposal that we have shared with U.N. officials, developing nations, and our G–8 partners. We will need ideas from all sources. We must all show leadership and all share responsibility.

For our part, I am today committing the United States of America to support a new worldwide fund with a founding contribution of $200 million. This is in addition to the billions we spend on research and to the $760 million we're spending this year to help the international effort to fight AIDS. This $200 million will go exclusively to a global fund, with more to follow as we learn where our support can be most effective.

Based on this morning's meetings I believe a consensus is forming on the basic elements that must shape the global fund and its use. First, we agree on the need for partnerships across borders and among both the public and private sectors. We must call upon the compassion, energy, and generosity of people everywhere. This means that not only governments can help but also private corporations, foundations, faith-based groups, and nongovernmental organizations, as well.

Second, we agree on an integrated approach that emphasizes prevention and training of medical personnel as well as treatment and care. Prevention is indispensable to any strategy of controlling a pandemic such as we now face.

Third, we must concentrate our efforts on programs that work, proven best practices. Whenever the global fund supports any health program, we must know that it meets certain essential criteria. We must know that the money is well spent, victims are well

cared for, and local populations are well served.

That leads to the fourth criterion, namely that all proposals must be reviewed for effectiveness by medical and public health experts. Addressing a plague of this magnitude requires scientific accountability to ensure results.

And finally, we understand the importance of innovation in creating lifesaving medicines that combat diseases. That's why we believe the fund must respect intellectual property rights, as an incentive for vital research and development.

This morning we have made a good beginning. I expect the upcoming U.N. Special Session and this summer's G–8 summit in Italy to turn these ideas into reality. This is one of those moments that reminds us all in public service why we're here. It challenges us to act wisely and act together and to act quickly. Across the world at this moment, there are people in true desperation, and we must help.

It is now my honor to bring to the podium, the President of Nigeria. Mr. President.

President Obasanjo. Mr. President, Secretary-General of the U.N. I am particularly grateful to you, President Bush, for making this ceremony to coincide with my visit to you here at the White House in Washington, DC, on your very kind invitation.

When African leaders gathered in Abuja, 2 weeks ago, to indicate their unflinching commitment to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS and related diseases, the joint message of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Health was brought to us as a message of hope from the United States of America. Today, Mr. President, you have begun to concreteize that hope for Africa and particularly for millions of Africans infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

We are still far from the $7 billion to $8 billion annually that experts reckon will be needed to make impression on the ravaging effects of this dreadful scourge. But with this beginning, and just the beginning as you have kindly emphasized, for the U.S., all nations, governments, foundations, private individuals, and private sector and, indeed, all human kind who are stakeholders in the health of humanity are challenged and called upon to make contributions to the global trust fund for HIV/AIDS and related diseases.

Mr. President, I thank you, on behalf of all AIDS sufferers in the world, but particularly on behalf of all AIDS sufferers in Africa, for launching the global fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary-General.

Secretary-General Annan. President Bush, President Obasanjo. I wish to thank you, President Bush, for committing yourself today to placing the United States at the forefront of the global fight against HIV/AIDS. It is a visionary decision that reflects your Nation's natural leadership in the United Nations, as well as your recognition of the threat posed by this global catastrophe.

To defeat this epidemic that haunts humanity and to give hope to the millions infected with the virus, we need a response that matches the challenge. We should now build on the remarkable progress over the last year in galvanizing global awareness of the threat of HIV/AIDS.

I believe we can all agree on five key objectives for our response: First, to ensure that people everywhere, particularly young people, know what to do to avoid infection; second, to stop perhaps the most tragic form of HIV transmission, from mother to child; third, to provide treatment for all those infected; fourth, to redouble the search for vaccine as well as cure; and fifth, to care for all those whose lives have been devastated by AIDS, particularly the orphans, and there are an estimated 13 million of them worldwide today, and their numbers are growing.

As we declare global war on AIDS, we will need a war chest to fight it. We need to mobilize an additional $7 million to $10 million a year to fight this disease worldwide. The global AIDS and health fund that I have called for as part of this total effort would be open to the nations, as you heard from the two Presidents, from governments, civil society, private sector, foundations, and individuals—all hands on deck. And the resources provided must be over and above what is being spent today on the disease and on development assistance to poor countries.

This founding contribution by the U.S. with the promise to do more will encourage or energize others to act. Africa, of course, is the continent that is most profoundly affected by the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the continent most in need of hope for a better future.

The peoples and the leaders of the continent are rising to the challenge, as President Obasanjo showed most recently by hosting the Abuja AIDS Summit. However, we must not forget that other parts of the world, from the Caribbean to Asia to eastern Europe, are also confronting the spread of this virus and need urgent assistance.

Mr. President, it is my hope that your commitment today will set an example for other leaders. When we meet at the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on the 25th of June in New York City, there will be a strong support for the global AIDS and health fund. As that happens, I believe today will be remembered as the day we began to turn the tide.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. It has been my honor to host this very important announcement. It's also my honor to recognize two Members of the United States Congress who are going to work with this administration to make sure that our commitment becomes reality: Senator Frist and Senator Leahy. We're so thrilled you're here. We appreciate your vision, and we appreciate your leadership.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria

May 11, 2001

President Bush. We just concluded a series of discussions, and a good lunch, with the delegation from Nigeria. The President and I also had some private time to visit about issues of mutual concern. I am—we discussed issues such as trade, the environment.

Obviously, we discussed health issues that relate to the continent of Africa. We are very supportive of the President's initiatives to provide peacekeepers in troubled countries on the African continent.

As many Americans may know—that we are in the process of helping provide technical assistance to Nigerian troops so that they are better able to keep those peace missions. We talked about the program. We've completed two phases of the training. We're in the process of completing the third phase of an agreed-upon training program.

The short of it is that Nigeria is a friend of America, and the President is a friend of mine. It has been my honor to welcome him here. I look forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. President.

President Obasanjo. Thank you very much, sir. I want to take this opportunity to thank President Bush for the invitation to visit the United States of America at this particular time and to be able to establish our relationship and, at the same time, be able to cover the important areas, ground—of important areas of bilateral relations of areas of concern in our subregion of west Africa, areas of concern in Africa, particularly areas of—that are ravaged by war and conflict, such as Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and so on.

And what we are doing in these areas, we briefed the President. And of course, we have the support of the Government of the United States in our peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts in Africa.

We discussed other issues that are of importance to us. We discussed the MAP, the Millennium African Plan, which initially was originated by President Thabo Mbeki, President Bouteflika, and myself, and which now has been extended to take on Egypt—President Mubarak, and President Wade of Senegal.

We also look at issues that have been on the table before and that we are working together on. For instance, how do we prepare our troops for these increasing peacekeeping roles in Africa, and the systems that we have got in the past from the U.S. Government, for which we are very grateful and which we believe will continue, to really make our troops to be able to perform adequately in peacekeeping roles?

We, of course, reiterated the friendship and the cordiality between Nigeria and the United States. And of course, I am happy to be able to make a friend of President Bush, just as you heard President Bush had made a friend of me. I now can feel that if there is any need to call on President Bush, he knows what I look like. [*Laughter*] I am not a no-person to him. He knows how I smile. He may even be feeling how I look on telephone. [*Laughter*]

And that is one important thing, that we made contact. We established a relationship, and we are friends.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor for you to be here.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:01 p.m. at the South Portico at the White House. President Obasanjo referred to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

The President's News Conference

May 11, 2001

The President. Good afternoon. First, let me begin by talking about how pleased I am that a budget has been agreed upon. And it's now time for the Congress to act quickly. It's time for the Congress to pass meaningful, real tax reform, and I urge them to do so before Memorial Day.

Tax relief will be good for our economy, but tax relief is also a very important way to help deal with high energy prices. And so the Congress needs to act. I'm confident if they have the will to do so, that they can, that they can get this done before Memorial Day.

And secondly, I believe strongly that the Attorney General made the right decision today. Any time we're preparing to carry out the death penalty, we have a solemn obligation to make sure that the case has been handled in full accordance with all the guarantees of our Constitution. The very foundations of our democracy depend on our ability to assure our citizens that in all criminal cases, and especially in the death penalty, defendants have been treated fairly. This decision is going to create some frustration amongst people whose lives were destroyed and turned upside-down by Mr. McVeigh. But it is very important for our country to make sure that in death penalty cases, people are treated fairly.

I'll be glad to answer some questions, starting with Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Timothy McVeigh

Q. Mr. President, thank you, sir. Attorney General Ashcroft, on the topic you were just talking about, said, "There is no doubt in my mind, or anyone's mind, about the death of Timothy McVeigh."

First, as someone who signed 152 death warrants in Texas, do you agree that there is no doubt that McVeigh is guilty? And secondly, did Louis Freeh know about these documents when he tendered his resignation?

The President. Mr. Freeh, Director Freeh never brought this up to me. I found out about this last evening. My conversation with Mr. Freeh, when he came and said he was leaving—the subject never came up.

Secondly, Mr. McVeigh himself has admitted to the crime. Mr. McVeigh, as I recall, said he did it, and I take him for his word.

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Actually, I've been given an order. You're second, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Gasoline Prices

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much, sir. A lot of families are struggling to pay for gasoline at record prices. What can you do to help them in the short term? Will your energy report address that? And do you agree with your Energy Secretary, that OPEC bears some responsibility for these prices?

The President. The price of crude oil has got something to do with the price of gasoline but not nearly as much as the fact that we haven't built a refinery in years. What this Nation needs to do is to build more refining capacity. And we're prepared to work with the industry to encourage capital development, capital to be deployed to develop more refining capacity. And that may require us

to analyze all regulations that discourage development.

But the best way to make sure that people are able to deal with high energy prices is to cut taxes, is to give people more of their own money so they can meet the bills, so they can meet the high energy prices.

I'm not so sure you're it next. Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News]. You're soon.

Q. Mr. President, can I follow up on that point?

The President. Yes.

Q. Your party in the past has argued in favor of either suspending or rolling back the Federal gasoline tax. Will you consider doing either? And secondly, what would you say to American families who may pay as much as $3 at the pump this summer, at the same time that oil companies in this country are experiencing and enjoying record profits?

The President. What I say is, I worry about the fact that hard-working people are paying high prices at the pump. It concerns me a lot. And therefore, the Congress needs to cut taxes as quickly as possible, to give people money to be able to deal with this situation.

I also say, we need to build more refining capacity. We need more supply. We need to meet the increasing demands with better supply. I'm optimistic in the long term, not only will we increase supplies but that our automobiles will become more technologically adept at dealing with the energy situation now. In other words, we'll have new types of automobiles, hybrids.

And in the energy plan I'm going to be discussing, you'll see some incentives for hybrid automobiles. But the quickest way to get money in people's pockets to deal with prices is tax relief.

Bill Plante [CBS News].

Q. Mr. President, are you really going to let Republicans in Congress go home for the next recess without some kind of other short-term relief? You know the Democrats are after you and the Vice President, saying you're a couple of former oil men protecting the industry. Would you at least support the Republican bill in the House which would ease some emission standards in California?

The President. Back to David's question, I'll listen to everybody's suggestions. But I want to remind the Members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, all of us are concerned about high energy prices and prices at the gas pump being too high. Let's get the tax relief done and do it quickly.

I hope there is no intention to delay. There needs to be money in the pockets of our consumers as quickly as possible. We've got the wherewithal to do so. But as to suggestions, I'm open minded for any suggestions somebody may have.

Q. What about that emissions——

The President. I'll look at all options. But the clearest way to get things done quickly is tax relief.

Now, the American people have got to understand that this is a situation that's going to require some long-term planning to get the situation in hand for the—to have a stable future. There is no such thing as immediate supply. This is a situation that's been developing over the years, and it's going to take a while to correct.

The quickest way to help people with their energy bills is tax relief. That is the quickest, surest way to do so.

Q. All options, including the gas tax, sir?

The President. If anybody thinks they've got a good idea, I'll listen. But for certain, what needs to happen is additional refining capacity, as well as tax relief.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Death Penalty

Q. Mr. President, 51 percent of the American people now, according to a recent poll, support a moratorium on executions; and support for the penalty in general has dropped considerably over the past couple years. Does what happened in the McVeigh case, coupled with the more than 75 people now who have been released from death row when evidence of their actual innocence came to light, does all of that lead you to reflect at all on the fairness and the accuracy of the death penalty and the way it's actually administered day to day?

The President. Well, I am pleased to be able to report, as for the first case that came to my desk at the Federal Government, that my administration is going to take its time to make sure that justice has been administered fairly.

Q. But do you reflect at all on the general accuracy and fairness of the death penalty, and the way it actually works day to day?

The President. As Mr. Fournier brought up, I was the Governor of a State that had a death penalty, and as far as I was concerned, I reviewed every case, and I was confident that every person that had been put to death received full rights and was guilty of the crime charged.

Q. So no second thoughts about the death penalty?

The President. Not as far as I'm concerned, so long as the system provides fairness. And today is an example of the system being fair.

Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

Repeal of the Gas Tax

Q. Mr. President, on the question of repealing the gas tax, even some Republicans have questioned the leadership and the clarity of voice from this White House about what they should do. I've talked to several Republican leaders who have said the White House has said, "Look, if you can figure out a way to pass it, we'll say it's okay, but we're not going to propose it." And what they say is, "If the White House would say they're for it, it would be easier for us to pass it."

Can you tell the American people right now——

The President. Major, I can tell—let me say it again, see if I can be more clear. To the Congress, who is interested in helping consumers pay high gas prices, pass the tax relief as quickly as possible. We've set aside $100 billion to help consumers with high energy prices. That's the quickest way to help consumers. I am deeply concerned about consumers, I am deeply concerned about high gas prices.

To anybody who wants to figure out how to help the consumers, pass the tax relief package as quickly as possible.

Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Q. Mr. President, there are a number of people, including Senator Leahy, who was here today, who are suggesting that there needs to be much tighter oversight of the FBI. Aside from the McVeigh matter, there have been a number of things over the years—the FBI labs, the Hanssen case, and a number of other things. Do you believe it's time for a more sweeping look at what is going on at the FBI?

The President. There are two looks at what's happening in the FBI. One, of course, is the commission that Louis Freeh put together, headed by Judge Webster. I'm confident that that commission will take a full look at the proceedings within the FBI, as to regards to security matters.

And secondly, the Attorney General is going to be conducting an investigation as to why the documents were not given to Mr. McVeigh's lawyers. And I look forward to seeing what those findings reveal.

Yes, ma'am.

Energy Resources

Q. Mr. President, to follow up on energy. You're developing closer relations with Nigeria, Mexico, and Canada. Could you use your leverage with these countries to have them convince Saudi Arabia to open the spigots and provide more fuel?

The President. The reason why we have a problem at the gas pump at this particular moment in history is because we haven't built any refining capacity. When you don't increase supplies of a commodity and demand continues to increase, the price is going to go up.

And so our Nation must expand refining capacity. And we've got to do that within our hemisphere. Otherwise, when you transport refined product from far distances, it doesn't meet market tests. So we need more refining capacity.

I am working with Canada and Mexico to increase the supply, particularly of natural gas. We have a serious situation in the State of California, as you're very aware. We've been working with the officials of California to expedite the development of new electric generating capacity.

We're also doing our part as a good citizen to reduce demand for electricity in peak hours. But the new plants that are being brought on stream in California are going to be driven by natural gas. And we need more

natural gas to make sure there is fuel for those plants.

So I am working with Mexico and I am working with Canada to try to figure out ways for us to encourage exploration in our own neighborhood. I had a good discussion today with the President of Nigeria, who is talking about increasing their amount of production, coming from Nigeria. That is positive news for U.S. consumers. The more supply on the market, the lower—the less pressure there will be on price.

Ron [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

National Economy

Q. Given what's going on with energy prices and the difficulties in the economy, can you assure the American people at the start of your term that they'll be better off at the end of it than they are today? And if they're not, should they blame you?

The President. Well, I certainly hope they're better off. There's no question that the minute I got elected, the storm clouds on the horizon were getting nearly directly overhead. In other words, the economic news started to deteriorate.

The truth of the matter is, the market started to adjust March of last year. In other words, the so-called downturn has been in the making for a while. I believe with good policy from the Fed, as well as good fiscal policy, that we can recover, that that robust growth we all hope for will come back. I wish I could tell you when. I'm not an economist, but if I were, I'd probably say there's a 50 percent chance it would happen soon and a 50 percent chance it wouldn't.

Q. And if it doesn't work out, does that mean it's not your fault?

The President. Listen, Presidents, whether things are good or bad, get the credit or blame. I understand that.

But Ron, I'm not really that concerned about standing in polls. I am doing what I think is the right thing to do. And the right thing to do is to have proposed a tax relief package that is an integral part of a fiscal policy that makes sense.

I proposed the plan. I campaigned on the plan. Many of you, the truth be known here, didn't actually think it was going to happen. Now there's a budget in place, $1.25 trillion of tax relief, coupled with 100 billion of immediate stimulus that's now available.

If I had my way, I'd have it in place tomorrow, so that people would have money in their pockets to deal with high energy prices, so people would have money in their pockets to be able to plan for the future. The Congress needs to act. I'm confident that that will help an economic recovery.

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Bob [G. Robert Hillman, Dallas Morning News].

Federal Bureau of Investigation Nomination

Q. Sir, how are the recent controversies in the FBI affecting your search for a new Director? Just what kind of person are you looking to head the FBI?

The President. We've just started, Bob. I look forward to seeing what the Webster report says. I look forward to hearing what the Attorney General says about the—about the reason why Mr. McVeigh's attorneys did not get—did not see certain documents.

And I am looking for somebody who will do a couple of things: one, enforce the law; two, keep morale high at the agency; somebody who is a good manager; and somebody who can work with the Attorney General in my administration.

Q. What's your timetable?

The President. As soon as possible. I'm not sure what that means, though, to be perfectly frank with you. I mean, we're beginning to look at different candidates, and it's a—obviously, it's a process that's going to take a while. Director Freeh assured me that the number two person there could do a good job if we took us a while to find a replacement.

Glen [Glen Johnson, Boston Globe].

Timothy McVeigh

Q. Mr. President, some of those who have interviewed Tim McVeigh say that he will actually revel in what happened today——

The President. Really?

Q. ——that it will be a sign of FBI incompetence. What message should he take from this whole episode, in your mind?

The President. He should say—he's lucky to be in America, is what he ought to say,

that this is a country who will bend over backwards to make sure that his constitutional rights are guaranteed, that as opposed to rushing his fate, that the Attorney General, with my strong support, said, we better make sure that all guarantees are fulfilled. Mr. McVeigh is lucky to be in a country like this.

It's unfortunate that he would feel like reveling, at all, after what he supposedly has done. There are a lot of people's lives he affected; there are a lot of people in Oklahoma City—I went to the memorial. I got to see the faces of people, the pictures of people whose lives were lost. I talked to relatives who still weep when they think about a relative.

This isn't a time to revel.

Yes, Bruni [Frank Bruni, New York Times].

Q. But to follow up on that, what will those relatives, what will those families of victims gain? What will—how will they benefit from Timothy McVeigh's execution?

The President. Frank, you need to talk to them about that.

Q. In your opinion.

The President. Well, I can't possibly put myself in their stead.

Q. Why is his execution so important and the death penalty so important, then?

The President. Because it needs to send a signal to anybody who thinks what Timothy McVeigh did was okay, that in this society we're not going to tolerate that kind of heinous act.

But you need to talk to the—all I can tell you is, I'm sure there's going to be some frustration by the family members, by the decision that the Attorney General made, supported by me. I'm sure there will be, and we'll probably hear from them. But they must understand that we live in a country that protects certain rights. And the Attorney General did the right thing in this decision.

Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

U.S. Citizens Held in China

Q. Mr. President, what is your level of concern about U.S. citizens who remain held in China, and what are you doing for them?

The President. We've sent clear signals to the Chinese that we expect our citizens that have been detained, and/or citizens who have been detained with U.S. relatives, that we expect them to be treated fairly. And we'd like for them to have whatever due process the Chinese can offer. We have expressed our concerns. Sometimes they listen; sometimes they don't.

Our relations with China are relations that are going to be based upon a consistent message with the Chinese: One, we expect there to be trade, and I hope there is trade; but two, that we expect people to be treated fairly inside that country. And hopefully they'll respond.

Confidence in the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Q. Mr. President, is your confidence in the FBI undermined by this episode?

The President. I'm obviously concerned about an incident where documents have been misplaced. But I withhold judgment until I find out the full facts, to find out what the Attorney General's investigation finds out.

Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek].

American Justice System

Q. Mr. President, following up on that, do you think our American justice system is healthy, or does it need fixing?

The President. I think, by and large, the system is healthy. And I think today proved why it is healthy—that ours is a Government that when found that documents hadn't been given to the defense attorney, even though those documents reviewed by our own—by our Justice Department lawyers didn't feel like it was going to change the verdict. But we delayed until Mr. McVeigh's attorneys have a chance to look at the documents.

Death Penalty

Q. Mr. President, if I can follow up. You know that those documents could have been discovered days after Timothy McVeigh had been executed. You also know that there is some concern about a forensic scientist in Oklahoma City who was involved in a number of death penalty cases, a number of——

The President. Say that again on the forensic scientist?

Q. ——in Oklahoma City, who was involved in a number of death penalty cases.

Those inmates happened to be executed. What can you say to the American people——

The President. Well, in this case——

Q. Let me just finish.

The President. Okay, I'm sorry. I beg your pardon. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

What can you say or what can you do as President to ensure that, at the Federal/State level, the death penalty is always administered fairly?

The President. Well, at the State level, I encourage Governors to be diligent and to look at all the facts and to make sure that people get full access to the courts and that there is no question about the person's guilt.

At the Federal level, I'm pleased to report, that on the first case that came toward my desk, my administration reacted the way it should have. Which is, given the fact that documents had been misplaced, the Attorney General recommended the delay of the execution until the—Mr. McVeigh's rights were fully vetted; in other words, his lawyers have a chance to look at those documents.

It was the right thing to do. And you bring up a hypothetical, but that's not the way it happened. The way it happened was that the evidence was brought forth, and we made a decision, and it was the correct decision.

Yes, sir.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you would not equate the baby that was killed in retaliatory Israeli fire in the Gaza Strip with a 13- and 14-year-old Jewish boys, one of them a U.S. citizen, who were tied up, beaten to death, and mutilated near Tekoa, would you?

The President. I was kind of smiling. It sounded kind of like an editorial.

But the death in the Middle East is abhorrent, and our Nation weeps when people lose their lives. And what we must do is work hard to break the cycle of violence. It's going to be very difficult for us to be able to bring people to the peace table so long as there is violence. And we will continue to work to break the cycle of violence.

Tommy [Thomas M. DeFrank, New York Daily News].

United Nations Human Rights Commission

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Did you speak to Secretary-General Annan this morning about the United Nations vote to kick the U.S. off the Human Rights Commission? And if so, what did you tell him?

The President. I did. I told him it was hard for me to envision a Human Rights Commission without the United States on it and Sudan being on it—let me put it that way. We're off, and Sudan is on. I'm not so sure—you know, that sent an awfully, awfully strange signal to the world, it seems like to me.

Yes.

Q. A followup. Did you—or do you believe that some U.S. back dues to the United Nations should be withheld as a result of that vote, as some in Congress were asking?

The President. I do not. I think we have made an agreement with the United Nations, an agreement that had been negotiated in good faith, and I think we ought to pay our dues. Having said that, the decision was an outrageous decision. To me, it undermines the whole credibility of this Commission—to kick the United States off, one of the great bastions of human rights, and allow Sudan to be on. And I think most reasonable people in the world see it that way.

But I did bring up the subject. Thank you for pinning me.

Q. Did he agree?

The President. He listened carefully.

Yes, sir.

Energy Policy

Q. Another energy question, if I may, Mr. President.

The President. Please.

Q. What would you tell an American citizen who is suspicious that your energy policy is going to benefit the oil industry, because of your background and Vice President Cheney's background in the industry?

The President. I would tell the American people I'm going to tell the truth when it comes to energy, that we have a serious problem, that we need to do a couple of things. One, we need to encourage the development of technologies to help us conserve. We need to be more conservation minded in America.

But I'm also going to say, as plainly as I can, we won't conserve our way to energy independence. We must also increase supply. It's in the consumer's interests that we do so. The more supply there is, relative to demand, the less the price will be.

And I believe that we can have exploration and sound environmental policy go hand in hand. The only thing I know to do, sir, is to tell the truth the way I see it. And we can play like there's not an energy crisis or hope there's not a problem. There is a problem, and there's a problem that's going to confront this Nation. And my job as the President is to take the problem on and propose the solutions I think necessary to solve the problem. And again, I repeat, it's a combination of good conservation and an increase in supplies. And I believe we can do both.

And so, I think most of the American people understand that. Thank you.

Yes.

Japan

Q. Mr. President, Japan's new Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, has accepted your invitation to visit the United States as early as possible. He now enjoys very good support of more than 80 percent, mainly to his strong commitment to economic reforms in Japan.

The President. Yes.

Q. Mr. President, now are you more optimistic about the future of the second largest economy of the world, or are you still very concerned?

The President. Well, I am concerned, but I am optimistic when I read what the Prime Minister has said about reforms. Now, I believe he's a man who is intent up on reforming the system. I had a good visit with him on the telephone. I look forward to meeting him in person. I look forward to discussing ways in which our important friendship can remain strong. And I look forward to hearing from him what he and his government intend to do to reform the system.

Japan is a very important partner of the United States. And it's not only an economic partner, but it's an important partner to keep stability in the Far East. It's important for us to work closely together, and I look forward to meeting him soon. And I'm confident we'll have a very good dialog when I'm able to do so.

Thank you all very much. Have a very good weekend.

NOTE: The President's sixth news conference began at 2:04 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Judge William H. Webster, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is leading the espionage investigation of Special Agent Robert Philip Hanssen; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

Memorandum on Cooperation by Vietnam in Accounting for United States Prisoners of War and Missing in Action

May 11, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–15

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Cooperation by Vietnam in Accounting for United States Prisoners of War and Missing in Action

As provided under section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Other Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, as contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2001, Public Law 106–553, I hereby determine, based on all information available to the United States Government, that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is fully cooperating in good faith with the United States in the following four areas related to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War:

1) resolving discrepancy cases, live sightings, and field activities;
2) recovering and repatriating American remains;
3) accelerating efforts to provide documents that will help lead to the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIAs; and,
4) providing further assistance in implementing trilateral investigations with Laos.

I further determine that the appropriate

laboratories associated with POW/MIA accounting are thoroughly analyzing remains, material, and other information and fulfilling their responsibilities as set forth in subsection (B) of section 610, and information pertaining to this accounting is being made available to immediate family members in compliance with 50 U.S.C. 435 note.

I have been advised and believe that section 610 is unconstitutional because it purports to use a condition on appropriations as a means to direct my execution of responsibilities that the Constitution commits exclusively to the President. I am providing this determination as a matter of comity, while reserving the position that the condition enacted in section 610 is unconstitutional.

In making this determination, I have taken into account all information available to the United States Government as reported to me, the full range of ongoing accounting activities in Vietnam, including joint and unilateral Vietnamese efforts, and the concrete results we have attained as a result.

Finally, in making this determination, I wish to reaffirm my continuing personal commitment to the entire POW/MIA community, especially to the immediate families, relatives, friends, and supporters of these brave individuals, and to reconfirm that the central, guiding principle of my Vietnam policy is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and missing in action.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the contents of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 6

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC, where he and Mrs. Bush hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

May 8

The President announced his intention to nominate William Henry Lash III to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access Compliance.

The President announced the nomination of Susan Morrisey Livingstone to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

May 9

The President announced his intention to nominate Vincent Martin Battle to be Ambassador to Lebanon.

The President announced his intention to nominate Representative Asa Hutchinson to be Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brian Carlton Roseboro to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Philadelphia, PA, on May 14.

May 10

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Vienna, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning on April 18 and continuing.

May 11

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared a major disaster in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding and severe storms on April 10 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 7

Stephen Brauer,
of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belgium.

Jack Dyer Crouch II,
of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Franklin D. Kramer.

Susan Morrisey Livingstone,
of Montana, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, vice Robert B. Pirie, Jr.

James G. Roche,
of Maryland, to be Secretary of the Air Force, vice F. Whitten Peters.

Submitted May 8

Mary Sheila Gall,
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, vice Ann Brown.

William Henry Lash III,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Patrick A. Mulloy, resigned.

Submitted May 9

Terrence W. Boyle,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

Edith Brown Clement,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice John M. Duhe, Jr., retired.

Deborah L. Cook,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Alan E. Norris, retired.

Miguel A. Estrada,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice Patricia M. Wald, retired.

Roger L. Gregory,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit (new position).

Michael W. McConnell,
of Utah, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Stephen H. Anderson, retired.

Priscilla Richman Owen,
of Texas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice William L. Garwood, retired.

Barrington D. Parker,
of Connecticut, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, vice Ralph K. Winter, retired.

John G. Roberts, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice James L. Buckley, retired.

Dennis W. Shedd,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice Clyde H. Hamilton, retired.

Jeffrey S. Sutton,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice David A. Nelson, retired.

Submitted May 10

Cari M. Dominguez,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2001, vice Joyce Elaine Tucker, term expired.

Cari M. Dominguez,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2006 (reappointment).

Michael K. Powell,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2002 (reappointment).

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Review of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Philadelphia, PA

Released May 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Released May 11

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 256, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act retroactive extension

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 11

H.R. 256 / Public Law 107–8
To extend for 11 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted

Week Ending Friday, May 18, 2001

The President's Radio Address

May 12, 2001

Good morning. I wish every mother listening a happy Mother's Day, including my own. And I want to remind every daughter and every son to tell Mom first thing tomorrow how much you love her.

Today I want to talk about how we can meet some of our energy needs through a new kind of conservation, a 21st century conservation that saves power through technological innovation. We are near the beginning of the summer driving and air conditioning season, the months of the year when energy use rises and energy prices jump. This year, like last year, gasoline and electricity prices are rising sharply, squeezing family budgets, and disrupting the lives and work of our fellow Americans. Energy is a problem that my administration will address.

This week we will introduce a comprehensive energy plan to help bring new supplies of energy to the market, and we will be encouraging Americans to use more wisely the energy supplies that exist today.

I am very concerned about the possibility of blackouts in California this summer. My administration will do our part to help by cutting peak hour energy use at Federal facilities in California. Military installations will reduce their peak hour use by 10 percent. Civilian buildings will raise their thermostats and turn off escalators and other nonessential equipment. These are immediate measures to help with an immediate problem, and I applaud the many Californians and Americans who are finding their own ways to use less energy this summer.

Over the long term, the most effective way to conserve energy is by using energy more efficiently. For example, a new refrigerator uses 65 percent less power than a refrigerator built in 1972. Overall, we use 40 percent less energy to produce new goods and services than we did in 1973.

Some think that conservation means doing without. That does not have to be the case. It can mean building sensors into new buildings to shut the lights off as soon as people leave a room. It can mean upgrading the transmission lines that deliver electricity to your home so less is wasted on the way. It can mean encouraging homeowners to invest in energy improvements.

Twenty-first century conservation harnesses new technology to squeeze as much out of a barrel of oil as we have learned to squeeze out of a computer chip. We can raise our standard of living wisely and in harmony with our environment.

Pushing conservation forward will require investment in new energy technology, and that will be a part of my administration's energy plan. Conservation will require improving appliance standards. That will also be a part of the plan. And conservation will require new incentives to encourage industry to replace outdated equipment. That will be a part of the plan, as well.

But conservation will require one more thing, something that cannot be written into any plan: the problem solving spirit of the American scientist and the American entrepreneur. My administration will take their side as they conserve and expand our energy supply for the benefit of all Americans.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on May 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary at 7 a.m. on May 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Announcing the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 14, 2001

Thank you. You're still the man, Mr. Mayor. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be introduced by the mayor. One of the reasons why I asked him to sit next to Laura during my State of the Union Address—or State of the Budget Address, I guess—is because of the fantastic work the mayor has done with faith-based programs in Philadelphia. He understands that government is limited. We can spend money, but what government cannot do is put hope into hearts of our fellow citizens. And Mr. Mayor, I appreciate your leadership, and I'm honored that you would welcome me to this great city.

I was thinking coming in that, had things worked out differently, Philadelphia could have been the Nation's Capital. And I would have been calling you, neighbor. And we would have had a baseball team in the Nation's Capital, and it would have been a pretty good one, too. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be traveling with the Attorney General, who I'll introduce in a minute. It's a great honor to be with the senior Senator from the State of Pennsylvania—that's Arlen Specter—as well as the junior Senator, Rick Santorum. Thank you both for being here.

And we've got members of the congressional delegation here, as well: Weldon, Hoeffel, and Toomey. I want to thank you guys for coming. We're flying back on Air Force One; I look forward to listening to what you need to tell me. I probably won't do it, but nevertheless, I look forward to listening. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here with the Lieutenant Governor and the attorney general of the great State of Pennsylvania. I'm sorry my close friend the Governor, who's not here, but I understand he's trying to drum up some business for the State of Pennsylvania, so he's got an excused absence.

It's such an honor to be here with leaders of the national law organizations, such as my friend Gil Gallegos from the State of New Mexico, who is the president of the Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for being here, Gil, as well as the other leaders.

And most importantly, it's an honor to be here with the men and women who wear the blue, and I want to thank you for your service to your community and to your Nation. And like the mayor, I congratulate those officers who were promoted to corporal. It's a well-deserved honor, and it's fitting that it come on National Police Week.

I want to express my appreciation to all in this city who are involved with law enforcement, and thank you for your skill and your dedication and, most importantly, your bravery on behalf of your fellow citizens.

During the last several years, violent crime in America has been decreasing, and all Americans are grateful. Between 1989 and 1999 the violent crime rate dropped 20 percent. And that's a huge accomplishment. It really is. But unfortunately, American society is still far too violent. The violent crime rate in the United States remains among the highest in the industrialized world.

Nationally there were 12,658 murders in 1999, two-thirds of which were shooting deaths. And for every fatal shooting, there were roughly three nonfatal shootings. And folks, this is unacceptable in America. It's just unacceptable, and we're going to do something about it.

Like most major urban centers—cities—in America, Philadelphia suffered from a stunning rise in violent crime. However, Philadelphia, as the mayor mentioned, has made great progress. For example, in 1990 there were 500 murders; last year there were 319. And the mayor deserves a lot of credit; so does the police commissioner and the police men and women of Philadelphia. And for that, we're incredibly grateful. And we're grateful for programs such as Operation Sunrise, and Safe & Sound, and Youth Violence Reduction Project, which, Mr. Mayor, is making your city more safe and more secure for all of the citizens.

But gun violence is still a serious problem. Three out of four murder victims in this city are shot to death with handguns. Among young victims, that figure rises to almost 9 out of 10. In America today, a teenager is more likely to die from a gunshot than from all natural causes of death combined. These

details have caused too many families to bury the next generation. And for all our children's sake, this Nation must reclaim our neighborhoods and our streets.

We need a national strategy to assure that every community is attacking gun violence with focus and intensity. I'm here today to announce a national initiative to help cities like Philadelphia fight gun violence. The program I propose, we call Project Safe Neighborhoods, will establish a network of law enforcement and community initiatives targeted at gun violence. It will involve an unprecedented partnership between all levels of government. It will increase accountability within our systems. And it will send an unmistakable message: If you use a gun illegally, you will do hard time.

This Nation must enforce the gun laws which exist on the books. Project Safe Neighborhoods incorporates and builds upon the success of existing programs. In Richmond, Virginia, for example, during the first year of what's called Project Exile, homicides were reduced by 40 percent and armed robberies were reduced by 30 percent, in the first year alone. And thanks to Boston's Operation Cease Fire, in almost 2 years, no one under the age of 17 was shot. These are tremendous success stories, and ones that are worth duplicating around our Nation.

My administration is proposing to devote more than $550 million on Project Safe Neighborhoods over the next 2 years. The funding will be used to hire new Federal and State prosecutors, to support investigators, to provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts. All newly appointed United States attorneys will be directed to certify to the Attorney General that the new comprehensive gun violence program has been implemented in their districts. We're going to reduce gun violence in America, and those who commit crimes with guns will find a determined adversary in my administration.

Domestic tranquility is a phrase made famous in this city. Project Safe Neighborhoods is one step, and an important step, to making that a reality. And now to explain the program is a fine American, a great Attorney General, John Ashcroft.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; and Gov. Tom Ridge, Lt. Gov. Mark S. Schweiker, and Attorney General Mike Fisher of Pennsylvania.

Remarks Honoring the 2000 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Houston Comets

May 14, 2001

Well, thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome the first Texas team to the White House since I've been fortunate enough to be the President. It seems like it's becoming quite a habit.

Thank you very much, Nancy, for coming. It's my honor to welcome two Texas Congressmen: Ken Bentsen and John Culberson. We welcome you all here, as well. I understand that Val Ackerman is here, and I want to congratulate you for your vision; a true sports entrepreneur who has really put the effort and energy to make the WNBA the success it has been. America owes you a debt of gratitude, particularly a dad of twins owes you a debt of gratitude—women twins.

I want to thank the coach for coming, as well. It turns out every single championship team that comes to the White House has got a lot of ingredients, but one is a coach that is really good at what he does. So Mr. Coach, congratulations on returning, and I suspect I'll see you here next year.

I love the idea of women's—of heralding women's athletics. And one of the great things about the Comets is that you've proven that you're some of the greatest athletes in the world, but also some of the greatest people in the world. I had the honor of living in the State of Texas when Sheryl was playing for Texas Tech. And I remember how proud we were—and I also remember—when you won the national championship. But I also remember watching you and Cynthia Cooper and other stars, when it comes to character, perform your acts of kindness in our communities around the State of Texas.

I think the WNBA also is—not only showcases athletic talent but it attracts a lot of young fans to see their stars perform. And

so I want to thank our young fans who are here today.

I'm also mindful that those of us in positions of responsibility must uphold the responsibility with dignity and class. And this franchise has done that. I know your hard work in the Houston area when it comes to helping people who may have cancer. I know of your work in the neighborhoods around Houston, by putting on clinics to teach young men and women what it means to have clean minds and clean bodies. And for that, I'm grateful. And for that, I welcome you to the White House and congratulate you on being true champs.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Alexander, wife of Houston Comets owner Leslie Alexander; Val Ackerman, president, Women's National Basketball Association; and coach Van Chancellor, player Sheryl Swoopes, WNBA 2000 Player of the Year, and retired player Cynthia Cooper, Houston Comets.

Remarks at the Peace Officers' Memorial Service

May 15, 2001

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Gil, thank you very much for your friendship and your eloquence. It's my honor to be here. I'm pleased to be joined by three fine members of my Cabinet: General Ashcroft and Secretary O'Neill and Secretary Chao—I thank you all for joining us. I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress being here. Thank you for letting us share these beautiful grounds.

I'm so thankful for the beautiful voices that are here today. Officer Rodriguez, I've heard a lot of national anthems in my day, that was one of the greatest. Thank you very much, sir. Not bad for a New York cop. [*Laughter*] And Billy, thank you very much for sharing your God-given talents with us, as well.

It is an honor to welcome you all here on these beautiful grounds, and it's a honor to be among the people in law enforcement who are here today. And it's a special privilege to be able to say hello and God bless to the many widows and family members of the fallen officers. It's truly my privilege.

As President, I feel a special connection with the officers of the law. I meet many of you as I travel around our country, and of course, on a daily basis I'm surrounded by some of the finest men and women I have ever met in my life.

The same is true for all Americans but in a less visible way. Everywhere, from the greatest city to the quietest of crossroads in America, there is someone working long, hard hours to protect our citizens; someone who, when we're in trouble, will face a threat in our defense; someone who, when we are in danger, will rush to our aid, even in complete disregard to his or her own safety.

One of the names recorded on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is that of Patrolman Mickey Cullinane of Sea Island City, New Jersey. He died trying to rescue a man lying at the bottom of a deep pit. A witness described the obvious dangers at the scene. He recalled everybody said, "You can't go down there." But some people can't see someone in trouble and walk away. Mickey did—he didn't walk away. He did what the courageous do.

In the daily lives of Americans, such moments of emergency are rare, thankfully rare. For most, the violent moments never come at all. And there's a reason for this, and it's simply not good fortune. The reason is, you, the officers of the law, your bravery, and the courage you show every day in wearing the uniform. And it's always been that way.

Every generation of Americans has produced men and women willing to stand watch over the rest of us. Every generation has lived under your protection. And we must never take for granted the police officers of America.

We have a solemn obligation to give thanks and credit to law enforcement officers who are no longer with us. We honor, as well, the ones who have so bravely faced injury and disability. And we're so grateful to those who have retired after honorable careers and, of course, to those who are on the job this very day.

At times, law enforcement must seem like the most thankless work you could ever do. But I'm here to tell you that yours is one of the great callings, and your country thanks you for it.

A Texas State trooper spoke for many last year after a colleague was struck down in the line of duty. America must hear what this man said. He said, "It's a rough thing, and people ask, 'Why do you do it?' It's the profession I chose, and I honestly think good officers are called by God."

For too many officers and their families, that calling has come at the highest price, in lives ended and hopes destroyed. For those who suffer it, this loss can never be measured. But long ago, we were told how to measure the men and women who make this sacrifice. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Each one of you chose your profession, understanding the risks. This memorial stands as a reminder of those dangers and of how men and women died facing them. For each name, there was a family left behind. We must never forget how suddenly their pain comes and how long it lingers.

The widow of a U.S. marshal said, "Whenever men who spend their lives serving their country are killed in the line of duty, we all lose a piece of ourself. I lost a bigger piece than others."

We cannot today cover the grief or repay the sacrifice, but it is a way, a lasting way, to acknowledge the debt. And that is the best we can do, after others had given all there was to give. America honors their memory today, and we always will.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:36 p.m. on the West Grounds at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gilbert G. Gallegos, national president, Fraternal Order of Police; Daniel Rodriguez, police officer, New York City Police Department; and country/western singer Billy Gilman.

Statement on Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

May 15, 2001

The bipartisan proposal introduced today by Senators Frist, Breaux, and Jeffords makes important progress in our efforts to provide patients with a strong and effective Patients' Bill of Rights.

This bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights reflects the principles I laid out earlier this year. It provides strong patient protections for all Americans, ensures that doctors and patients make medical decisions, and holds health plans accountable by providing patients with meaningful remedies when they have been wrongly denied medical care. The bill also protects employers and their employees from unnecessary litigation that would increase health care premiums and force too many Americans to do without health insurance.

Congress has been long divided over this issue. I applaud Senators Frist, Breaux, and Jeffords and the many patient and provider groups working with them for finding a commonsense compromise.

I am similarly encouraged by the bipartisan discussions on this issue between the administration and Speaker Hastert and other House leaders. These efforts, combined with the introduction of this bipartisan bill in the Senate, give me great hope that the Congress will send a good Patients' Bill of Rights to my desk this year.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 15, 2001

On May 20, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13047, certifying to the Congress under section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), that the Government of Burma has committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, thereby invoking the prohibition on new investment in Burma by United States persons, contained in that section. The President also declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, invoking the authority, inter alia, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)).

The national emergency declared on May 20, 1997, must continue beyond May 20,

2001, because the Government of Burma continues its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, threatening the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Burma. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 15, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register on May 17.*

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Notice on the Continuation of Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 15, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to Burma is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2001. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19, 2000.

As long as the Government of Burma continues its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond May 20, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 15, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 15, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 15, 2001.

Remarks Announcing the United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

May 16, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the Rose Garden. It's my honor to share the podium with Representatives Crane and Rangel and our friend from Senegal, Ambassador Seck. Thank you very much for being here, sir. I'm so appreciative that our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has joined us today—Secretary, thank you for being here—and our Secretary of Treasury, Paul O'Neill. They're here for a reason. They're here because they strongly support the initiative about which we are about to speak.

I'm thankful that many Members of the United States Congress are here, Members who worked on this initiative long before I came. I appreciate you all being here. I look forward to working with you to do the right

thing for our friends on the continent of Africa. I also want to thank many members of the diplomatic corps who are here. We're so grateful that you took time out of your day to come and share in this moment.

I finally want to thank Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon for being here today. He is—I know this isn't the moment to herald Texas sports—[*laughter*]—but thank you for many great moments.

There is good news coming out of the sub-Saharan Africa. Democracy is emerging in countries like Ghana and Nigeria and showing enduring strength in Senegal, Botswana, and South Africa. Free market reforms are delivering real benefits to people in places like Mozambique and Madagascar and Mali. We Americans want to be more than spectators of Africa's progress. We want to encourage a brighter future through policies that nurture and support freedom and democratic reform.

And that's why Congress passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act. There is now a broad consensus that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest way for Africa to make progress. The act opens American markets to countries that have embarked on the difficult but beneficial path of political and economic reform.

These are countries that are moving toward market-based economies and the rule of law, that are lowering trade barriers and strengthening their commercial law, that are combating corruption and eliminating child labor, and that are showing enhanced respect for labor standards and human rights.

Thirty-five sub-Saharan African nations are eligible under AGOA for their commitment to these principles. The principles in the African Growth and Opportunity Act are important for Africa, but they're also important for the United States. Countries that respect markets and the rights of the individual are more likely to grow economically. They are more likely to achieve political stability. They can raise education standards, deliver better health care, and protect their environment. Strong African democracies with strong economies and healthy populations will contribute to a world that is more peaceful and more prosperous for all.

Now, we should take the next step to realize the promise of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This October the United States will invite the eligible countries to Washington to inaugurate the U.S.-Sub-Saharan African Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum. The Forum will discuss further measures we can take to stimulate trade, to develop prosperity, and to enhance democracy.

I'm today asking and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, the Commerce Secretary, and the U.S. Trade Representative to issue invitations to the Forum, to their ministerial counterparts. Secretary Powell may just deliver some of those invitations in person when he travels to the continent later on this year. The United States will also invite representatives of African regional organizations to this Forum. I hope I get to attend, as well.

Sub-Saharan Africa has suffered much from political oppression and inward-looking economic policies. Africans, themselves, now agree that democracy and open trade are the right way forward. The United States wants to engage sub-Saharan African countries as valued economic partners. And we look forward to welcoming sub-Saharan African leaders as our guests next fall.

Thank you all for coming. And it's now my honor to bring to the podium Phil Crane, Congressman from Illinois.

[*At this point, Representatives Philip M. Crane and Charles B. Rangel and Senegalese Ambassador to the U.S. Mamadou Seck made brief remarks.*]

The President. Again, I want to thank you all for coming. It is our honor to host many from the diplomatic corps. Welcome to the White House. We look forward to working with you. It's in our best interest that your great continent thrive, and we look forward to working with you to make sure it does so.

God bless. Thank you guys for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to professional basketball player Hakeem Olajuwon. The U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum was established by Section 105 of Title I of the Trade

and Development Act of 2000 (Public Law No. 106–200).

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

May 16, 2001

National Energy Policy Development Group Report

The President. Thank you all for coming. Today the Vice President and the National Energy Policy Development Group made their presentation to me and the Cabinet. This is an extensive report. It provides over 100 proposals to diversify and increase the supply of energy, innovative proposals to encourage conservation, and ways to make sure that we get energy from producer to consumer.

I am really pleased with the work the Vice President and his folks did. This is a very optimistic look at America. It's tough, in that it lays out the problems; it's a direct assessment of neglect. But this great Nation of ours, because of our technology, our attitude, our adherence to free enterprise, our willingness to conserve, we're going to solve this problem. And I'm looking forward to making my case to the American people tomorrow and throughout the years.

While there are some—you know, we can't overcome the fact that we haven't built a refinery in years, and we should have. We can make sure—we can make sure that any entity will not illegally overcharge. And so I'm calling on the FTC to make sure that nobody in America gets illegally overcharged. And we're going to make sure FERC will monitor electricity suppliers to make sure that they charge rates that are fair and reasonable. The Attorney General and I will work with the FTC.

But I'm upbeat about America, I truly am. I think this is a country that is going to show the rest of the world how to deal wisely with energy.

Q. Mr. President, let me make it clearer. Are you calling on an FTC and FERC investigation, or are you plainly restating their obligations under the law already?

The President. I am calling on the FTC to take appropriate action any time there is a complaint against illegal pricing.

Q. Is there any evidence, to your mind, that there is illegal pricing now? Is there a reason for an investigation?

The President. None whatsoever. But should somebody have a complaint, it is the appropriate role of the FTC to look into that complaint.

Q. And you feel the same on FERC, sir? None whatsoever?

The President. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Well, actually I say that—FERC has made an analysis and has actually rebated money back to people in the State of California; they have already acted on the notion of reasonable pricing. And we expect FERC to continue to do that, to be vigilant on behalf of the American consumer.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

California Energy Shortage

Q Sir, what can you say to Californians suffering through rolling blackouts? How does your plan help them in the short term?

The President. My plan helps people in the short term and long term by recognizing the problem and by expediting energy development. And what we have done in the State of California is we've worked very closely with the Governor, to help the Governor permit plants necessary to increase the supply of energy in that big State.

Administrator Whitman and myself and Secretary Abraham heard the call of Governor Davis. He said, "Help us build plants in the State of California," and we did. And we expedited the construction of plants. And so the quicker supply gets on, the easier it's going to be for the consumers in the State of California. And we will continue to listen and work with the Governor of California. We're deeply concerned about the State of California, as we are with the rest of the Nation.

But we haven't had an energy policy. Interestingly enough, this is the first comprehensive energy policy probably ever—certainly in a long time. And I appreciate so very much the hard work. I've told the people of America, if given the chance to be the

President, we would address this problem, and we would address it in a comprehensive way.

As I say, there are over 100 recommendations—over 100 proposals. And we're going to get after it. This isn't just a report that's going to gather dust; this is an action plan, because this is an action administration.

Energy Plan

Q. Mr. President, how will your plan lead to lower prices at the gas pump now?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. How will it lead to lower prices at the gas pump now?

The President. Because we recognize that we need more supply. And when you read the report, you'll see that we've laid out constructive ways to make sure that there are more supply available.

I will tell you, there are some who advocate price controls. Price controls do not increase supply, nor do they affect demand. And this is an administration that will take a hard look at the problems. And we'll deal straightforward with the American people, with a plan that is optimistic—it is very hopeful. And it's the right thing to do. And I can't wait for the American people to hear the proposals.

It talks about the ingenuity of America. Ours is a great Nation. Ours is a Nation that can lead the world in innovative conservation measures. And we provide incentives to do that. Ours is a Nation that can explore in technologically friendly ways, and we will show the world how to do so.

But we also have got to recognize our infrastructure is old and stale, and so we've got innovative approaches to be able to move product from one part of the country to another, or natural gas, for example, from outside our borders to inside our borders. And so I look forward to good—folks taking a good look at this, because it makes eminent sense for the future of the country.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Gray Davis of California. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7438—National Biotechnology Week

May 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For thousands of years, man has been utilizing and modifying biological processes to improve man's quality of life. Scientific advances have enabled biotechnology to play an increasingly large role in the development of new products that enhance all areas of our lives.

In the battle against disease, our ever-increasing knowledge of cellular and genetic processes continues to improve the quality of our health care. Biotechnology has contributed to the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs that have saved or prolonged the lives of millions of people. Insulin, which is vital in the treatment of diabetes, can now be produced inexpensively and in large quantities through the use of genetically engineered bacteria. In addition, exciting gains in the understanding of the human body's genetic code show significant promise in finding treatments and eventually a cure for many diseases. This technology is now central to the research being conducted on diseases such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart and lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Consumers enjoy continual improvements to the quality and quantity of our Nation's food supply. Genetic engineering will enable farmers to modify crops so that they will grow on land that was previously considered infertile. In addition, it will enable farmers to grow produce with enhanced nutritional value. We also are benefiting from crops that resist plant diseases and insects, thus reducing the use of pesticides.

The environmental benefits of biotechnology can be realized through the increased ability of manufacturers to produce their products with less energy, pollution, and waste. In addition, the development of new biotechnology promises to improve our ability to clean up toxic substances from soil

and water and improve waste management techniques.

Our Nation stands as a global leader in research and development, in large part because of our successes in understanding and utilizing the biological processes of life. The field of biotechnology is important to the quality of our lives, the protection of our environment, and the strength of our economy. We must continue to be leaders in the pursuit of knowledge and technology, and we must be vigilant to ensure that new technologies are regulated and used responsibly towards achieving noble goals.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 13 through May 19, 2001, as National Biotechnology Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 21.

Proclamation 7439—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2001

May 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's achievements in transportation have helped lay the foundation for our strength and prosperity. As our Nation moves forward into the 21st century, we celebrate how modern transportation has transformed the world and recognize the many men and women who have contributed to its development and advancement.

Whether traveling by road, rail, water, or air, Americans can choose among a large number of options in reaching their destinations. But beyond moving people, our diverse transportation system also makes possible the delivery of countless products throughout the country. Whether intended for individuals, private organizations, government agencies, or merchants, the shipment and transfer of these goods helps to generate and sustain the economic growth that benefits us all.

Our transportation system also contributes vitally to the security of the United States. From the early days of the merchant marine at the time of our Nation's founding, to the latest in 21st century aircraft, our diverse methods of transportation have moved troops and carried defense cargo quickly and efficiently both in peacetime and in war.

To meet America's future needs, our Nation must take advantage of scientific and technological innovation to improve existing transportation systems and develop new ones. We must strive to enhance their reliability and efficiency and close the gap between the demand for transportation and the capacity of the transportation infrastructure.

At the same time, safety will always remain our top priority. Investments in transportation must contribute to the security of the traveling public and improve access for all Americans. Our efforts to modify and strengthen transportation systems must also safeguard the environment and use energy wisely. Through these measures, we can conserve our precious natural resources and reinforce the transportation infrastructure our Nation needs to thrive in a dynamic and competitive world.

To recognize the men and women who work in transportation and thereby contribute to our Nation's well-being, defense, and progress, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 120) has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 18, 2001, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 13 through May 19, 2001, as National Transportation Week. I urge all Americans to recognize how our modern transportation system has enhanced our economy and contributed to our quality of life.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 21.

Remarks Announcing the Energy Plan in St. Paul, Minnesota

May 17, 2001

Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome. First, I want to thank my friend Norm Coleman. What a great leader he is for St. Paul. He's a very good friend. I think it's important for you all to know that when Norm calls over there to Washington, I'll answer the phone.

Traveling with me today are two of my Cabinet officers: first, from the State of Michigan, the Energy Secretary, Spence Abraham; and the EPA Administrator, Christie Todd Whitman. I appreciate John's invitation to be here, and I want to thank the Capital City Partnership for giving me the chance to come and deliver a major policy address to the Nation.

I'm also pleased to be in the home of the mighty Minnesota Twins. They're cost per win is astounding. [*Laughter*] It serves as a good example of what frugality can do for the Nation. [*Laughter*]

But I'm not here to talk about baseball. The Twin Cities are a great place to discuss America's energy challenge. Minneapolis-St. Paul grew up as a mighty milling and transportation center because of the power of the Mississippi River. Your history was built on energy that was abundant and affordable and reliable. So, too, will be this Nation's energy future.

I invite you to think with me about that future, and an early look at the future this morning, right here in St. Paul. I toured a plant that harnesses the best of new technology to produce energy that is cleaner and more efficient and more affordable. The plant boils enough water to heat 146 major office buildings in downtown St. Paul. Not a bit of energy is wasted—not even the waste. The excess heat generated as the water boils is captured and used to create steam, which generates still more electricity to power pumps and to deliver heat.

The plant is a model of energy efficiency. It is also a model of energy diversity. It uses conventional fuels like oil and natural gas and coal, and renewable fuels like wood chips. And the plant is a model of affordability. While other energy prices rise, District Energy has not raised its heating and cooling rates in 4 years.

We're beginning to see the power of the future, not only in office buildings but also in our homes and our cars. This spring the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council showcased a solar-powered home so advanced that it actually produces more energy than it uses. And some Americans are already driving hybrid cars that can convert to battery power to reduce emissions and get up to 70 miles a gallon of gas. These are our early glimpses of a future in which Americans will meet our energy needs in ways that are efficient, clean, convenient, and affordable.

The future is achievable, if we make the right choices now. But if we fail to act, this great country could face a darker future, a future that is, unfortunately, being previewed in rising prices at the gas pump and rolling blackouts in the great State of California.

These events are challenging what had become a fact of life in America, the routine, everyday expectation that when you flick on a light switch, the light will come on. Californians are learning, regrettably, that sometimes when you flick on the light switch, the light does not come on, at any price.

I'm deeply concerned about the impact of blackouts on the daily lives of the good people of the State of California. And my administration is committed to helping California. We're helping right now by expediting permits for new power production and by working as good partners to reduce our electricity at Federal facilities, especially during the peak periods this summer.

My administration has developed a sane national plan to help meet our energy needs this year and every year. If we fail to act on this plan, energy prices will continue to rise. For two decades, the share of the average family budget spent on energy steadily declined. But since 1998, it has skyrocketed by 25 percent. And that's a hardship for every American family.

If we fail to act, Americans will face more and more widespread blackouts. If we fail to act, our country will become more reliant on foreign crude oil, putting our national energy security into the hands of foreign nations, some of whom do not share our interests. And if we fail to act, our environment will suffer, as government officials struggle to prevent blackouts in the only way possible—by calling on more polluting emergency backup generators, and by running less efficient, old powerplants too long and too hard.

America cannot allow that to be our future, and we will not. To protect the environment, to meet our growing energy needs, to improve our quality of life, America needs an energy plan that faces up to our energy challenges and meets them.

Vice President Cheney and many members of my Cabinet spent months analyzing our problems and seeking solutions. The result is a comprehensive series of more than 100 recommendations that light the way to a brighter future through energy that is abundant and reliable, cleaner and more affordable.

The plan addresses all three key aspects of the energy equation: demand, supply, and the means to match them. First, it reduces demand by promoting innovation and technology to make us the world leader in efficiency and conservation. Second, it expands and diversifies America's supply of all sources of energy: oil and gas, clean coal, solar, wind, biomass, hydropower, and other renewables, as well as safe and clean nuclear power. Third, and finally, the report outlines the ways to bring producers and consumers together, by modernizing the networks of pipes and wires that link the powerplant to the outlet on the wall.

Our new energy plan begins with a 21st century focus on conservation. The American entrepreneurial system constantly invents ways to do more with less. We pack more and more computing power onto a chip. We carry more and more messages over a cable. And we squeeze more and more power out of a barrel of oil or a cubic foot of natural gas. A new refrigerator you buy today, for example, uses 65 percent less electricity than one that was made 30 years ago. Overall, we use 40 percent less energy to produce new goods and services than we did in 1973. But this steady improvement slowed in the 1990s.

Our energy plan will speed up progress on conservation where it has slowed and restart it where it has failed. It will underwrite research and development into energy-saving technology. It will require manufactures to build more energy-efficient appliances. We will review and remove the obstacles that prevent business from investing in energy-efficient technologies, like the combined heat and power system I toured this morning. Conservation does not mean doing without. Thanks to new technology, it can mean doing better and smarter and cheaper.

Innovation helps us all make better choices. Smart electric meters can tell homeowners how they're using power and how they might reduce their monthly electric bill. Sensors can turn off lights when people leave a room. And innovation is bringing us transmission wires that waste less of the electricity they carry from plant to home or to office.

Conservation on a wide scale takes more than good ideas; it takes capital investment. Outdated buildings and factories have to be upgraded or replaced to consume less and pollute less. And here, some well-intentioned regulations have created a catch-22—procedures intended to protect the environment have too often blocked environmental progress by discouraging companies from installing newer and cleaner equipment.

Wise regulation and American innovation will make this country the world's leader in energy efficiency and conservation in the 21st century. Our goal is to use less additional energy to fuel more economic growth. And I know we can do so. I also know that conservation is the result of millions of good choices made across our land on a daily basis.

Yet even as we grow more efficient, even as this Nation achieves the objectives in conservation, we will always require some additional energy to power our expanding economy. We learn that from the California experience. California has been an impressive conservation leader. It is the second most energy-efficient State in the Union. But California has not built a major new powerplant in a decade. And not even the most admirable conservation effort could keep up with the State's demand for electricity.

So the second part of our energy plan will be to expand and diversify our Nation's energy supplies. Diversity is important, not only for energy security but also for national security. Overdependence on any one source of energy, especially a foreign source, leaves us vulnerable to price shocks, supply interruptions, and in the worst case, blackmail. America today imports 52 percent of all our oil. If we don't take action, those imports will only grow. As long as cars and trucks run on gasoline, we will need oil, and we should produce more of it at home.

New technology makes drilling for oil far more productive, as well as environmentally friendly, than it was 30 or 40 years ago. Here is the result of one study, and I quote, "Improvements over the past 40 years have dramatically reduced industry's footprint on the fragile tundra, minimized waste produced, and protected the land for resident and migratory wildlife." Those aren't my words. Those are the words of the Department of Energy study conducted during my predecessor's administration. Advanced new technologies allows entrepreneurs and risk-takers to find oil and to extract it in ways that leave nature undisturbed.

Where oil is found underneath sensitive landscapes, rigs can stand miles away from the oil field and tap a reservoir at an angle. In Arctic sites like ANWR, we can build roads of ice that literally melt away when summer comes, and the drilling then stops to protect wildlife. ANWR can produce 600,000 barrels of oil a day for the next 40 years. What difference does 600,000 barrels a day make? Well, that happens to be exactly the amount we import from Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

We're not just short of oil; we're short of the refineries that turn oil into fuel. So while the rest of our economy is functioning at 82 percent of capacity, our refineries are gasping at 96 percent of capacity. A single accident, a single shutdown can send prices of gasoline and heating oil spiraling all over the country. The major reason for dramatic increase in gasoline prices today is the lack of refining capacity. And my plan gives the needed flexibility and certainty so refiners will make the investments necessary to expand supply by increasing capacity.

And America needs to generate more electricity. The Department of Energy estimates that America will need between 1,300 and 1,900 new powerplants over the next two decades. A high-tech economy is a high-electricity consumption economy. Even the sleekest laptop needs to plug into an electrical outlet from time to time.

More than half of the electricity generated in America today comes from coal. If we were not blessed with this natural resource, we would face even greater shortages and higher prices today. Yet, coal presents an environmental challenge. So our plan funds research into new, clean coal technologies. It calls on Congress to enact strict new multi-pollutant legislation to reduce emissions from electric powerplants.

My administration's energy plan anticipates that most new electric plants will be fueled by the cleanest of all fossil fuels, natural gas. Our Nation and our hemisphere are rich in natural gas resources. But our ability to develop gas resources has been hampered by restrictions on natural gas exploration. Our ability to deliver gas to consumers has been hindered by opposition to construction of new pipelines, that today, are more safe and more efficient. I will call on Congress to pass legislation to bring more gas to market, while improving pipeline safety and safeguarding the environment.

America should also expand a clean and unlimited source of energy, nuclear power. Many Americans may not realize that nuclear power already provides one-fifth of this Nation's electricity, safely, and without air pollution. But the last American nuclear powerplant to enter operation was ordered in 1973. In contrast, France, our friend and ally, gets 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power.

By renewing and expanding existing nuclear facilities, we can generate tens of thousands of megawatts of electricity at a reasonable cost, without pumping a gram of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. New reactor designs are even safer and more economical than the reactors we possess today. And my energy plan directs the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to use the best science to move expeditiously to find a safe and permanent repository for nuclear waste.

Our energy plan also supports the development of new and renewable sources of energy. It recommends tax credits to homeowners who invest in solar homes, and to utilities that build wind turbines or harness biomass and other environmentally friendly forms of power. It removes impediments to the development of hydroelectricity. It proposes incentives to buy new cars that run on alternative fuels, like ethanol, that consume less oil and, therefore, pollute less. It supports research into fuel cells, a technology of tomorrow that can power a car with hydrogen, the most common element in the universe, and emit only steam as a waste product.

In all these ways, we will expand the diversity of our energy supply. But as with conservation, new energy supply alone is not the whole answer. There's a third element we must address: modernizing the network that delivers the supply to the point of demand.

In 1919 a young U.S. Army officer was ordered to lead a truck convoy westward across our country. He was astonished to discover that the journey took 62 days. His name was Dwight David Eisenhower. And the memory of this bumpy transcontinental ride led to the creation of a modern transportation system.

Today, our electrical system is almost as bumpy as our highways were 80 years ago. We have chopped our country into dozens of local electricity markets, which are haphazardly connected to one another. For example, a weak link in California's electrical grid makes it difficult to transfer power from the southern part of the State to the north, where the blackouts have been worse. Highways connect Miami with Seattle; phone lines link Los Angeles and New York. It is time to match your interstate highway and phone systems with an interstate electrical grid.

And here, too, technology will make a big difference. Electricity markets used to be localized because wires could not carry electrical current over long distances. More and better wires can efficiently ship power across the country, reducing the threat of local blackouts or outages.

And it's just not our electricity delivery system that has fallen behind. The energy report projects that natural gas consumption will rise rapidly, as electric utilities make greater and greater use of this environmentally friendly fuel. We will need newer, cleaner, and safer pipes to move these larger quantities of natural gas—up to 38,000 new miles of pipe and 263,000 miles of distribution lines.

We'll also need to recognize the energy potential of our neighbors, Canada and Mexico, and make it easier for buyers and sellers of energy to do business across our national borders.

And finally, we must work to build a new harmony between our energy needs and our environmental concerns. Too often Americans are asked to take sides between energy production and environmental protection, as if people who revere the Alaska wilderness do not also care about America's energy future; as if the people who produce America's energy do not care about the planet their children will inherit. The truth is, energy production and environmental protection are not competing priorities. They are dual aspects of a single purpose: to live well and wisely upon the Earth.

Just as we need a new tone in Washington, we also need a new tone in discussing energy and the environment, one that is less suspicious, less punitive, less rancorous. We've yelled at each other enough. Now it's time to listen to each other and act.

And it's time to act. The energy plan I lay out for the Nation harnesses the power of modern markets and the potential of new technology. It looks at today's energy problem and sees tomorrow's energy opportunity. It addresses today's energy shortages and shows the way to tomorrow's energy abundance.

I have great faith in our country's ability to solve the energy problem, and our energy plan shows the way. But most of all, I have great faith in the American people. Our land's ingenuity, our innovation, our entrepreneurial spirits, is this country's greatest of all resources. And thank God they are never in short supply.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. at the RiverCentre Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Norm Coleman of St. Paul; John Labosky, president, Capital City Partnership; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The President also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks at the Iowa Energy Center in Nevada, Iowa

May 17, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Senator, thank you very much. It's great to see you again, and thank you so much for introducing me. It's nice to be here in Nevada. [*Laughter*] Mr. Mayor, I bet you were a little nervous about how I was going to pronounce that, weren't you? [*Laughter*] But thank you so much, Andy, for being here. And I thank you for being here, as well, Ms. Murphy. It's an honor to see you.

I'm pleased to be here with the Governor. Mr. Governor, thank you for taking time. I am impressed that your State has got the imagination and the foresight to be on the cutting edge of research and development necessary to help our Nation become energy-independent.

I'm so honored the two fabulous State senators are here. How are you all doing? I hope you're behaving—[*laughter*]—better than you were the last time I saw you. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming. And finally, Ganske, Congressman Ganske, thank you for being here, friend. It's good to see you.

I'm thrilled to be traveling today with two members of my Cabinet, who the Senator just introduced. I'm going to ask them to say a few remarks about our vision for America. I want to thank Floyd for his hospitality. I want to thank the president of Iowa State for being here. I told him I didn't appreciate how the Iowa State people treated those Texas basketball teams this year. [*Laughter*] He said he didn't really care what I thought about how—[*laughter*].

I'm really glad to be back in Iowa. This is not a time to talk politics, but I do want to tell the citizens of Iowa I appreciated so very much the hospitality of this great State. I told people that this is a unique State, because every time I came, people treated me with respect and were very kind. I think it may be one of the kindest States in the United States, which is a great tribute to the people of this State.

Frankly, we need a little more kindness in America, and we definitely need a new tone in Washington, DC. We need to be able to have a discussion of public policy that's important for the country without name-calling and finger-pointing, without the attitude of zero-sum politics. If the President proposed it, it's got to automatically be bad, because he said so. And if an opponent said it, it's automatically got to be bad, because he or she said it. That's not right for America. And it's particularly not right when it comes to addressing huge issues and important issues, like energy security and energy independence.

Today I had the honor of talking—laying out a comprehensive energy plan for the country. I had asked the Vice President and members of my Cabinet to take a look at the situation, analyze the problem, and to come up with solutions. And today I outlined over 100 solutions, proposals as a solution to the problems we face.

We face a shortage of energy. I was reading in the newspaper today where there is a shortage of energy in one of the major cities in Iowa. It is real. It is not an imagination of anybody in my administration. It's not out of our imagination. It's a real problem. And

we believe that this administration was elected to address those problems—forget politics—to put policies out for the Nation to debate, and then to act on those policies.

So today I've laid out an initiative that said, first and foremost, we better be better conservationists in the country. We need to conserve. We need to be wise about how we use energy. We need to figure out how to drive new kinds of cars that don't overconsume hydrocarbons. We need to figure out how to have smart technologies in our homes. Citizens need to figure out how to be more conservation-oriented. We need to be mindful of turning off lights. And we've got regulations that Christie Todd may talk about, that talks about more fuel-efficient appliances. And we're making progress in America. We're better conservationists than we've been in the past, but there's still more work to do.

And secondly, no matter how well we conserve, we're still going to need more energy. As I noted today, the State of California is the second best State in the Union for conservation measures. And yet they've got a problem. They have run out of energy at times. That's called rolling blackouts. It just goes to show that we can conserve, but we also need to come up with additional supplies.

And I talked about those supplies. And one of the keys to energy security in America, and national security, is to have a diversified energy base. That means oil; that means gas; that means safe nuclear energy; that means clean coal technologies to make sure the abundance of coal that we use is done in a friendly—environmentally friendly way.

But it also means interesting new opportunities, such as biomass, and that's why we've come here. I can't think of anything better for national security than to replace barrels of oil that come into the country from nations that can't stand America—some of them don't—with products that we grow here in America. I can't think of—I would much rather replace oil from Iraq with corn products from Iowa, and it's getting within our reach.

I was talking to Floyd about how real are the products that are being looked at here; how close are we to reality. And he said, "Pretty darn close." Biodiesel is what he talked about. We're pretty darn close, and we're more than close when it comes to ethanol. It's real. And I said during the campaign here that I support ethanol. You've just got to know, I support it not only as a candidate, but I support it as the President. It makes sense for America.

You know, much of the debate on energy seems to polarize the country. It doesn't have to be that way. You're either for exploration and, therefore, against the environment, or for the environment and, therefore, against exploration. And that's not the way the discourse ought to go.

The discourse ought to go: How can we explore without hurting the environment? And I strongly believe, and I know that technologies have developed over the last 30 years, so that I can say with certainty to the American people, we can explore for precious fuels like natural gas in a way that does not harm our environment. It doesn't harm our—we can go to the Arctic, for example, and build ice roads and bring the equipment on an ice road and build a pad made out of ice and then for those few periods of time when the ice melts, withdraw the equipment. And then when the ice comes back, come back, so we don't damage the tundra. We can drill from one location to a reservoir miles away. The technology has changed.

So instead of having a debate that says, well, we can't drill because of the environment, or we can't—and we're not for energy independence if you're for the environment, we need to have a discourse that says, let's work together in America. Let's make sure we can have both. Otherwise, our folks are going to hurt.

We don't want the blackouts of California, which affects a lot of hard-working people's lives in a negative way, to extend its reach across the country. We don't want that to happen. Nobody likes it when gas prices are high. I know there are farmers out there working to make a living on a thin margin, and when the price of refined product goes up, it affects the livelihood of hard-working people in Iowa. Nobody likes that.

So instead of polarizing, we need to come together with solutions. We need more refining capacity in America, folks. We need to

make sure we protect the environment, but have incentives and regulations that encourage the development of additional supply.

And finally, in my speech today, I'm going—I talked about conservation, and I talked about additional supplies in a diversified supply base. I also talked about making sure that we get the product from point A to the consumers. And our infrastructure is aging. It's old. Our electricity grid needs to be modernized, so we can move product from point A to point B. There are places in southern California where there's ample energy, but they can't get it to northern California, where there's been blackouts, because the transmission system is not modern.

Natural gas is clean. It burns clean. It's—a lot of plants now that are coming on line to meet the electricity needs of America are going to be fueled by natural gas. And that's good news. But we need pipelines to get the gas from reservoir to user. And we need to understand that. We need to understand we need to move more product expeditiously around America.

So this is an energy plan that says to America, let's work together to get after this problem. Let's work together to bring commonsense solutions. And let's think about how best to deploy and employ our resources here in America, starting with what's happening here. We're really—I am very excited about what I heard. It's such a vast potential, and it's a great opportunity. And that's why we support research and development of such activities that take place here.

You know, I've got such great faith in America. I do, because one thing we're not in short supply of is an entrepreneurial spirit and brains and problem-solvers. That's really the greatness of America. And it's such an honor to be the President of such a great land.

And it is also my honor—and it's my honor to welcome to the podium the Secretary of Energy, former United States Senator Spencer Abraham.

[*At this point, Energy Secretary Abraham made brief remarks.*]

The President. Again Governor, thank you very much for taking time—and Mr. Mayor. Ganske, are you on the airplane with me? Oh, you're not on the airplane with me. Well, great to see you. [*Laughter*]

I must say something about your—about Senator Grassley. First of all, I got a kick out of campaigning with him throughout Iowa. He's got a remarkable sense of humor and a great love for Iowa. But he is making a good deal of progress on getting a tax relief package out of the United States Congress. Iowans need to be proud of his leadership.

I saw a lot of folks during the campaign here, and they talked a lot about me getting rid of the death tax, and we're making good progress. And Senator Grassley is really one of the leaders. He has assumed an incredibly important position in the Senate, and he is bringing a lot of honor to your State.

He's heard the call, and that is this: We need to get tax relief done as quickly as possible. I need to be signing a bill before Memorial Day so we can get money. We need to start getting some of that surplus in the hands of the hard-working American people, to help provide a second wind to our economy, and to help with some of the high energy bills that people are now facing.

And you need to be proud of your Senator. He's working hard, and I'm sure proud to call him friend. And I want to thank you all for coming and giving us a chance to talk—to close an important day in my administration here in a State that has got an incredible potential and can play a major role in value-added processing that will help this great Nation of ours realize its vast potential as we head into the 21st century.

Thanks for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. at the Biomass Energy Conversion Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Thomas Grassley, who introduced the President; Mayor Andrew Murphy of Nevada and his wife, Shelly; Gov. Thomas J. Vilsack of Iowa; Floyd Barwig, director, Iowa Energy Center; Richard Seagrave, interim president, Iowa State University; and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

Proclamation 7440—National Safe Boating Week, 2001

May 17, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Over 70 million recreational boaters enjoy our Nation's waters, and the national economic impact of recreational boating is more than $25 billion each year. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act. This legislation, designed to improve boating safety and to foster greater use and enjoyment of our rivers, lakes, bays, and waters, has accomplished these goals. By encouraging the participation of States, local communities, industry, and the boating public, new generations of Americans have benefited from the development of comprehensive boating safety programs.

Two years after passage of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, 1,754 recreational boating fatalities were reported, on a base of approximately 6 million recreational vessels registered. Since then, the number of registered boats has grown by over 100 percent, yet reported boating fatalities have declined to approximately 750–800 each year.

The coordinated efforts over the past 29 years of the Federal Government, including the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, States and local communities, and numerous recreational boating organizations, have made the Recreational Boating Safety Program a success. Cumulatively, an estimated 27,000 lives are estimated to have been saved as a result of the recreational boating safety programs established by the Federal Boat Safety Act.

However, despite these programs' successes, too many boaters still die on our Nation's waters. Recreational boating remains second only to highways in transportation-related fatalities. Some boaters lack basic boating safety knowledge and fail to adequately prepare or exercise caution when boating. Though recent accident statistics show improvement in many categories, nearly 70 percent of all recreational boating victims die by drowning. Nearly 90 percent of these drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Most of those lives could have been saved if the victims had simply worn their life jackets.

This year's North American Safe Boating Campaign, highlighted during National Safe Boating Week, will emphasize the theme of "Boat Smart from the Start! Wear Your Life Jacket!" Many recreational boating organizations promote safety through educational programs, and I encourage those who will be on our waterways to take advantage of these lessons. I also urge all Americans who enjoy boating to wear their life jackets and otherwise to conduct themselves responsibly and safely.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 19 through May 25, 2001, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this occasion and to urge Americans to practice safe boating habits throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 21, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 18, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 22.

Remarks Greeting Crewmembers of the United States Navy Surveillance Aircraft Downed in China and an Exchange With Reporters

May 18, 2001

The President. Welcome to the Oval Office. The Vice President and I are thrilled to be able to look you in the eye and say, thanks for your service to the country. I remember in my phone call saying, "Gosh, I hope I can welcome you to the Oval Office," and here you are.

You handled yourselves with such class and dignity, it was important for our Nation to realize the fine caliber of people that serve our country. And we're really proud of you. We appreciate your mission, but most of all, we appreciate your character. And so it's my honor to welcome you here. I look forward to giving you a tour around this majestic office, a shrine to the greatness of America.

I want to say one other thing before we visit informally. Today the violence in the Middle East took on a new level of intensity. Our country is deeply concerned, first and foremost, for those who lost their life and for the families affected. It is essential that the leaders in the Middle East speak out clearly against violence.

We must break the cycle of violence in order to begin meaningful discussions about any kind of political settlement. My administration will continue to work with the parties involved, reminding folks that violence will not lead to peace, obviously. Violence will make it so difficult for there to be any political settlement.

I'm concerned any time anybody loses life. I'm especially concerned about suicide bombers that have disregard for themselves and, obviously, for innocent folks. We will continue to work hard to bring peace to that important part of the region.

Thank you all for coming.

EP–3 Surveillance Aircraft in China

Q. What is the latest on the spy plane?

The President. We're working to get the plane home. We're making progress about getting the plane home. But today we get to celebrate the fact that the crew is home. And that's the most important thing.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation in Conestoga, Pennsylvania

May 18, 2001

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Well, Governor, thank you very much. It's an honor to be back in your beautiful State. I'm glad you told me you were overseas recently; I thought you might have been boycotting my last visit to your State—[*laughter*]—which was Monday. [*Laughter*]

Laura and I consider Tom and Michelle close, personal friends, as well as political allies. And I know the people of Pennsylvania consider him to be an excellent Governor, because he is one.

I want to thank you all for coming. And I also want to thank the hundreds of citizens that lined the road as we came in, to wave. It makes a fellow feel pretty good to see all the flags and the salutes. This is a wonderful place to come, not only because it speaks volumes about the policy that I'm going to address today, but it also reminds me of how wonderful our country is, how good and solid the people are that inhabit the great land called America. So if you see any of them that were on the road coming in, tell them the President says, thanks a lot for the hospitality.

I'm also honored to be traveling today with Members of the United States Congress. The United States Senator—I was going to say, the senior Senator, but I'm looking for some votes from him—[*laughter*]—but that's Arlen Specter, who is doing a great job for the people of Pennsylvania; and the younger Senator, Senator Rick Santorum, as well; as well, a friend of mine from the great State of Alaska is with us, chairman of the Energy Committee, Frank Murkowski. I think old Frank must be looking for a cup of coffee somewhere. [*Laughter*]

We also have the Congressman from this area, Congressman Todd Platts. Where are you, Todd? There you go, thank you, buddy.

And Congressman Joe Pitts and Congressman George Gekas, as well, from the State of Pennsylvania.

And we're pleased, as well, to have a Member of the United States Congress from the West who, like Murkowski, takes great interest in energy policy, and that's Congressman Jim Hansen from the State of Utah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Marshall Kaiser and the hard-working employees of Safe Harbor who made our visit so special. Thank you for making all the arrangements, and thanks for setting up this spectacular place to deliver a few remarks and to sign some important documents.

You know, when I ran for office, I told the people of our country that I would put together a Cabinet of some of the finest Americans that would be—who would be willing to serve. And I did so. I'm blessed with a great Cabinet, and two of the fine Cabinet members are here with us: Spence Abraham and Christie Todd Whitman. And I thank them so much for their leadership.

I was pretty plainspoken about what I intended to do, should I be fortunate enough to become the President. And when I put my hand on the Bible that day, right afterwards, I intended to get to work. I said, it's time to get after it, time to do in office what I said I would do. And that's what's taken place in Washington.

First, I said if I happened to be the President, I was going to fight for meaningful, real tax relief to make sure the working people got to put some of that surplus in their pockets, and we're about to have tax cuts for the American people. And my call to Congress is to get it done before Memorial Day, to get the money to the people before the great Memorial Day holiday, so people have got more money to spend and save and more money in their pockets to take care of some of these energy prices that exist as a result of the failure to have an energy plan for America.

Secondly, I said, give us a chance, and we have put together a group of Congressmen and Senators to pass meaningful, real reform of our education system; one that would empower local folks, to give more power at the local level—because we recognize one size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children—but also one that says if you receive Federal money, show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract, because we want to know.

We want to know whether or not the very faces of our future are learning and, if they're not—if they're not, we won't sit idly by in America. When we find youngsters who can't read, we'll correct the problems early, before it's too late, because our motto is, "Not one single child will be left behind in America."

I told the people of our country we would boost the morale of the military by having a clear mission and also making sure our troops were better paid and better housed. And my budget reflects that commitment to the military.

And I told the people during the campaign that we've got a problem with energy in America. Our demand is going up, and the supplies aren't going up with demand, and therefore, there is pressure on price. I said it in the campaign and I'm saying it to you now: This Nation must adopt a national energy plan to make sure our consumers and workers and entrepreneurs have the capacity to realize the visions of a better life that we all have for America.

And so, yesterday I gave a speech that did just that, a speech that recognizes we have a problem. I figured I was elected to solve problems, if there are problems, not just to hold the office but to solve problems. And so we laid out a plan that has 100 different proposals—more than 100 proposals as to how to get after this energy problem we face and what to do about it. And it starts with encouraging and enhancing conservation efforts all around America. We can do a better job of conserving in this country. We can have policies that encourage conservation. We can have research that yields to better methodology for conservation.

But all of us must do a better job of conserving, as well. Each of us must be mindful of being conscious about wasting electricity. We're going to have better cars, I'm convinced of it, that have better mileage, rely less upon hydrocarbons. We'll have better homes, many of which will be powered by solar energy. This future is fantastic for the

country. And a lot of it is based upon good, sound conservation measures.

But as I reminded the people yesterday, a State that has done a fantastic job in conservation has been the State of California. They're the second best at conservation measures. And yet, they're lacking energy; they're having blackouts. And we all must be deeply concerned about our fellow citizens in the great State of California.

But the problems in California shows that you cannot conserve your way to energy independence, that not only do we need to have good conservation, but we must have a diversified base of supply, including hydroelectric supply.

And I also talked about the need to make sure that we had a modern infrastructure to be able to get energy from the powerplant to the light switch, that we've got to do a better job of modernizing the capacity to move not only electricity but products like natural gas from point A to point B, in order to have an energy—to have a country where we have abundant and cheaper and safer and cleaner energy sources.

So this is a vision that recognizes, one, we have a problem, and the willingness to confront it; but two, a vision that relies upon common sense, and it relies upon ingenuity of the American people and the entrepreneurial instincts of our country.

And it's great to be here in Pennsylvania, because Pennsylvania is a State that's on the forefront of diversification and conservation. And it's an appropriate place to be, because this dam is a symbol of the new age of environmental possibilities. It's powering Pennsylvania's economy, while at the same time restoring Pennsylvania wildlife. It goes to show that economic growth and a good environmental policy do not have to be zero-sum. It doesn't have to be either/or.

And one of the most important things we've got to do in this country is change the tone about the debate about economic growth and the environment. You know, it seems like recently, those of us who used to not be in Washington, we'd be looking up there and seeing that people would rather argue than discuss. They'd rather call names, rather than come up with solutions. They'd rather point fingers at people, rather than holding out the hand of constructive dialog. And it's got to change.

And this is an administration that's committed—committed—to putting the people ahead of politics and talking about dialog. And discussing important issues in a way that will bring honor to the process. So that when youngsters look up at our Nation's Capitol, they're proud of what they see.

And we laid out a plan, and I hope there's good, honorable debate about the plan, because it's based upon common sense and it's based upon hope and it's based upon new technologies.

I think it's very important for our country to realize what Spence talked about, and that is the need to make sure we diversify our energy supplies. It's important to do so for national security reasons, for starters. As I mentioned yesterday in Iowa—we went to a place that was doing research on biomass and value-added processing—and I said to the folks there, I said, "I would much rather have our economy powered by crops grown in Iowa than barrels of oil coming out of Iraq." It's in our Nation's interest that we diversify. It's in our Nation's interest that we become less dependent upon nations, some of which really don't care for what we believe in. And I believe we can do so.

Now, that's going to mean we've got to understand the power and promise of nuclear energy, that we've got to be willing to discuss nuclear energy and recognize that nuclear power is much safer than it's ever been and, at the same time, use sound science to help us find the right place to store the product of nuclear power.

It means we've got to understand the hope and promise of natural gas and be willing to explore for natural gas in places that heretofore have been off limits, such as remote areas of Alaska.

I want you all to understand that the debate about ANWR is one that is not based—as far as I'm concerned—based upon sound fact. You see, first of all, ANWR—what we're talking about is 2,000 acres amongst, I believe it's 19 million acres; secondly, the technology has changed so that one is able to have a single drill site and explore for reservoir miles away from the drill site; thirdly, the explorationists are willing to only move

equipment during the winter, which means they'll be on ice roads, and remove the equipment as the ice begins to melt, so that the fragile tundra is protected.

People have got to understand that it's possible that we could find, and likely find, 600,000 barrels of oil a day out of ANWR. That's what we import from Saudi—I mean, from Iraq. It makes sense, folks, for us to have an environmentally sensitive exploration plan in America in order to diversify supply, not only for national security reasons but for international reasons, as well.

We need more natural gas in America. Natural gas is a clean burning fuel. There's a lot of it. But in order to find it, we're going to have to move it by pipeline. And we need more pipeline, and we need safer pipelines, and technology allows us to do so.

There's a lot of discussion about alternative sources of energy. Hydroelectric power is one, and our Nation must welcome hydroelectric power as a renewable resource. They talk about solar energy. We're very much in support of the alternative forms of energy. I hope some day that these renewables will be the dominant source of energy in America. I'm not so sure how realistic that is, but nevertheless, they'll play an integral part of the energy mix in America. And my administration, through incentives and research, will encourage them to be.

I firmly believe we can solve this problem. I know we can't solve it without a plan, and that's why I've laid one out. I know we can't solve it without an administration being willing to say, "This is a tough issue, but we want to tackle it. We want to take it on. We want to lead the people, and so we're willing to do that." It's right for America that we do so. It's the right thing for this country. It's the right thing for people who are coming up in a land, that want to realize their dreams. And it's right to change the tone in Washington, DC, as well. And we need your help to do so.

When you hear these folks, it doesn't matter what side of the debate they're on, or are willing to kind of castigate somebody who may have a good idea. Stand up and let them have it. This is too important an issue. It's too important an issue to allow the rhetoric to deteriorate.

And so what I'm here to tell you is, is that you've got an administration that's willing to take the lead on a tough issue; an—administrations that's going to bring some commonsense practice to energy policy; and an administration that is willing to talk, not only about conservation but enhancing supply and the means to get supply to those who use it; an administration who understands the responsibility of the high offices that we hold; an administration that looks forward to working with my fellow Americans to get it done.

I said yesterday, and I know it's true, that we're going to lead the world when it comes to energy and how to do it and how to balance our needs and still have economic growth and how to have good environmental policy with economic growth. Because one thing we're not short of—we may be short of certain forms of energy, but we're not short of the American spirit. We're not short of innovative people. We're not short of hard-working Americans. We're not short of the entrepreneurial spirit. As a matter of fact, we've got a plentiful supply of all those. And as a result, this great Nation is going to be a leader, not a follower, when it comes to energy policy.

Yesterday I talked about the need for us to act. And today I have the honor of acting. I'm going to sign two Executive orders to promote energy security, and I'm honored to do so right here in the great State of Pennsylvania. I'm sure there were some folks that were watching the speech or heard about the speech, probably saying, "Yes, all we've got now is another report that's going to sit on a shelf in Washington, just to gather a little dust."

I can assure the American people that mine is an administration that's not interested in gathering dust. We're interested in acting. And so today—one of the Executive orders will bring new energy projects online faster, and that's especially important this year, as we end—as we work together to end the blackouts in California. And the other will ensure that the Federal Government pays due attention to energy when it makes decisions, because the fuel that powers our economy should never be a second thought.

To bring projects faster online, I'm ordering all Federal agencies to expedite their review of energy related permits, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. These protections are vital, and so is energy. And we don't want to either—we don't want either of them snarled in bureaucratic tangles, as local governments or entrepreneurs seek permit after permit from agency after agency. This Executive order creates an inter-agency task force to examine how to move good projects through the Federal bureaucracy as quickly as possible. And to underscore my administration's commitment to reconciling energy production and environmental protection, the task force will be chaired by the Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality.

The next Executive order prods the Federal Government to take America's energy supplies very seriously. Any Federal agency that proposes a major regulatory action that significantly affects energy must, from now on, file a statement of energy impact if the decision will have an adverse affect on energy supply, distribution, or use. And the agency must describe what reasonable alternatives to its decision may exist.

The statement of energy impact is not a red light preventing any agency from taking any action. It is a yellow light that says, pause and think before you make decisions that squeeze consumer's pocketbooks, that may cause energy shortages or that may make us more dependent on foreign energy.

These two orders are the next steps toward a brighter energy future. Thank you for joining me as I sign them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. on the intake deck. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and his wife Michelle; and Marshall J. Kaiser, president and chief executive officer, Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation. The President also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Executive Order 13211—Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use

May 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to appropriately weigh and consider the effects of the Federal Government's regulations on the supply, distribution, and use of energy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.* The Federal Government can significantly affect the supply, distribution, and use of energy. Yet there is often too little information regarding the effects that governmental regulatory action can have on energy. In order to provide more useful energy-related information and hence improve the quality of agency decisionmaking, I am requiring that agencies shall prepare a Statement of Energy Effects when undertaking certain agency actions. As described more fully below, such Statements of Energy Effects shall describe the effects of certain regulatory actions on energy supply, distribution, or use.

Sec. 2. *Preparation of a Statement of Energy Effects.* (a) To the extent permitted by law, agencies shall prepare and submit a Statement of Energy Effects to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, for those matters identified as significant energy actions.

(b) A Statement of Energy Effects shall consist of a detailed statement by the agency responsible for the significant energy action relating to:

(i) any adverse effects on energy supply, distribution, or use (including a shortfall in supply, price increases, and increased use of foreign supplies) should the proposal be implemented, and

(ii) reasonable alternatives to the action with adverse energy effects and the expected effects of such alternatives on energy supply, distribution, and use.

(c) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall provide guidance to the agencies on the implementation of this order and shall consult with other agencies as appropriate in the implementation of this order.

Sec. 3. *Submission and Publication of Statements.* (a) Agencies shall submit their Statements of Energy Effects to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, whenever they present the related submission under Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, or any successor order.

(b) Agencies shall publish their Statements of Energy Effects, or a summary thereof, in each related Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and in any resulting Final Rule.

Sec. 4. *Definitions.* For purposes of this order:

(a) "Regulation" and "rule" have the same meaning as they do in Executive Order 12866 or any successor order.

(b) "Significant energy action" means any action by an agency (normally published in the *Federal Register*) that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or regulation, including notices of inquiry, advance notices of proposed rulemaking, and notices of proposed rulemaking:

(1) (i) that is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 or any successor order, and

(ii) is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy; or

(2) that is designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action.

(c) "Agency" means any authority of the United States that is an "agency" under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1), other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies, as defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(5).

Sec. 5. *Judicial Review.* Nothing in this order shall affect any otherwise available judicial review of agency action. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:19 a.m., May 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 22.

Executive Order 13212—Actions To Expedite Energy-Related Projects

May 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to take additional steps to expedite the increased supply and availability of energy to our Nation, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.* The increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people. In general, it is the policy of this Administration that executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to expedite projects that will increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy.

Sec. 2. *Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects.* For energy-related projects, agencies shall expedite their review of permits or take other actions as necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. The agencies shall take such actions to the extent permitted by law and regulation, and where appropriate.

Sec. 3. *Interagency Task Force.* There is established an interagency task force (Task Force) to monitor and assist the agencies in their efforts to expedite their review of permits or similar actions, as necessary, to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects, increase energy production and conservation, and improve transmission of energy. The Task Force also shall monitor

and assist agencies in setting up appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal, and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected. The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Commerce, Transportation, the Interior, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Energy, Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Council of Economic Advisers, Domestic Policy Council, National Economic Council, and such other representatives as may be determined by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and housed at the Department of Energy for administrative purposes.

Sec. 4. *Judicial Review.* Nothing in this order shall affect any otherwise available judicial review of agency action. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:19 a.m., May 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 22.

Proclamation 7441—World Trade Week, 2001

May 18, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Trade has an extraordinary impact on our Nation's economic strength and can be a powerful force for good in the world. This year's World Trade Week, observed in communities across the country, will showcase the value of trade to all our citizens.

Exports have accounted for almost one-quarter of the United States economic growth during the past decade. We continue to be the world's largest exporter of goods and services. From life-saving medical devices to information technology that allows people to be more productive, American ingenuity is bringing some of the best and most competitive and innovative products to the world marketplace.

Across America, our exports support 12 million jobs that pay wages higher than the national average, and high-tech jobs supported by exports pay even more. It is no coincidence that the longest period of sustained economic growth in U.S. history has followed efforts to liberalize trade, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round Agreement that established the World Trade Organization. Trade also leads to more competitive businesses, more choices of goods for consumers, and lower prices.

Along with economic progress, open trade also helps build democracies and spreads freedom as it reinforces the spirit of liberty by spurring economic and legal reforms. When we promote open trade, we promote both economic and political freedom. Societies that open to commerce will one day open to liberty.

World Trade Week celebrates trade as an economic and social engine for progress with a special focus on the services sector—the largest sector in the private economy, providing more than 85 million jobs. These service sector jobs involve a wide range of industries, including banking and insurance, travel, entertainment, telecommunications, energy, and environ mental services. We are proud that the United States is the world's top producer and exporter of services, exporting some $300 billion worth a year.

In addition to the significance of exporting services, export of goods continues to be vitally important to our economic performance. More than 20 percent of our domestic goods are exported, and for durable goods the figure jumps to 36 percent. These exports

support millions of high-quality U.S. jobs and play a key role in U.S. economic growth. However, our ability to sustain or expand this growth will require tapping the trade potential of the emerging economies in Asia and Latin America, as well as bolstering our trade agreements with developed economies such as Japan and the European Union. Strengthening our trade agreements with these countries, not only opens their economies to U.S. goods and services, but also leads to higher rates of foreign investment. This investment creates growth, jobs, and the means to buy the products we export from the United States.

The United States will work for open trade at every opportunity. The executive and legislative branches need to work together to provide the means to cooperate on trade objectives. The renewal of U.S. trade promotion authority will bolster a partnership between the executive and legislative branches and will enhance the ability of the United States to negotiate new trade agreements. We will work for more open trade globally through talks in the WTO. We will work to create a free trade zone in the Western Hemisphere by 2005. Our commitment to open trade will be coupled with a commitment to protect our environment and improve labor standards.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 20 through May 26, 2001, as World Trade Week. I encourage Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:19 a.m., May 21, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 22.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Military Personnel as Part of the Kosovo International Security Force

May 18, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On December 18, 2000, then-President Clinton provided a report to the Congress regarding the continued deployment of combat-equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide a military presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the Terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is approximately 6,000 U.S. military personnel. An additional 500 U.S. military personnel are deployed as the National Support Element in Macedonia, with an occasional presence in Albania and Greece. In the last 6 months, all 19 NATO nations and 21 others, including Russia, have provided military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR in Kosovo and other countries in the region.

In Kosovo, the U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered upon Gnjilane in the eastern portion of Kosovo. For U.S.

KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 79 percent of KFOR soldiers are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo, including through the recent promulgation of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self Government and preparations for Kosovo-wide elections. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, and is represented at the Kosovo Transitional Council and the Joint Civil Commissions. Also, KFOR support includes providing a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizing checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Finally, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. The conclusions reached as a result of the ongoing 6-month review, which is scheduled to be completed by late May, will be presented to the NATO foreign and defense ministers' meeting, which will be held in late May and early June. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. The KFOR has transferred responsibility for its public safety and policing responsibilities to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica and Pec.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 13

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Camp David, MD.

May 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he met with Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Barrie Walkley to be Ambassador to Guinea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter W. Rodman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

May 15

The President announced his intention to nominate Marvin R. Sambur to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Research, and Development.

May 16

The President announced his intention to nominate P.H. Johnson to be Federal Cochairperson of the Delta Regional Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph M. DeThomas to be Ambassador to Estonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore H. Kattouf to be Ambassador to Syria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maureen Quinn to be Ambassador to Qatar.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arlene Render to be Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marcelle Wahba to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

The President designated John E. Higgins to be Acting General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President designated Peter J. Hurtgen to be Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and order Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning March 23 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and tornadoes on April 10–23.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding on March 5–31.

The President declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and mudslides beginning on May 6 and continuing.

May 17

In the morning, the President traveled to St. Paul, MN, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Nevada, IA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as Governors on the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross: David Thomas McLaughlin, Anthony Joseph Principi, Donald Louis Evans, Richard Lee Armitage, Tommy G. Thompson, Roderick R. Paige, Joe M. Allbaugh, and Gen. Henry H. Shelton.

The President declared a major disaster in Colorado and order Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms on April 11–22.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and ice jams on March 1–April 30.

May 18

In the morning, the President traveled to Conestoga, PA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, where he attended a Cuban Indepndence Day event in the East Room at the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Nicholas Burns to be the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with the rank of Ambassador.

The President designated Frank D. Yturria to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President designated Patricia Hill Williams to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The White House announced that the President will visit Slovenia in June.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 14

Paul Vincent Kelly,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), vice Barbara Mills Larkin.

Lynn Leibovitz,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Stephen G. Milliken, retired.

George Tracy Mehan III,
of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice J. Charles Fox, resigned.

John D. Negroponte,
of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, vice Richard Holbrooke.

John D. Negroponte,
of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Peter W. Rodman,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Edward L. Warner III.

Brian Carlton Roseboro,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Lewis Andrew Sachs, resigned.

Allan Rutter,
of Texas, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, vice Jolene Mortiz Molitoris, resigned.

Patricia Lynn Scarlett,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice M. John Berry.

Submitted May 16

Angela Antonelli,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Richard F. Keevey.

Lori A. Forman,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Robert C.Randolph, resigned.

Pierre-Richard Prosper,
of California, to be Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, vice David J. Scheffer.

Charles J. Swindells,
of Oregon, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Samoa.

Margaret DeBardeleben Tutwiler,
of Alabama, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Submitted May 17

George L. Argyros, Sr.,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Andorra.

Howard H. Baker, Jr.,
of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

Richard F. Cebull,
of Montana, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana, vice Jack D. Shanstrom, retired.

Robert E. Fabricant,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Gary S. Guzy, resigned.

Sam E. Haddon,
of Montana, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana, vice Charles C. Lovell, retired.

Allen Frederick Johnson,
of Iowa, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Gregory M. Frazier.

Donald Burnham Ensenat,
of Louisiana, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, vice Mary Mel French.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 14

Announceemnt of nomination for Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released May 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Puerto Rico

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nebraska

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Released May 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Colorado

Released May 18

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Slovenia

Announcement of nominations for District Judges on the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Remarks in Recognition of Cuban Independence Day

May 18, 2001

Sientese. [*Laughter*] *Bienvenidos a la casa de todos que—quien viven en este grande pais.* Welcome to the White House.

Mr. Secretary, you were an easy pick. [*Laughter*] There's no question you do a fabulous job on behalf of America. Thank you for taking the assignment.

Another member of my team who is here who helps us have a strong and certain foreign policy is *Senorita Condoleezza Arroz.* [*Laughter*] That means "Rice." [*Laughter*]

Senator Graham, thank you for being here. We're honored by your presence. I know you're a strong friend of Cuba's. And of course, to—and it's great that Ileana and Lincoln are with us, as well. Thank you.

I noticed when Gloria sang the Cuban anthem, that the first two people on their feet were the two Congresspeople from south Florida. And Lincoln, I did notice that you were braced at attention, too, I might add—proud. So it's great to have you all here.

Gloria, thank you very much. Sorry you brought your husband—no. [*Laughter*] We love Emilio. He's a good man. And Gloria, thank you for coming and bringing *tu ninita.* Thank you all for being here. We love your music. Your husband has been such a good friend of me and my family, and so have you.

The great poet—man, you must be a strong person with a beautiful heart and a wonderful, artistic touch. Angel, welcome to the White House. And Lizebet, thank you for coming. I don't think many in America know your story, that you were picked up on a raft, and you played the national anthem on your violin when you were picked up. That's beautiful.

And finally—*por fin, "la Voz"*—[*laughter*]—Jon Secada. Thank you, Jon, for being here. I appreciate you very much. Glad you're here.

It's a great honor for me to welcome you all to the White House to celebrate May 20th, Cuban Independence Day. It's a day when we honor the warm family ties, the faith, the history, and heritage that unite our two peoples.

As Angel and Lizebet and so many others remind us, it is a day when we pay thanks to the magnificent contributions of Cubans to our national life. They enrich every field, from science to industry to the arts, including my favorite performing art—baseball. [*Laughter*] But mostly, today is a day when we reflect on the greatnesses of Cuba's far-too-distant past and the brightness of its future, of how, together, we can hasten that future's arrival.

Just last month I returned from the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. Thirty-four democratic nations committed ourselves to building a hemisphere of freedom. But one nation was not there, because that nation has a leader who has no place at the democratic table. Indeed, his nation is not free, but enslaved. He is the last holdout of the hemisphere, and time is not on his side.

The Cuban independence we celebrate today was the product of the enormous courage of the Cuban people and the statesmanship of leaders such as Jose Marti. The tyranny that rules Cuba today stands as an insult to their sacrifices. But we're confident in one fact: Cuban courage is more powerful and enduring than Castro's legacy and tyranny.

Our Nation has an economic embargo against Castro's regime. But today, of all days, it is important for us to remember that our goal is not to have an embargo against Cuba; it is freedom in Cuba.

The United States welcomes the opportunity to trade with Cuba when there are entrepreneurs who are free to trade with us. We welcome the opportunity to build diplomatic relations with Cuba when the Cuban Government is a democracy, when the Cuban people can be free from fear to say

what they think and choose who shall govern them.

The sanctions our Government enforces against the Castro regime are not just a policy tool; they're a moral statement. My administration will oppose any attempt to weaken sanctions against Cuba's Government until the regime—and I will fight such attempts until this regime frees its political prisoners, holds democratic, free elections, and allows for free speech.

The policy of our Government is not merely to isolate Castro but to actively support those working to bring about democratic change in Cuba. And that is why we will support legislation like the "Cuban Solidarity Act" and the "Cuban Internal Opposition Assistance Act." History tells us that forcing change upon repressive regimes requires patience. But history also proves, from Poland to South Africa, that patience and courage and resolve can eventually cause oppressive governments to fear and then to fall.

One of the surest ways to foster freedom is to give people unlimited access to unbiased information. The strongest walls of oppression can't stand when the floodgates of modern telecommunications are opened. We must explore ways to expand access to the Internet for the average Cuban citizen. And we must strengthen the voices of Radio and TV Marti, with strong leadership. And we will strengthen those voices with strong leadership and new direction.

Today I say this to Mr. Castro: If you are confident your ideas are right, then stop jamming the broadcasts of those whose ideas are different. And until you do, we will look for ways to use new technology, from new locations to counter your silencing of the voices of liberty.

Last month the U.N. Human Rights Commission called on Castro's regime to respect the basic human rights of all its people. The United States leadership was responsible for passage of that resolution. Some say we paid a heavy price for it. But let me be clear: I'm very proud of what we did. And repressed people around the world must know this about the United States: We might not sit on some Commission, but we will always be the world's leader in support of human rights.

Today, all our citizens are proud to stand with all Cubans and all Cuban-Americans who love freedom. We will continue to stand with you until that day, hopefully not in the too-distant future, when all Cubans breathe the heady air of liberty.

We are proud to stand with those Cubans who, today, enrich our Nation with their energies and industry. We're proud to stand with the farmers and workers of Cuba who dream of liberty's blessings. We are proud to stand, too, with those who are suffering and dying in jails because they had the courage to speak the truth.

Y aqui en este Casa Blanca, estamos felices de cultivar "una rosa blanca en Julio como en Enero." Y por fin, viva Cuba libre.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel R. Martinez; Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Diaz-Balart; entertainers Gloria and Emilio Estefan; poet Angel Cuadra; musician Lizebet Martinez; singer Jon Secada; and President Fidel Castro of Cuba. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 19, 2001

Good morning. This week I outlined a new energy strategy for our Nation—more than 100 specific recommendations to promote energy conservation, enlarge and diversify our energy supply, and modernize the networks that link energy producers to energy consumers.

We need to act to protect family budgets. Since 1998, the energy bill of the average family has skyrocketed by 25 percent. That's a hardship for every family. We need to act to prevent more and more widespread blackouts. Blackouts disrupt businesses and put public health and safety at risk. We need to act to reduce our reliance on foreign crude oil. And if we fail to act, our environment will suffer, as Government officials struggle to prevent blackouts in the only way possible, by calling on more polluting emergency

backup generators and by running less efficient old powerplants too long and too hard. So we will act to protect our economy and to safeguard our environment.

Too often Americans are asked to take sides between energy production and environmental protection. The truth is, energy production and environmental protection are not competing priorities. Both can be achieved with new technology and a new vision.

Most of the new electric powerplants we build over the next 20 years will be fueled by clean and safe natural gas. Many of the others will be powered by wind, solar, hydropower, nuclear, and other energy sources that emit no pollution at all. New cars emit 95 percent less pollution than cars built 30 years ago. And my energy plan fosters the development of a new generation of cars that is even cleaner still.

Wise regulation and American innovation will make this country the world's leader in energy efficiency and conservation in the 21st century. We will use less and less additional energy to fuel more and more economic growth. Yet, even as we grow more efficient, we will always require some additional energy to power our expanding economy.

Advanced new technologies allow entrepreneurs to find oil and to extract it in ways that leave nature undisturbed. Where oil is found underneath sensitive landscapes, rigs can now stand miles away from the oilfield and tap the reservoir at an angle. In Arctic sites, like ANWR, we can build roads on ice that literally melt away when summer comes and the drilling stops to protect wildlife.

I was just in Pennsylvania and paid a visit to the Susquehanna River. After years of being endangered, American shad have been restored to this great waterway, and the fish are thriving alongside the dam that is generating emission-free hydroelectric power to meet the needs of Pennsylvania's people.

It's time to leave behind rancorous old arguments and build a positive new consensus. With new technology, sound regulation, and plain good sense, we can expand our energy production while protecting the environment. And that is exactly what my energy approach is designed to do.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:20 p.m. on May 18 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 19. In his address, the President referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Commencement Address at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana

May 20, 2001

Thank you, Father Malloy. Thank you all for that warm welcome. Chairman McCartan, Father Scully, Dr. Hatch, Notre Dame trustees, members of the class of 2001. It is a high privilege to receive this degree. I'm particularly pleased that it bears the great name of Notre Dame. My brother Jeb may be the Catholic in the family—[*laughter*]—but between us, I'm the only Domer. [*Laughter*]

I have spoken on this campus before. It was in 1980, the year my dad ran for Vice President with Ronald Reagan. I think I really won over the crowd that day. [*Laughter*] In fact, I'm sure of it, because all six of them walked me to my car. [*Laughter*]

That was back when Father Hesburgh was the president of this university, during a tenure that in many ways defined the reputation and values of Notre Dame. It's a real honor to be with Father Hesburgh and with Father Joyce. Between them, these two good priests have given nearly a century of service to Notre Dame. I'm told that Father Hesburgh now holds 146 honorary degrees. That's pretty darn impressive, Father, but I'm gaining on you. [*Laughter*] As of today, I'm only 140 behind. [*Laughter*]

Let me congratulate all the members of the class of 2001. You made it, and we're all proud of you on this big day. I also congratulate the parents, who, after these years, are happy, proud—and broke. [*Laughter*]

I commend this fine faculty for the years of work and instruction that produced this outstanding class.

And I'm pleased to join my fellow honorees, as well. I'm in incredibly distinguished company with authors, executives, educators, church officials, and eminent scientists. We're sharing a memorable day and a great honor, and I congratulate you all.

Notre Dame, as a Catholic university, carries forward a great tradition of social teaching. It calls on all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic, to honor family, to protect life in all its stages, to serve and uplift the poor. This university is more than a community of scholars; it is a community of conscience and an ideal place to report on our Nation's commitment to the poor and how we're keeping it.

In 1964, the year I started college, another President from Texas delivered a commencement address talking about this national commitment. In that speech, President Lyndon Johnson issued a challenge. He said, "This is the time for decision. You are the generation which must decide. Will you decide to leave the future a society where a man is condemned to hopelessness because he was born poor, or will you join to wipe out poverty in this land?"

In that speech, Lyndon Johnson advocated a War on Poverty which had noble intentions and some enduring successes. Poor families got basic health care; disadvantaged children were given a head start in life. Yet, there were also some consequences that no one wanted or intended. The welfare entitlement became an enemy of personal effort and responsibility, turning many recipients into dependents. The War on Poverty also turned too many citizens into bystanders, convinced that compassion had become the work of Government alone.

In 1996 welfare reform confronted the first of these problems with a 5-year time limit on benefits and a work requirement to receive them. Instead of a way of life, welfare became an offer of temporary help—not an entitlement, but a transition. Thanks in large part to this change, welfare rolls have been cut in half; work and self-respect have been returned to many lives. This is a tribute to the Republicans and Democrats who agreed on reform, and to the President who signed it, President Bill Clinton.

Our Nation has confronted welfare dependency. But our work is only half done. Now we must confront the second problem, to revive the spirit of citizenship, to marshal the compassion of our people to meet the continuing needs of our Nation. This is a challenge to my administration and to each one of you. We must meet that challenge because it is right and because it is urgent.

Welfare as we knew it has ended, but poverty has not. When over 12 million children live below the poverty line, we are not a post-poverty America. Most States are seeing the first wave of welfare recipients who have reached the law's 5-year time limit. The easy cases have already left the welfare rolls. The hardest problems remain, people with far fewer skills and greater barriers to work, people with complex human problems like illiteracy and addiction, abuse and mental illness. We do not yet know what will happen to these men and women or to their children, but we cannot sit and watch, leaving them to their own struggles and their own fate.

This is a great deal at stake. In our attitudes and actions, we are determining the character of our country. When poverty is considered hopeless, America is condemned to permanent social division, becoming a nation of caste and class, divided by fences and gates and guards.

Our task is clear, and it's difficult: We must build our country's unity by extending our country's blessings.

We make that commitment because we are Americans. Aspiration is the essence of our country. We believe in social mobility, not social Darwinism. We are the country of the second chance, where failure is never final, and that dream has sometimes been deferred; it must never be abandoned.

We are committed to compassion for practical reasons. When men and women are lost to themselves, they are also lost to our Nation. When millions are hopeless, all of us are diminished by the loss of their gifts.

And we're committed to compassion for moral reasons. Jewish prophets and Catholic teaching both speak of God's special concern for the poor. This is perhaps the most radical teaching of faith, that the value of life is not

contingent on wealth or strength or skill, that value is a reflection of God's image.

Much of today's poverty has more to do with troubled lives than a troubled economy. And often when a life is broken, it can only be restored by another caring, concerned human being. The answer for an abandoned child is not a job requirement; it is the loving presence of a mentor. The answer to addiction is not a demand for self-sufficiency; it is a personal support on the hard road to recovery.

The hope we seek is found in safe havens for battered women and children, in homeless shelters, in crisis pregnancy centers, in programs that tutor and conduct job training and help young people who may happen to be on parole. All these efforts provide not just a benefit but attention and kindness, a touch of courtesy, a dose of grace.

Mother Teresa said that what the poor often need, even more than shelter and food—though these are desperately needed, as well—is to be wanted. And that sense of belonging is within the power of each of us to provide. Many in this community have shown what compassion can accomplish.

Notre Dame's own Lou Nanni is the former director of South Bend's Center for the Homeless, an institution founded by two Notre Dame professors. It provides guests with everything from drug treatment to mental health service to classes in the Great Books to preschool for young children. Discipline is tough. Faith is encouraged, not required. Student volunteers are committed and consistent and central to its mission. Lou Nanni describes this mission as repairing the fabric of society by letting people see the inherent worth and dignity and God-given potential of every human being.

Compassion often works best on a small and human scale. It is generally better when a call for help is local, not long distance. Here at this university, you've heard that call and responded. It is part of what makes Notre Dame a great university.

This is my message today: There is no great society which is not a caring society. And any effective War on Poverty must deploy what Dorothy Day called "the weapons of spirit."

There is only one problem with groups like South Bend's Center for the Homeless; there are not enough of them. It's not sufficient to praise charities and community groups; we must support them. And this is both a public obligation and a personal responsibility.

The War on Poverty established a Federal commitment to the poor. The welfare reform legislation of 1996 made that commitment more effective. For the task ahead, we must move to the third stage of combating poverty in America. Our society must enlist, equip, and empower idealistic Americans in the works of compassion that only they can provide.

Government has an important role. We will never be replaced by charities. My administration increases funding for major social welfare and poverty programs by 8 percent. Yet, Government must also do more to take the side of charities and community healers and support their work. We've had enough of the stale debate between big Government and indifferent Government. Government must be active enough to fund services for the poor and humble enough to let good people in local communities provide those services.

So I have created a White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Through that office we are working to ensure that local community helpers and healers receive more Federal dollars, greater private support, and face fewer bureaucratic barriers. We have proposed a compassion capital fund that will match private giving with Federal dollars.

We have proposed allowing all taxpayers to deduct their charitable contributions, including non-itemizers. This could encourage almost 15 billion a year in new charitable giving. My attitude is, everyone in America, whether they are well-off or not, should have the same incentive and reward for giving.

And we're in the process of implementing and expanding charitable choice, the principle, already established in Federal law, that faith-based organizations should not suffer discrimination when they compete for contracts to provide social services. Government should never fund the teaching of faith, but it should support the good works of the faithful.

Some critics of this approach object to the idea of Government funding going to any group motivated by faith. But they should take a look around them. Public money already goes to groups like the Center for the Homeless and, on a larger scale, to Catholic Charities. Do the critics really want to cut them off? Medicaid and Medicare money currently goes to religious hospitals. Should this practice be ended? Childcare vouchers for low income families are redeemed every day at houses of worship across America. Should this be prevented? Government loans send countless students to religious colleges. Should this be banned? Of course not.

America has a long tradition of accommodating and encouraging religious institutions when they pursue public goals. My administration did not create that tradition, but we will expand it to confront some urgent problems.

Today I am adding two initiatives to our agenda, in the areas of housing and drug treatment. Owning a home is a source of dignity for families and stability for communities, and organizations like Habitat for Humanity make that dream possible for many low income Americans. Groups of this type currently receive some funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The budget I submit to Congress next year will propose a threefold increase in this funding which will expand homeownership and the hope and pride that come with it.

And nothing is more likely to perpetuate poverty than a life enslaved to drugs. So we've proposed 1.6 billion in new funds to close what I call the treatment gap—the gap between 5 million Americans who need drug treatment and the 2 million who currently receive it. We will also propose that all these funds—all of them—be opened to equal competition from faith-based and community groups.

The Federal Government should do all these things, but others have responsibilities, as well, including corporate America. Many corporations in America do good work in good causes. But if we hope to substantially reduce poverty and suffering in our country, corporate America needs to give more and to give better. Faith-based organizations receive only a tiny percentage of overall corporate giving. Currently, 6 of the 10 largest corporate givers in America explicitly rule out or restrict donations to faith-based groups, regardless of their effectiveness. The Federal Government will not discriminate against faith-based organizations and neither should corporate America.

In the same spirit, I hope America's foundations consider ways they may devote more of their money to our Nation's neighborhood and their helpers and their healers. I will convene a summit this fall, asking corporate and philanthropic leaders throughout America to join me at the White House to discuss ways they can provide more support to community organizations, both secular and religious.

Ultimately, your country is counting on each of you. Knute Rockne once said, "I have found that prayers work best when you have big players." [*Laughter*] We can pray for the justice of our country, but you're the big players we need to achieve it. Government can promote compassion; corporations and foundations can fund it; but the citizens—it's the citizens who provide it. A determined assault on poverty will require both an active Government and active citizens.

There is more to citizenship than voting—though I urge you to do it. [*Laughter*] There is more to citizenship than paying your taxes—though I'd strongly advise you to pay them. [*Laughter*] Citizenship is empty without concern for our fellow citizens, without the ties that bind us to one another and build a common good.

If you already realize this and you're acting on it, I thank you. If you haven't thought about it, I leave you with this challenge: Serve a neighbor in need, because a life of service is a life of significance, because materialism, ultimately, is boring, and consumerism can build a prison of wants, because a person who is not responsible for others is a person who is truly alone, because there are few better ways to express our love for America than to care for other Americans, and because the same God who endows us with individual rights also calls us to social obligations.

So let me return to Lyndon Johnson's charge. You're the generation that must decide. Will you ratify poverty and division with

your apathy, or will you build a common good with your idealism? Will you be the spectator in the renewal of your country or a citizen?

The methods of the past may have been flawed, but the idealism of the past was not an illusion. Your calling is not easy, because you must do the acting and the caring. But there is fulfillment in that sacrifice, which creates hope for the rest of us. Every life you help proves that every life might be helped. The actual proves the possible. And hope is always the beginning of change.

Thank you for having me, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the Joyce Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., president, Patrick F. McCartan, chairman, board of trustees, Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., executive vice president, Nathan O. Hatch, provost, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus, and Rev. Edward P. Joyce, C.S.C., executive vice president emeritus, University of Notre Dame; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Proclamation 7442—National Maritime Day, 2001

May 18, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America's economic prosperity has been closely tied to its maritime geography. From indigenous peoples navigating our majestic rivers to colonists settling along the New World's eastern shores, natives and immigrants alike have relied on the sea and our bountiful inland waterways for commerce and security.

In colonial days and in the 19th century, America's maritime industries facilitated the exchange of goods and the migration of pioneers. During World War II, some 6,000 American seafarers and more than 700 U.S. merchant ships fell to enemy action, many in the infamous Run to Murmansk. No branch of our Armed Forces, save the Marine Corps, suffered a higher casualty rate. Today, our Merchant Marine continues this proud tradition.

As recently as the Persian Gulf War and during humanitarian and military operations since, a unique partnership of Government, industry, and labor has continued its vital maritime service to our Nation. Many civilian merchant mariners crew the Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Force, which is observing its 25th anniversary.

Today, the U.S. maritime fleet has decreased in the number of vessels in the international trades, but it transports goods more efficiently and economically than ever before. These U.S. ships deliver a billion tons of imports and exports each year in our foreign trade and another billion tons of waterborne domestic trade. Many merchant seafarers are trained at outstanding institutions such as the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, the six State maritime academies, and several union and industry training facilities.

To help ensure continued competitiveness, we must tailor our maritime policy to the challenges of the 21st century. America's Marine Transportation System will help determine our long-term economic health and improve our ability to respond quickly and effectively in crisis. Within the next 2 decades, cargo will double. Accordingly, my Administration is working with Government agencies, the maritime industry, shippers, labor unions, and environmental groups to ensure that our waterways continue to serve as a sound transportation option in the face of ever-growing congestion on highways and rail lines.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2001, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing

under the American flag dress ship on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Trade and Investment Policy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act

May 18, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 106 of title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–200), I transmit herewith the 2001 Comprehensive Report of the President on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy toward Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 21.

Commencement Address at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut

May 21, 2001

President Levin, thank you very much. Dean Brodhead; fellows of the Yale Corporation; fellow Yale parents, families, and graduates. It's a special privilege to receive this honorary degree. I was proud 33 years ago to receive my first Yale degree; I'm even prouder that in your eyes I've earned this one.

I congratulate my fellow honorees. I'm pleased to share this honor with such a distinguished group. I'm particularly pleased to be here with my friend, the former President of Mexico. *Señor Presidente, usted es un verdadero lider, y un gran amigo.*

I congratulate all the parents who are here. It's a glorious day when your child graduates from college. It's a great day for you; it's a great day for your wallet. [*Laughter*] Most important, congratulations to the class of 2001. To those of you who received honors, awards, and distinctions, I say, well done. And to the C students I say, you, too, can be President of the United States. [*Laughter*] A Yale degree is worth a lot, as I often remind Dick Cheney—[*laughter*]—who studied here, but left a little early. So now we know: If you graduate from Yale, you become President; if you drop out, you get to be Vice President. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate so very much the chance to say a few words on this occasion. I know Yale has a tradition of having no commencement speaker. I also know that you've carved out a single exception. Most people think that to speak at Yale's commencement, you have to be President. But over the years, the specifications have become far more demanding. Now you have to be a Yale graduate; you have to be President; and you have had to have lost the Yale vote to Ralph Nader.

This is my first time back here in quite a while. I'm sure that each of you will make your own journey back at least a few times in your life. If you're like me, you won't remember everything you did here. [*Laughter*] That can be a good thing. [*Laughter*] But there will be some people and some moments you will never forget.

Take, for example, my old classmate Dick Brodhead, the accomplished dean of this great university. I remember him as a young scholar, a bright lad—[*laughter*]—a hard worker. We both put a lot of time in at the Sterling Library, in the reading room, where they have those big leather couches. [*Laughter*] We had a mutual understanding. Dick wouldn't read aloud, and I wouldn't snore. [*Laughter*]

Our course selections were different, as we followed our own path to academic discovery. Dick was an English major and loved the classics. I loved history and pursued a diversified course of study. I like to think of it as the academic road less traveled. [*Laughter*]

For example, I took a class that studied Japanese haiku. Haiku, for the uninitiated, is a 15th century form of poetry, each poem having 17 syllables. Haiku is fully understood only by the Zen masters. As I recall, one of my academic advisers was worried about my selection of such a specialized course. He said I should focus on English. [*Laughter*] I still hear that quite often. [*Laughter*] But my critics don't realize I don't make verbal gaffes. I'm speaking in the perfect forms and rhythms of ancient Haiku.

I did take English here, and I took a class called "The History and Practice of American Oratory," taught by Rollin G. Osterwies. And President Levin, I want to give credit where credit is due. I want the entire world to know this: Everything I know about the spoken word, I learned right here at Yale. [*Laughter*]

As a student, I tried to keep a low profile. It worked. Last year the New York Times interviewed John Morton Blum because the record showed I had taken one of his courses. Casting his mind's eye over the parade of young faces down through the years, Professor Blum said, and I quote, "I don't have the foggiest recollection of him." [*Laughter*]

But I remember Professor Blum. And I still recall his dedication and high standards of learning. In my time there were many great professors at Yale, and there still are. They're the ones who keep Yale going after the commencements, after we have all gone our separate ways. I'm not sure I remembered to thank them the last time I was here, but now that I have a second chance, I thank the professors of Yale University.

That's how I've come to feel about the Yale experience, grateful. I studied hard. I played hard, and I made a lot of lifelong friends. What stays with you from college is the part of your education you hardly ever notice at the time. It's the expectations and examples around you, the ideals you believe in, and the friends you make.

In my time, they spoke of the "Yale man." I was really never sure what that was, but I do think that I'm a better man because of Yale. All universities, at their best, teach that degrees and honors are far from the full measure of life. Nor is that measure taken in wealth or in titles. What matters most are the standards you live by, the consideration you show others, and the way you use the gifts you are given.

Now you leave Yale behind, carrying the written proof of your success here, at a college older than America. When I left here, I didn't have much in the way of a life plan. I knew some people who thought they did, but it turned out that we were all in for ups and downs, most of them unexpected. Life takes its own turns, makes its own demands, writes its own story, and along the way, we start to realize we are not the author. We begin to understand that life is ours to live but not to waste and that the greatest rewards are found in the commitments we make with our whole hearts—to the people we love and to the causes that earn our sacrifice. I hope that each of you will know these rewards. I hope you will find them in your own way and your own time.

For some, that might mean some time in public service. And if you hear that calling, I hope you answer. Each of you has unique gifts, and you were given them for a reason. Use them and share them. Public service is one way, an honorable way, to mark your life with meaning.

Today I visit not only my alma mater, but the city of my birth. My life began just a few blocks from here, but I was raised in west Texas. From there, Yale always seemed a world away, maybe a part of my future. Now it's a part of my past, and Yale for me is a source of great pride.

I hope that there will come a time for you to return to Yale to say that and to feel as I do. And I hope you won't wait as long.

Congratulations, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. on the Old Campus. In his remarks, he referred to Richard C. Levin, president, and Richard H. Brodhead, dean of Yale College, Yale University; former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico; and Ralph Nader, 2000 Green Party Presidential candidate.

Statement on the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of Andrei Sakharov

May 21, 2001

Today we honor the memory of Andrei Sakharov on the 80th anniversary of his birth. Throughout his life, Andrei Sakharov served as a beacon of hope and inspiration for those who value peace and freedom, both in his native Russia and around the world. A gifted nuclear physicist, he became a powerful advocate for nuclear nonproliferation. Awarded his country's highest honors, he became best known for standing up to Soviet totalitarianism and becoming a powerful advocate for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

He did so at great personal cost. He endured prolonged harassment and forced internal exile in Gorky, where he was cut off from friends and family. But throughout his trials, Andrei Sakharov never wavered in his "fearless personal commitment in upholding the fundamental principles for peace"—a fact recognized by his Nobel Peace Prize citation in 1975. After he was allowed to return to public life, Sakharov became a prominent voice of democratic opposition and was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet Union's first democratically chosen body.

On today's anniversary, it is important for the international community to reflect on the great contributions Andrei Sakharov made to help advance the freedoms that all peoples of the world should rightfully enjoy. Unfortunately, too many people in too many parts of the world today do not enjoy these basic freedoms, and those who speak out on behalf of freedom are too often jailed, tortured, or murdered. Let us resolve to honor Andrei Sakharov's memory by continuing the struggle against these injustices.

Remarks to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund

May 22, 2001

Thank you. Please be seated. That's a pretty tough act to follow. [*Laughter*] Sara and I were honored this Sunday at Notre Dame. We both received honorary degrees. She probably deserved hers more than I deserved mine, but it was such an honor to be on the stage with her. What a wonderful lady, such a great inspiration, and somebody who has made a concerted effort to make a difference in people's lives. It's really what America is about, when you think about it. I mean, the true strength of this country are people like Sara, who are willing to say, "Let's get something done instead of sitting idly by and looking at depressing statistics, the statistic that not enough of our Hispanic youngsters are going to institutions of higher learning. Let's get something done about it, instead of hoping somebody else will pick up the initiative and get it done." Sara said, "I'm going to do it." And I want to thank you all for joining and supporting the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. It is important for our Nation's future that this fund be whole and active and fully funded.

I want to thank my friend Rudy Beserra for being here today, as well. Rudy—Mr. Chairman, it's good to see you, sir. And I understand that you will be hearing from Margaret LaMontagne after I say a few words.

Access is incredibly important. We must work as a society to extend the American Dream to *todos*—to everybody. Now, it starts with making sure youngsters understand that dream is available. And all of us need to help on making sure people understand the dream is available and the benefits of working hard to achieve the dream.

It also starts with making sure our public schools educate children. I would bet—I haven't seen any studies on this, but I would fully suspect that if a child is illiterate, relative to his or her classmates, it diminishes hope. And the dream that we all hope for, higher education, becomes smaller in the eyes of that child. If a person doesn't have the capacity that we all want that person to have, I suspect hope is in the far-distant future, if at all.

And so first things first means having an education system that provides hope by educating children, not a system that looks at hard-to-educate children, perhaps the *niños* of the first generation whose parents may not speak English, and say, "Oh, it's the easiest route to take, is just move them through the

school system. The easiest thing for us to do is not to focus on each child but just move them through. If they're 12, we'll put everybody here. If they're 16, everybody goes there. And if they happen to learn to read, fine." That attitude is going to change. It's going to change by starting to ask the question around this country: What do you know? Do you know what you're supposed to know? And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we as a society will come together to make sure you do early, before it's too late.

What Margaret will discuss with you is the bill that we've proposed here in Congress that lays out some clear principles about public education. One is, we ought to expect high standards. That means when people stand in front of a classroom full of Latino children, they expect the best. They know what all of us know, particularly, Sara knows: that if you expect the best, you get good results. If you say, "Well, certain kids can't learn; it's too hard to teach them to speak English"—if you lower the bar, we get lousy results. And every child deserves better than that.

So, one of the principles is, setting high standards and realizing every child can learn; secondly, is to pass power out of Washington to provide maximum flexibility for local districts to be able to chart the path to excellence for their individual school districts; and thirdly, and the core of reform, as far as I'm concerned, is to have strong accountability measures inherent in the school systems.

To put it more directly, if you receive Federal money to help a child, you need to show us whether or not the children are learning. If you received help, you show. And if you're doing the job we want you to be doing, there will be plenty of praise. But if not, if not, if we find out children aren't learning, something else has to happen. We cannot continue to trap our children in schools that won't teach.

Now, we've got a couple of more initiatives that I think you'll find interesting. One is, I believe Head Start ought to be an early reading program, as well as the current strategy. And I think we ought to focus on making sure children are armed with the tools necessary to become good little readers. Unfortunately, not enough parents, or some parents, don't read to their kids. And so the schoolchildren are behind. Well, if we're going to have an accountability system starting in the third grade, we need to make sure we've got enough early education to get those children up to the starting line with every other child. And so the budget I submitted outlines triple the amount of money available for reading programs. Inherent in the program is K-through-2 diagnostic testing, so that we know if little children have got reading deficiencies, we'll correct them. The whole core of reform is—I ask the question: Do our children know what they're supposed to know?

Now, there are some in our society who don't like the notion of accountability, who don't like to test. And I will resist that backward thinking with all my might, because I know what happens when you don't hold people accountable: Children are given up on. And that's not the American vision, as far as I'm concerned. I know it's not the American vision as far as you're concerned, as well.

In our budget, we also focus on ways to complement the work that you all do. We expand the monies available for Hispanic serving institutions. And as importantly, I think you'll find that—this fact will, I think, bring some joy to your heart—that we expand the Pell grants available for low income and middle income students. Expanding the Pell grants is not a way to replace what you all are doing; it's a way to complement what you're doing. We want the—I can't say it enough—we want the American experience to be available for every child. And Pell grants is a good way to encourage access to higher education.

We expand the TRIO program in my budget. It's a program aimed at focusing on keeping children in school. We believe in education savings accounts. We give parents a tax incentive to save. And as I mentioned before, we're focused on making sure that the public schools do their job.

I am fixing to go talk to another group of Latino leaders about the Faith-Based Initiative, and I want to just share some thoughts with you about that. It's what I talked about when I was at Notre Dame, and it ties hand in hand with what we're trying to do.

On the one hand, we'll educate. On the other hand, we must inspire. And governments aren't very good at inspiring. We're kind of bureaucracies. The way to inspire a child is to convince somebody to be a mentor. The way to inspire somebody about America and its future and hope is for somebody to put an arm around a child and say, "I love you a lot. And America is meant for you, as well as anybody else."

So we're talking about education today, but there's a different kind of education that our society must do, as well, and that's the education of helping somebody feel wanted.

First, our country must recognize there are some who are being left behind, and we've got to deal with it. That means more budgets, but it also means standing on the side of faith-based institutions who exist because they've heard the call to love a neighbor like they would like to be loved themselves and rally the great compassion of America.

I called on corporate America when I was at Notre Dame to do its job. I welcome corporate America here, doing your job by providing these scholarships. It's in your best interest to do so. It's also in our Nation's best interest that corporate America support faith-based programs that teach people love and compassion and hope.

Our country is a fabulous country. It is, mainly, because the people are so great. And our country is richer because of the Hispanic influence. I know; I came from a State that has a tremendous Hispanic influence. And I know I shouldn't say this: I happen to think it's the greatest State of all States, but partly because of our history and tradition and relationships in the Hispanic community.

We are one Nation under God, which means every child—every child—should be viewed as a precious individual. Every child should be educated, and no child should be left behind. It is my honor to help kick off your conference. I can't thank you enough for what you do. For those generous souls who have contributed, thanks from the bottom of our Nation's heart. Keep doing it. And for Sara, thank you very much for having me a chance to come by.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Indian Treaty Room in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Sara Martinez Tucker, president and chief executive officer, and Rudy M. Beserra, chairman, board of directors, Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

Remarks to Leaders of Hispanic Faith-Based Organizations

May 22, 2001

Thank you, all. I now know why he's a Baptist preacher. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Luis, and thank you, Jesse, and thank you all for coming. Before I say a few remarks, I want to introduce some folks. I appreciate so very much the Members from the United States Congress who are here: Ileana and Lincoln and Henry from the great State of Texas. Thank you so much for being here. It's a sign of unity that you're here, and I look forward to working with you to get the legislation through.

I reached into Philadelphia to ask a man to run the Office of the Faith-Based Initiative. Fortunately, John DiIulio, who is one of the advanced thinkers about how to help people, how the Nation should eradicate poverty, has joined my staff. What we're about to talk about is an incredibly serious effort to make sure that the American promise extends its reach in every neighborhood. And John is leading the office, and for that I am most grateful, John. Thank you very much. And Lisa Trevino Cummins is helping John, as well.

This is an important part of my administration, because I want the great hope of America to be existent in every household in our country. I worry about a society that could become divided between those who have and those who don't. I'm concerned about the fact that certain children are being left behind in America.

My vision includes everybody. It's described as compassionate conservatism, but I emphasize the compassion. The problem is Government is not a very compassionate organization. We can fund—and we should—budgets; there is a lot of talk about budgets. We've submitted budgets that increase spending on social services. We've got

what's called a compassion fund, that matches—a $500 million fund that will encourage faith-based initiatives throughout the country.

But the dilemma and the problem in the past has been that somewhere along the line everybody thought Government could make people love one another. And that's not the way it works. And if part of the future of the country is to love a neighbor like you would like to be loved yourself, it seems to follow, then, our Government must welcome, not discriminate against, faith-based organizations who are providing that.

I hope the Congress does not get caught up in the stale, old process argument of the legalisms involved with encouraging organizations of faith to help people in need. Because, as Luis mentioned, there is precedent: We fund religious hospitals through Medicare and Medicaid; there is scholarship money for children to use at religious institutions. Why does it not follow, I asked the Congress and those folks who were elected, that we not allow faith-based programs to compete for taxpayers' money if the services they provide are necessary and the results are positive? The argument is, "Let us focus on the process." We're saying, "Let us focus on the results."

The way I like to put it—I gave a speech at Notre Dame last Sunday. It was a speech that said—it started with talking about President Lyndon Johnson's speech at the University of Texas kicking off the War on Poverty. It recognized that that War on Poverty had some positive effects. It also recognized, though, it had created a dependency on Government. It had a perverse effect.

So then the welfare law came along in 1996, signed by my predecessor—it had bipartisan support—that tried to address the concept of dependency upon Government. But we need to take it a step further, because there are still people who hurt and people whose lives are affected, people whose hearts need mending. Government must be active to fund the services but humble to recognize the power of neighborhood healers and helpers, humble to step aside when somebody can do a better job.

I've been so impressed by the faith-based leaders I've met all around our country, because there is a genuine commitment to the poor and the disadvantaged. And that's a commitment that we must channel and a commitment we must harvest. I used to say in the campaign, I look forward to rallying the soldiers and the armies of compassion. And I mean that.

Our Nation is so unique in this way: We are a Nation of people who have heard a call to love a neighbor. We really are. I was sharing with the good leaders that came to visit me about the fact that everywhere I go people say, "Mr. President, I'm praying for you." They're not saying it's a Democrat prayer or a Republican prayer. [*Laughter*] It's just prayer. [*Laughter*]

It reminds me on a daily basis about the great hope and promise of America. It also reminds me how lucky I am to be the President of a great land, where people truly care about our country. It also reminds me about what Government ought to do: We ought to set money out there to encourage faith-based initiatives.

At the same time, we must never be so arrogant as to say, "You can't fulfill your mission if you access Federal money. Therefore, you have to change the entire mission of why you exist." I understand the frustrations with some in the faith-based community and the nervousness as they approach this issue. They say to themselves, "Why would I want to access Federal money if the Federal Government then tries to take away my mission, to take the cross off the wall or the Star of David off the wall? Why would I want to interface with a Government that's going to say, 'We'll reluctantly give you money, and then force you to change your calling?' "

Well, I can understand that. And one of our commitments is that we will work tirelessly to make sure that bureaucracies don't stifle the very reason you exist in the first place and the power of your ministries, which is faith—which is faith.

And so my message to you is, thanks for what you're doing. You'll have a friend and an advocate in this administration that marches side by side—side by side—that we will do our very level best to make sure that the bureaucratic obstacles are cleared and that people in need are able to get help.

In the course of the campaign, I've tried to explain what a faith-based initiative meant to many members of the press that followed me and, of course, many citizens. I'll never forget going to Colfax, Iowa, for a teen challenge program. You know, sometimes people accuse me of not being very articulate. [*Laughter*] English is my second language. [*Laughter*] But there was nothing more articulate than seeing a person who had been hooked on serious drugs stand up and explain to the Nation—at least those willing to listen—how he kicked drugs because faith had entered into his life.

It's hard to measure that. There is no formula for that. You can't write a regulation or a bureaucratic rule that suggests that that happened. But what Government can do is recognize its limitations and, more significantly, recognize the power of faith in our society. And that's what this initiative does. We don't pick religions. We don't fund religion. But we welcome the soldiers of the armies of compassion.

And to you soldiers, thank you so much for being here. Thank you for caring about our great land, and thank you for the service you provide on a daily basis.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Dr. Jesse Miranda, president, *Alianza de Ministerios Evangélicos Nacionales* (AMEN), and Rev. Luis Cortes, president, Nueva Esperanza and chairman, National Hispanic Religious Partnership.

Proclamation 7443—National Hurricane Awareness Week, 2001

May 22, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

One of the most dramatic, damaging, and potentially deadly weather events is a hurricane. Each year on average, six hurricanes develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. Many of these remain over the ocean with little or no impact on the continental United States. Unfortunately, though, on average five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every 3 years. These storms can cause significant damage that can cost individuals, businesses, and government billions of dollars. Worst of all, however, is the loss that can never be recovered: human life.

Currently more than 48 million people live along hurricane-prone coastlines in the United States. The growing number of residents living in these areas, as well as the millions of tourists who visit our Nation's beaches annually, has increased the difficulties in evacuating people from areas that are threatened by an impending hurricane. This problem is further compounded by the fact that a large majority of people living in these areas have never experienced the force of a major hurricane and its devastating impact.

Increasingly, many Americans have begun working to ensure that commonsense measures are implemented to protect themselves and their property from natural disasters including floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes. Their foresight, hard work, and respect for the awesome power of nature often yields great benefits for their communities. They are to be commended for this preventive work, and we should learn from their example as we plan for future disasters.

All Americans must be more vigilant about preparing for disasters in advance, rather than just responding to them after they occur. Specific actions can be taken in advance of a storm that will further protect property, help to ensure that businesses are able to resume work quickly after a storm, and ultimately save lives. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that for every dollar spent in damage prevention, two are saved in repairs.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) researchers and forecasters continue to improve the accuracy of hurricane warnings that enable residents to evacuate and emergency personnel to effectively respond well in advance of the storm's arrival. In addition, FEMA and NOAA have focused their resources toward encouraging community leaders to work with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as

volunteer agencies, schools, the private sector, and the news media to collectively undertake activities that diminish the destruction of natural disasters. For hurricane-prone areas, these measures can include residents stockpiling emergency provisions, learning evacuation routes, installing hurricane shutters, building residential safe rooms and community shelters, adopting stronger building codes, and retrofitting existing buildings. These measures have proved effective, and I encourage citizens living in these areas to look for ways that they can better prepare themselves and their communities to reduce the potential devastating impact of these storms.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 20 through May 26, 2001, as National Hurricane Awareness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, news media, and residents in hurricane-prone areas to work towards the prevention of needless storm damage and to join me in raising awareness of the hazards posed by hurricanes.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Remarks at a Republican National Committee Gala

May 22, 2001

Thank you all very much. Mr. Vice President, thank you for that kind introduction. Governor Gilmore, thank you very much for agreeing to become the chairman of the Republican Party. Our party will thrive under your leadership, and we appreciate you doing this, sir.

I want to thank all the folks who worked so hard on this dinner tonight—Ann Wagner, Al Hoffman, Jeff and Nancy Marcus from the great State of Texas, all the table chairmen. Thank you so much for your generosity.

I'm honored to be able to say—to introduce the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Denny Hastert. Mr. Speaker, you and your team are doing a fantastic job.

I haven't seen Congressman Armey here, but I know Congressman DeLay is here, as are many other Members of the House of Representatives. I can assure you, knowing that we've got such a fine leadership team and a solid core in the House gives the Vice President and me a lot of comfort. And I can't tell you how joyous it is to work with this fine Speaker and the members of his team.

I would like to have introduced Majority Leader Lott, but he and the other Senators are working as hard as they can to get a meaningful, real tax relief package out of the United States Senate. It is time for the Senate to stop delaying tax relief. It is time to move the package on, for the good of the American people.

I'm so thankful that I did well at the altar. America is better off for it. We've got a fabulous First Lady in Laura Bush.

We came to your dinner last year, and I remember the warm welcome in the middle of a hard-fought campaign. A lot of things have changed since then. Last year I had to fly halfway across the country to get here. Today it took me 5 minutes. [*Laughter*] For another thing, I was running against the Vice President. This time around I brought a fantastic Vice President with me. And of course, it's a great joy to welcome Lynn Cheney, as well. The best decision I made in 2000 was to ask Dick Cheney to be my running mate.

I want to thank you all very much for your generous contributions so that my drive was only 5 minutes. [*Laughter*] I appreciate your support during the campaign, and I appreciate so very much your support to make sure our agenda gets advanced.

As well, there are members of my Cabinet who are here. I'm really proud of the men and women who decided to serve our country. It's a diverse group of folks who are dedicated to one proposition, a hopeful America.

And if my Cabinet Secretaries would stand, I'd appreciate you recognizing them. [*Applause*]

And finally, I've assembled one of the finest staffs a President has ever put together, headed by Andy Card and National Security Adviser Rice, Karen Hughes and Karl Rove. All these folks work harmoniously. They do what's right for America, and our Nation should be proud that such fine citizens are willing to dedicate their life to this great country.

Laura and I have had the honor of living in the White House for 4 months and 2 days. That's already one-twelfth of a term, and we haven't wasted a day. I have visited 28 States and two countries. I met with 46 heads of state and more than 300 Members of the House and the Senate; four Cabinet meetings, one speech to Congress, not to mention a Cinco de Mayo festival, a gathering of Hall of Famers, celebrations for Saint Patrick's and Cuban Independence Day, and tee-ball.

It's been a joyous time for us in the White House and a high honor. And it's been a busy time, and that's just the way I like it. I often said during the campaign that Dick Cheney and I were not going to Washington just to mark time. We came to make good on our commitments for the great people of America. We came to get something done. We weren't afraid to state our case, nor were we afraid to work with anybody who heard our cause. We came not to have Washington change us but for us to change Washington.

And I think we started doing that in our own party. We welcome new faces, because ours is a philosophy that is conservative and compassionate. Ours is a philosophy that holds out hope for every single American, no matter what their background or their heritage may be.

We're also a party of principle and optimism. We believe strongly in our soul not in the supreme wisdom of Washington but in the wisdom of the American people. Ours is an administration, as America is coming to learn, that is not afraid to take on the tough issues confronting our country; that we're willing to—[*applause*]. I can remember during the campaign, and perhaps you all do as well, about the collective yawn from members in the Fourth Estate about tax relief. People used to say, "Well, he's just saying that because it might make good politics." No, Dick Cheney and I talked about tax relief because we thought it was right for the country. This Nation can afford tax relief, and we can't afford not to have it, with our economy slowing down.

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. I believe we convinced Congress to cut the rates on everybody who pays taxes. We've eliminated this business about the Congress getting to pick and choose who the winners and losers are in the Tax Code. Our philosophy was fair and decent, and it said loud and clear, "if you pay taxes in America, you ought to get tax relief." We believe we ought to do something about the marriage penalty. And we believe, once and for all, we need to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code. Again Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your—for working with us on this issue.

Ours is an administration that's willing to talk openly about Social Security reform. Many candidates and politicians and others who have been elected to office never wanted to talk about Social Security. It was called the third rail of American politics. This is an administration that knows we'd better make sure Social Security is reformed, safe, and solvent for the older generation, around for the younger generation. And we'll seize the moment to get it done.

Ours is an administration that recognized our Nation has an energy problem, and we laid out solutions to do something about it. I'm sure that maybe some other administration has talked about energy, but we put out a concrete, specific plan, with over 100 recommendations—100 proposals—to ease the burden on the American working people.

Our plan starts with wise conservation, the use of technology to make sure that we are better stewards of our energy. But California has taught us a lesson: The State with the second best record of conservation is a State which ran out of energy. And so we need additional supplies. We need reliable supplies. We need a balanced approach to our energy. We need clean coal technology and natural gas exploration, safe nuclear power, as well as alternative sources of energy.

And finally, we must face up to the problem that we're having problems getting energy from the powerplant to the light switch. We need to modernize our infrastructure. No, ours is an administration that won't simply look at a problem; we'll address it in a concrete, specific way.

We need to have better language when it comes to energy. I mean, the people of this country have somehow been told that you're either for the environment and against energy policy, or you're for an energy policy or against the environment. That's the old way of thinking. That's stale, old-style politics. You and I know it's not either/or; with good, sound policy, it's both. We can increase our energy supplies so the people can find work, and we can protect our environment at the same time.

Ours is an administration that's also pushing a compassionate conservative vision. It starts with making sure that every child is educated in America. We've laid out a bill that we're working on in the Congress right now that talks about sound, solid principles to make sure that not one child gets left behind. It begins by setting high standards for every child.

Ours is an administration that believes that every child can learn. And we refuse to accept low standards, because we understand low standards means lousy results for children all across the country. Ours is an administration that trusts the local people to chart the path to excellence.

And ours is an administration that insists upon results. We want to know. We want to know whether our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers. But if not, we'll demand something else happens for those children. There are no second-rate children in this great land of ours, and there are no second-rate dreams, as far as we're concerned.

We've taken on a different task when it comes to welfare reform. I strongly believe that this Nation must rally the armies of compassion which exist in every neighborhood in America. The reason I believe that is because I understand the true strength of our country. It's not in the halls of Government; it's in the hearts and souls of loving citizens. I understand cultures and societies change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And government can fund, but what government can't do is cause people to love one another.

Perhaps the most important initiative of all of the Bush/Cheney administration is to push a Faith-Based Initiative that says loud and clear, "government will never fund religion, but government will stand side by side with the soldiers in the armies of compassion to make sure lost souls are found, to make sure wanting children have somebody to love them in the form of a mentor."

No question, this is an ambitious agenda, but it's exactly what the Vice President and I told the American people we would do. You know, Washington is a place with many temptations, and one of them is to settle in and just go along and forget about the commitments you made during the course of a campaign. But this is an administration which will keep its word, and we expect others to do so, as well. We may not always agree, but hopefully, we can be honest with each other and respect each other and change the tone of Washington, DC, so that when people look at the Nation's Capital, they will be proud of what they see.

Changing the tone of our Nation's Capital hasn't been easy. I realize that in politics, old ways die hard. Washington at times has got a plenty sharp edge to it. The only thing I can do and the only thing Dick Cheney and others in our administration can do is to control our own responses. When I hear my policies and my nominees attacked in a hostile and partisan way, I simply hear the echoes of an era behind us. I'm not going to take the bait. I'm going to lead this country to a new level of respect. I came to this town to change the tone of the Capital, and I'm not going to quit.

You know, Mark Twain used to say, "Always do right. This will gratify some of the people and astonish the rest." [*Laughter*] We're going to do the right thing. We're going to pass an agenda that focuses on the American people. We will share credit for success, because we understand the best politics is good public policy.

I think our good party will have a strong record of accomplishment to run on. The

people of this country will be able to say, "We elected them. They went to Washington. They did what they said they were going to do, and the people are better off for it."

I also think the people of our country will be able to look at their Nation's Capital and begin to see a group of folks working hard to usher in a period of personal responsibility, a period in our country when everybody understands that each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. It starts with those who are fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad—that each of us must understand our primary job, our primary focus must be to love our children with all their hearts and all our souls.

The responsibility era says that each of us must be responsible for what we say and what we do. And a period of personal responsibility understands that we must love a neighbor just like we'd like to love themselves. I'm absolutely convinced we're on our way to ushering in this new culture, and I believe America will be better for it. And I'm honored to be the President during the period of time when this Nation will realize its full potential.

Thank you all for having me. God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:53 p.m. at the D.C. Armory. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, chairman, Ann Wagner, cochair, and Al Hoffman, Jr., finance chair, Republican National Committee; and Jeff Marcus, gala chair, and his wife, Nancy.

Executive Order 13213—Additional Measures With Respect to Prohibiting the Importation of Rough Diamonds From Sierra Leone

May 22, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in view of the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1306 of July 5, 2000, and 1343 of March 7, 2001,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, take note that in Executive Order 13194, the President responded to, among other things, the insurgent Revolutionary United Front's (RUF) illicit trade in diamonds to fund its operations in the civil war in Sierra Leone by declaring a national emergency and, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1306, by prohibiting the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone except for those importations controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1343 takes note that the bulk of RUF diamonds leaves Sierra Leone through Liberia and that such illicit trade cannot be conducted without the permission and involvement of Liberian government officials at the highest levels; determines that the active support provided by the Government of Liberia for the RUF and other armed rebel groups in neighboring countries constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region; and decides that all states shall take the necessary measures to prevent the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated in Liberia. The Government of Liberia's complicity in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds and its other forms of support for the RUF are direct challenges to United States foreign policy objectives in the region as well as to the rule-based international order that is crucial to the peace and prosperity of the United States. Therefore, I find these actions by the Government of Liberia contribute to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States described in Executive Order 13194 with respect to which the President declared a national emergency. In order to deal with that threat and to ensure further that the direct or indirect importation into the United States of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone will not contribute financial support to further aggressive actions

by the RUF or to the RUF's procurement of weapons; to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1343; and to counteract, among other things, the Government of Liberia's facilitation of and participation in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds through Liberia, I hereby order the following additional measures be taken with respect to prohibiting the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone:

Section 1. Except to the extent provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding the existence of any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by any international agreement or any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, the direct or indirect importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated in Liberia, on or after the effective date of this order is prohibited.

Sec. 2. Any transaction by a United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited. Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. The definitions contained in section 4 of Executive Order 13194 apply to the terms used in this order.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order, including modification, suspension, or termination of licenses or authorizations in effect as of the date of this order.

Sec. 5. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or any other person.

Sec. 6. (a) This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 23, 2001.

(b) This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 22, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:03 p.m., May 23, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 23, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Message to the Congress Reporting on Action Prohibiting the Importation of Rough Diamonds From Sierra Leone

May 23, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to expand the scope of an existing national emergency in response to the unusual and extraordinary threat posed to the foreign policy of the United States by the Government of Liberia's complicity in the illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone by the insurgent Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) and by the Government of Liberia's other forms of support for the RUF. I also have exercised my statutory authority to issue an Executive Order that prohibits the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated in Liberia. These actions are mandated in part by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1343 of March 7, 2001.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized

to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under the IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, 22 U.S.C. 287c, to implement this prohibition. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. The Order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 23, 2001.

I have authorized these measures in furtherance of Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and in response to the Government of Liberia's continuing facilitation of and participation in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and its other forms of support for the RUF. The Government of Liberia's actions in this regard constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States because they directly challenge United States foreign policy objectives in the region and the rule-based international order that is crucial to the peace and prosperity of the United States.

In Executive Order 13194, President Clinton responded to the RUF's illicit arms-for-diamonds trade that fuels the brutal, decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone by declaring a national emergency and, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1306, by prohibiting the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone except for those importations controlled through the certificate of origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. In a report issued on December 14, 2000, the United Nations Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1306 found that diamonds represent a major and primary source of income for the RUF to sustain and advance its military activities; that the bulk of the RUF diamonds leaves Sierra Leone through Liberia; and that such illicit trade cannot be conducted without the permission and involvement of Liberian government officials at the highest levels. The Panel recommended, among other things, a complete embargo on all diamonds from Liberia until Liberia demonstrates convincingly that it is no longer involved in the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone.

On March 7, 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1343 to impose sanctions against the Government of Liberia. The resolution determined that the Government of Liberia's active support for the RUF in Sierra Leone and other armed rebel groups in neighboring countries constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region and decided that all states shall impose an immediate arms embargo on Liberia and also shall impose travel and diamond bans on Liberia on May 7, 2001, unless the Council determined before that date that the Government of Liberia had ceased its support for the RUF and for other armed rebel groups and, in particular, had taken a number of concrete steps identified in the resolution. In furtherance of this resolution, the Secretaries of State, Commerce, and Defense have taken steps, under their respective authorities, to implement the arms embargo.

With regard to the travel ban and diamond embargo, the Government of Liberia has failed, notwithstanding the two-month implementation period granted by resolution 1343, to honor its commitments to cease its support for the RUF and other armed rebel groups. As a result, the Security Council did not determine that Liberia has complied with the demands of the Council.

In Proclamation 7359 of October 10, 2000, President Clinton suspended the entry as immigrants and nonimmigrants of persons who plan, engage in, or benefit from activities that support the RUF or that otherwise impede the peace process in Sierra Leone. The application of that Proclamation implements the travel ban imposed by resolution 1343.

Finally, for the reasons discussed above and in the enclosed Executive Order, I also have found that the Government of Liberia's continuing facilitation of and participation in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and its other forms of support for the RUF contribute to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States described in Executive Order 13194 with respect to which the President declared a national emergency. In order to deal with that threat, and consistent with resolution 1343 and this finding, I have taken action to prohibit the importation into the

United States of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated there, in order to contribute to the international effort to bring a prompt end to the illicit arms-for-diamonds trade by which the RUF perpetuates the tragic conflict in Sierra Leone. This action, as well as those discussed above, also expresses our outrage at the Government of Liberia's ongoing contribution to human suffering in Sierra Leone and other neighboring countries, as well as its continuing failure to abide by international norms and the rule of law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 23, 2001.

Remarks at a Military Reenlistment Ceremony

May 23, 2001

I don't know if the Commander in Chief is allowed to say this, but I'm going to anyway. At ease. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your service to the country. It's fitting that he is here today, because a few months ago, Secretary Rumsfeld re-upped himself. [*Laughter*] And the Nation is better off for it. General Shelton, thank you for being here. Joint Chiefs, thank you all for coming—family and friends.

Before I begin my remarks, I want to take note of a major event that took place today in the United States Senate. Just a little over an hour ago, the United States Senate, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, voted to give the tax relief to the American people. The House of Representatives has already voted in favor of tax relief. So I'm pleased to report today that tax relief is on the way.

I want to congratulate the 62 Senators who voted for this important measure. Senator Lott and Senator Grassley, Senator Baucus, Senator Miller, and Senator Breaux led the way in giving this victory to the American people. And they deserve our country's thanks and praise.

The economy needs a shot in the arm, so I call on the House and the Senate to reach an agreement on the final tax relief package this week. The sooner the Congress completes its work, the sooner the American people will have their own money in their own pockets to save and invest as they see fit. Our economy cannot afford any further delays.

And now to the task at hand. I am so appreciative that General Shelton and the other leaders of the military are here. The men and women now know how proud you are of their decision to take another tour of duty. And I'm proud, too. And I welcome you all to the White House.

For two centuries this house has been the final point of decision in the chain of command. Here President Wilson decided that American soldiers would have to go to Europe to fight in World War I. Here Franklin Roosevelt first learned of the attack at Pearl Harbor, and within days, America began a 4-year war in two theaters. Here four modern Presidents dealt with the struggle in Vietnam, from beginning to end.

Every major military operation of the last 200 years was set in motion at the White House. The circumstances have varied greatly, but no President has ever had reason to doubt the ability and commitment of the American Armed Forces. You have shown that commitment today. Like many thousands of others who will reenlist this year, you've done yourselves credit, and you've paid your country a high tribute. The choice was yours to make, and you volunteered again, and your country is very grateful.

Our military depends on reenlistment. This is especially true now, as military technology and equipment grow more complex and more demanding. Perhaps more than ever, the success of our all-volunteer force requires that we keep the best people, the most experienced technicians, and mature leaders of the highest caliber. That is what America gains with each one of you who stays.

In return, America owes you every ounce of support you need to carry out your daily mission. When reenlistment declines, that's usually a sign that such support is missing. I have promised never to let that support waver, never to take you for granted. As long as I live under this roof, our country and our military will be prepared to meet any challenge the future may bring.

For many of you, the decision to reenlist wasn't made alone. You all know the saying: Soldiers enlist, but families reenlist. [*Laughter*] And we have many family members here. You're not taking an oath, but you're making an important commitment. And along the way, all of you have made your share of sacrifices. And I appreciate the chance to thank you for it.

When I speak of supporting the military, that means family members, as well, the bases you call home and the schools where you send your children.

For those who are about to take the oath, congratulations. You repeat some familiar words. You will do so with self-assurance that you might not have had the first time. That comes with hard work and discipline and service to our country. I want each of you to return to your posts with the knowledge that you have my gratitude and full confidence. Thank you again.

And now it is my honor to turn over the proceedings to General Shelton, who will administer the oath of office.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Education Reform Legislation

May 23, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for taking a giant step toward improving America's public schools. The education reforms adopted today build on the principles of accountability, flexibility, local control, and greater choices for parents. The reforms require annual testing of students in grades three through eight, give States unprecedented flexibility to meet critical education needs and, for the first time, tie Federal education funding to results. These education reforms also give parents real options to get their children out of persistently failing schools through public school choice with transportation provided, and supplemental services such as tutoring and summer school. I look forward to working with Members of the House and Senate to make sure this vital legislation becomes law so that no child in America is left behind.

Remarks to the St. Augustine Parish Community in Cleveland, Ohio

May 24, 2001

Father McNulty, thank you very much, sir, for your hospitality and your introduction. It's a privilege for me to be here with Bishop Pilla, whose reputation at least has preceded him as far as the President goes. I've been looking forward for this opportunity to meet such a fine, noble man, firmly committed to helping the poor. So, Bishop, thank you so much for being here, sir.

I'm honored also to be—to have been welcomed by Sister Ambroe. The Sister is pretty firm in her—[*laughter*]—she kept us on time. [*Laughter*] I am thankful to be here with distinguished public servants from the State of Ohio, your Governor, Lieutenant Governor, both very good friends of mine. Thank you all for being here. Two fine United States Senators, Mike DeWine and George Voinovich, traveled with me from Washington today. I think you're going back. [*Laughter*] But Ohio is well represented in the Halls of the United States Senate with these two fine Americans. And two Members of the United States Congress, Steve LaTourette and Tony Hall from south Ohio are here, as well. Thank you all for traveling with us today.

Tony is not from this area, but I can assure you that if you got to know him, you would know that he shares the same passion most of us do for figuring out ways to help people in need.

The other thing that I want to make note of is that Tony is a Democrat. And what we're going to talk about today is not a party issue. The idea of helping people transcends political party. And so, Tony, thank you for coming.

I want to thank Pam Delly, the principal of Our Lady of Angels, for the tour and the opportunity to meet the students here. And I want to thank Dennis McNulty, the director of Catholic Charity Services, as well.

I want to start off with a comment about some news. This morning a distinguished

United States Senator chose to leave the Republican Party and become an independent. I respect Senator Jeffords. But I respectfully—but respectfully, I couldn't disagree more. Our agenda for reforming America's public schools and providing tax relief for every taxpayer represents the hopes and dreams of Main Street America. Our agenda for reforming our military and modernizing our military to defend America and our allies represents the best hope for peace.

I was elected to get things done on behalf of the American people and to work with both Republicans and Democrats, and we're doing just that. Just yesterday in the United States Senate, Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly agreed that we should provide tax relief for every single American who pays taxes.

The Senate has now passed tax relief, and so has the House. And I call on Congress not to recess for Memorial Day until they have finished the job and provided tax relief for the American people.

And we're making great progress on education, as well. Just yesterday in the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly agreed that we should insist upon local control of schools, strong accountability, and greater options for parents when their children are trapped in failing schools. The Senate now takes up the education bill, and I'm confident we'll enact a plan to improve all of America's public schools so that no child is left behind. As well, as I mentioned, I'm working hard with both Republicans and Democrats to put in place a Faith-Based Initiative that I truly believe will change America for the better.

Last weekend I spoke at one of America's great Catholic universities. The chairman of the board, I think, is here somewhere. Here you are. Thank you very much, Pat, for letting me come. I was deeply honored. Today I'm pleased to visit one of America's great Catholic parishes. Notre Dame and St. Augustine may seem to be a world apart, but they're united by the same Catholic teaching, that God has a special concern for the poor. For some people, Jesus' admonition to care for the least of these is an admirable moral teaching. For the folks at this center, and centers like it all around America, it's a way of life.

I'm visiting here to offer praise. I want to praise the volunteers. I want to praise the good folks from corporate Cleveland who are helping. I want to praise those like the folks we met in the cafeteria, who get up at 6 in the morning, before their job, to come and help a neighbor in need. I also want to make a pledge that my administration will be more supportive of the good works done here than any administration in the history of the country, because I understand the power of faith, that faith can change lives.

I also understand the limitations of Government. Government can hand out money, and we will. We've increased budgets to work on social problems. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

I wish—I wish I knew the law that says, love a neighbor like you would like to be loved yourself. I'd sign it, that would mandate that to happen. But I think of all nations of the world, we understand that that law comes from a higher calling than Government. And the great challenge for our Nation is to rally, what I call, the armies of compassion all across America so that nobody is left behind.

In my speech at Notre Dame, I started by talking about a speech that a former President from Texas gave in 1964, and he declared a War on Poverty. I then talked about some of the unintended effects of the War on Poverty, one of which was people becoming dependent upon Government. It's kind of a loss of responsibility in our society. Members of both political parties came together in 1996 to address that problem by putting time limits on welfare. The bill was signed by my predecessor, and it had a positive effect. But there are still people who hurt in America.

Poverty runs deep in this country, and we need to take the War on Poverty a step further by recognizing the power and promise of faith-based and community-based groups that exist not because of Government, but because they've heard the universal call to love somebody in need.

And so we've laid out an initiative for the United States Congress to look at. It's one

that says we're going to have a—what's called a compassion capital fund of a half a billion dollars to help provide seed money for programs such as these we're witnessing here today. It says we ought to expand charitable choice, which means faith-based organizations should be allowed to receive Federal grants when it comes to helping people in need.

There's some concern in our society about encouraging faith-based organizations to meet their challenges. But those are people that want to argue the process. They want to make everything legal. And my fundamental question to America, after having said this loud and clear, "We'll never fund faith, we'll never fund churches, but we should fund the armies of compassion." We should not discriminate against faith-based programs which exist to help people in need. We provide Medicare and Medicaid money, and that money is redeemed at charitable hospitals. We provide Pell grants and Government loans for people that redeem that—those scholarship monies at religious universities. In order to make sure the promise of America is full and whole for every citizen, we should not discriminate against faith-based programs that simply exist and solely exist to help people who hurt and people in need. The neighborhood helpers and healers of America are truly the strength of this country.

In my speech at Notre Dame, I also talked about corporate America. And to this end, I'm going to have a convocation next fall calling together foundation America and corporate America to figure out a strategy of how best to get more money into the coffers of the faith-based programs in neighborhoods all across America.

Interestingly enough, 6 of 10 of the largest corporate givers in America explicitly rule out giving money to faith-based programs. My attitude is America and its Government should not discriminate against faith-based programs and neither should corporate America. And so one of my missions is to bring folks who care about our country together and tout and herald the great works that are being done in programs such as this and centers such as this.

I've set up an office at the White House, run by a man named John DiIulio. He's a—one of the forward thinkers in terms of how we encourage faith to help people in need. He's a really interesting guy; I haven't checked his party affiliation, but I suspect it's not the same as mine—because he understands that this is not an initiative to try to gain political gain. Ours is an initiative to make America a better place.

Part of the mission of the office is to encourage programs to explain how people can access the Federal grant money, explain what we can do with the capital compassion fund. But part of it all, and a very important part, is to make sure that Government never interferes with the good works that are being done in programs such as this. It's to make sure that church and synagogue and mosque don't lose the fundamental essence of their mission.

You know, there are many in our society who fear what interfacing with the Federal Government can mean. And my pledge to the faith-based community in America is my administration will do everything in our power to make sure that those who do interface with Government never have to sacrifice their mission, their reason for being, because, again, I understand the power of faith and the hope faith brings all across the country.

It is an incredible honor to be the President of a Nation of faith. It's hard to describe what it's like to travel our country and have literally hundreds of people walk up and say, "Mr. President, I pray for you every day." It is—first of all, it's a very comforting feeling, needless to say. But it also increases my optimism and hope about America because the truth of the matter is, in order for us to solve the deep poverty that exists, to solve the hurt in people's souls, we need people who are willing to put their arm around a brother in need and say, "I love you." We need mentors for young children to provide hope and solace.

America's society will change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And each of us must do our part to provide hope for that soul and that conscience.

I've been so incredibly impressed by the universal and strong commitment of the Catholic Church and the leaders of the

Catholic Church to make sure that nobody in our society is left behind. America is better off because of that commitment. Our Nation is well-off because of the love and compassion of our citizens. And my hope, in working with folks such as yourself, is to gather that compassion so that the hope of the greatest Nation of the world reaches every neighborhood in America.

Thank you for giving me the chance to come, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. at the Our Lady of Angels/St. Joseph Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Joseph D. McNulty, pastor, St. Augustine Church; Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop of Cleveland; Sister Corita Ambroe, C.S.J., executive director of programs, St. Augustine Hunger Center; Gov. Bob Taft and Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor of Ohio; and Patrick F. McCartan, chairman, board of trustees, University of Notre Dame.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) the Bosnian Serbs, and Kosovo

May 24, 2001

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared on May 30, 1992, with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the "FRY (S&M)"), as expanded on October 25, 1994, in response to the actions and policies of the Bosnian Serbs. In addition, I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared on June 9, 1998, with respect to the FRY (S&M)'s policies and actions in Kosovo. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

On May 30, 1992, by Executive Order 12808, President Bush declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Governments of Serbia and Montenegro, blocking all property and interests in property of those Governments. President Bush took additional measures to prohibit trade and other transactions with the FRY (S&M) by Executive Orders 12810 and 12831, issued on June 5, 1992, and January 15, 1993, respectively, and on April 25, 1993, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12846 imposing additional measures.

On October 25, 1994, President Clinton expanded the scope of the national emergency by issuing Executive Order 12934 to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Bosnian Serb forces and the authorities in the territory that they controlled within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On December 27, 1995, President Clinton issued Presidential Determination 96–7, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to suspend the application of sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) pursuant to the above-referenced Executive Orders and to continue to block property previously blocked until provision is made to address claims or encumbrances, including the claims of the other successor states of the former Yugoslavia. This sanctions relief, in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 of November 22, 1995 (hereinafter the "Resolution"), was an essential factor motivating the FRY (S&M)'s acceptance of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina initialed by the parties in Dayton on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995 (hereinafter the "Peace Agreement"). The sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) were accordingly suspended prospectively, effective January 16, 1996. Sanctions imposed on the Bosnian Serb forces and authorities and on the territory that they controlled within Bosnia and Herzegovina were subsequently suspended prospectively, effective May 10, 1996, also in conformity with the Peace Agreement and the Resolution. Sanctions against both the FRY (S&M) and the Bosnian Serbs were subsequently terminated by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1074 of October 1, 1996. This termination, however, did not end the requirement of the Resolution that those blocked funds and assets that are subject to claims

and encumbrances remain blocked, until unblocked in accordance with applicable law.

Until the status of all remaining blocked property is resolved, the Peace Agreement implemented, and the terms of the Resolution met, the national emergency declared on May 30, 1992, as expanded in scope on October 25, 1994, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue beyond May 30, 2001.

On June 9, 1998, by Executive Order 13088, President Clinton found that the actions and policies of the FRY (S&M) and the Republic of Serbia with respect to Kosovo, by promoting ethnic conflict and human suffering, threatened to destabilize countries in the region and to disrupt progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the Peace Agreement, constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. President Clinton therefore declared a national emergency to deal with that threat. On April 30, 1999, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13121 to take additional steps with respect to the continuing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and the national emergency declared with respect to Kosovo.

On January 17, 2001, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13192 in view of the peaceful democratic transition begun in the FRY (S&M); the continuing need to promote full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 827 of May 25, 1993, and subsequent resolutions calling for all states to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); the illegitimate control over FRY (S&M) political institutions and economic resources or enterprises exercised by former President Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and other persons, and those individuals' capacity to repress democracy or perpetrate or promote further human rights abuses; and the continuing threat to regional stability and implementation of the Peace Agreement. Executive Order 13192 amends Executive Order 13088 to lift and modify, with respect to future transactions, most of the economic sanctions imposed against the FRY (S&M). At the same time, Executive Order 13192 imposes restrictions on transactions with certain persons described in section 1(a) of the order, namely Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters and persons under open indictment for war crimes by the ICTY. The Executive Order also provides for the continued blocking of property or interests in property blocked prior to the order's effective date due to the need to address claims or encumbrances involving such property.

Because the crisis with respect to the situation in Kosovo and with respect to Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters and persons under open indictment for war crimes by ICTY has not been resolved, and because the status of all previously blocked property has yet to be resolved, I have determined that the national emergency declared on June 9, 1998, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue beyond June 9, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 24, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:18 p.m., May 24, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 25.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Bosnian Serbs, and Kosovo

May 24, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the "FRY

(S&M)") in 1992 and with respect to Kosovo in 1998, are to continue beyond May 30, 2001, and June 9, 2001, respectively. The most recent notice continuing these emergencies was published in the *Federal Register* on May 26, 2000.

With respect to the 1992 national emergency, on December 27, 1995, President Clinton issued Presidential Determination 96–7, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to suspend the application of sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) and to continue to block property previously blocked until provision is made to address claims or encumbrances, including the claims of the other successor states of the former Yugoslavia. This sanctions relief, in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 of November 22, 1995 (hereinafter the "Resolution"), was an essential factor motivating Serbia and Montenegro's acceptance of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina initialed in Dayton on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995 (hereinafter the "Peace Agreement").

Sanctions against both the FRY (S&M) and the Bosnian Serbs were subsequently terminated by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1074 of October 1, 1996. This termination, however, did not end the requirement of the Resolution that those blocked funds and assets that are subject to claims and encumbrances remain blocked, until unblocked in accordance with applicable law.

Until the status of all remaining blocked property is resolved, the Peace Agreement implemented, and the terms of the Resolution met, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that the 1992 emergency, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto, must continue beyond May 30, 2001.

With respect to the 1998 national emergency regarding Kosovo, on January 17, 2001, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13192 in view of the peaceful democratic transition begun in the FRY (S&M); the continuing need to promote full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 827 of May 25, 1993, and subsequent resolutions calling for all states to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); the illegitimate control over FRY (S&M) political institutions and economic resources or enterprises exercised by former President Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and other persons, and those individuals' capacity to repress democracy or perpetrate or promote further human rights abuses; and the continuing threat to regional stability and implementation of the Peace Agreement. The order lifts and modifies, with respect to future transactions, most of the economic sanctions imposed against the FRY (S&M) in 1998 and 1999 with regard to the situation in Kosovo. At the same time, the order imposes restrictions on transactions with certain persons described in section 1(a) of the order, namely Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters and persons under open indictment for war crimes by ICTY. The order also provides for the continued blocking of property or interests in property blocked prior to the order's effective date due to the need to address claims or encumbrances involving such property.

Because the crisis with respect to the situation in Kosovo and with respect to Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters and persons under open indictment for war crimes by ICTY has not been resolved, and because the status of all previously blocked property has yet to be resolved, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that the emergency declared with respect to Kosovo, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto, must continue beyond June 9, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,

May 24, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Bosnian Serbs, and Kosovo

May 24, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) emergency declared in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and with respect to the Kosovo emergency declared in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 24, 2001.

Statement on Signing the Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001

May 24, 2001

Today I am signing into law S. 700, the "Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001." The Act is intended to assist the Department of Agriculture in its continuing efforts to protect against introduction into the United States of two unrelated animal diseases occurring abroad—bovine spongiform encephalopathy and foot-and-mouth disease. Preventing such diseases from entering the United States is a high priority, and the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, has put strong measures in place designed to accomplish that goal.

Section 3 of the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit to certain committees and subcommittees of the Congress a preliminary report concerning any immediate needs for additional legislative authority or appropriations and a final report with recommendations for legislation that will improve efforts to assess, prevent, or control transmission of certain diseases. Section 3 will be interpreted in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President to recommend to the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 24, 2001.

NOTE: S. 700, approved May 24, was assigned Public Law No. 107–9. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 25.

Commencement Address at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland

May 25, 2001

Thank you very much. Thank you, all. Secretary England, thank you very much. For those of you who don't know this, he was sworn-in at noon yesterday, just to be here as the Secretary of the Navy. I'm proud to have this good man serving our country.

Admiral Clark, thank you very much. General Jones, Admiral Ryan, members of the board of visitors, Members of the United States Congress, distinguished faculty, distinguished guests, family, and friends, and most of all, graduating midshipmen of the class of 2001.

It is a tremendous honor for me to stand before the future of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. You'll always remember this commencement day, a day of excitement, pomp, circumstance; tears of joy and relief when the speaker finally stops speaking. [*Laughter*] When I accepted the invitation to speak here, I asked Admiral Clark, fine man that he is, if he had any thoughts on what I should talk about. He said, "Mr. President, you should talk about 20 minutes." [*Laughter*] So we'll see how I do.

I bring with me a small graduation present. In keeping with long-standing tradition, I hereby absolve all midshipmen who are on restriction for minor conduct offenses.

[*Laughter*] It seems a lot of you are cheering. [*Laughter*] I leave it to Admiral Ryan to define exactly what "minor" means. [*Laughter*]

Your class has so much to be proud of. You've endured the physical shakedown of your plebe summer and the academic shock of your plebe year. You've endured sea trials and the trial of the Herndon climb. You've slept in rooms adorned with brass plaques that remind you of predecessors whose chests were adorned with Medals of Honor. You've worshipped in a chapel engraved with the words, "*Non Sibi, Sed Patriae*"—Not for self, but for country. You've studied in buildings named after giants: Nimitz, Sampson, Mahan, and Michelson. And just in case the studying wasn't enough, some of you gave the left-handed salute to Tecumseh, the "god of 2.0." [*Laughter*] They didn't have that statue where I went to school. [*Laughter*] I wish they had. [*Laughter*]

No one made you come here. No one made you stay, and no one made you to subject yourself to a code of honor and a life of discipline, but you did. And your President and your country are so very grateful and proud that you have chosen to serve.

We all know that you did not arrive at this day by yourselves. You had a lot of help. And at the top of this list must go your parents, and I'd like to congratulate them, as well. The class of 2001, you launch yourself into what we all hope will be fair winds and following seas. It's a good time to reflect for a moment on the things that change and the things that never change.

Today I'm going to talk about the changing world you're entering and the enduring values you'll bring to it. Presenting the "butter bars" to the class of 2001 will be four flag officers from the Naval Academy class of 1951, Admirals Burkhalter, Dunn, McKee, and Metcalf. We're so honored to have them here, as well as a true modern day hero, and your former Superintendent, Admiral Bill Lawrence.

The class of '51 and the class of '01 are separated by 50 years, but you have much in common. You exhibit the same patriotism, the same professionalism, and the same drive. And let's not forget, both classes beat Army.

Half a century ago, the class of '51 ventured into a world where the very existence of our Nation seemed to hang in the balance. Thanks in part to their service and sacrifice, the values of democratic freedom prevailed throughout some 40 winters of a cold war.

Today, you inherit a world that is safer and more peaceful, a world the class of '51 helped to make possible. You're the custodians of their legacy, the next link in the long, unbroken chain that is Annapolis past and present. The world you're entering today is different from the one they entered in five decades ago. But it's still dangerous. It still requires America to have a forward strategy for freedom. The Navy-Marine Corps team you're about to join as new officers will be an integral part of that strategy.

Today, nearly one-third of our naval forces are forward-deployed overseas. The U.S.S. *Constellation* carrier battle group and its 10,000 sailors are plying the waters of the Persian Gulf, enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Another 3,800 sailors and marines stand guard nearby with the Boxer amphibious ready group, deterring any mischief Saddam might contemplate. The U.S.S. *Enterprise* is in the Mediterranean, along with the Kearsarge amphibious ready group. They're supporting NATO efforts to maintain peace in the Balkans and deterring those who would break the peace. And in the Pacific, the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk* is on call, ready, if needed, to defend America's interests.

These forces are America's insurance policy in a world of change and challenge. They give comfort to our allies and pause to our enemies and adversaries. America today has the finest Navy and Marine Corps the world has ever seen. And with your help, I am committing to ensuring that we have the world's finest Navy and Marine Corps tomorrow and every day after.

To do so, we must build forces that draw upon the revolutionary advances in the technology of war that will allow us to keep the peace by redefining war on our terms. I'm committed to building a future force that is defined less by size and more by mobility and swiftness, one that is easier to deploy and sustain, one that relies more heavily on stealth, precision weaponry, and information technologies.

Fifteen years from now, as many of you approach the point of command, a President may stand here and describe a far different range of deployments than the one I just gave. He—or she—may speak of Aegis destroyers protecting entire continents from the threat of ballistic missile attack; modified Trident submarines carrying hundreds of next-generation smart conventional cruise missiles; agile Marine task forces ready to deploy with far greater speed, operational reach, and precision than ever before; and global command and control systems providing near total battle space awareness in real time to on-the-scene commanders.

Building tomorrow's force is not going to be easy. Changing the direction of our military is like changing the course of a mighty ship; all the more reason for more research and development and all the more reason to get started right away. Yet, building a 21st century military will require more than new weapons. It will also require a renewed spirit of innovation in our officer corps. We cannot transform our military using old weapons and old plans. Nor can we do it with an old bureaucratic mindset that frustrates the creativity and entrepreneurship that a 21st century military will need.

The world around us is made smaller every day by the powers of science and technology. These forces of change are transforming every field, from business and communications to health and culture. As the newest officers in our military, your leadership challenge is to embrace those forces, so that you might shape them and harness them to build the security of our country. Only by accepting this challenge will you be able to see over the horizon and to develop the new concepts and applications that our Navy will need in the decades to come.

It is this spirit of innovation that, in the late twenties, allowed a visionary like Admiral Marc Mitscher to truly understand the potential power of putting an airplane on a ship. He and other great pioneers perfected in less than 20 years the doctrine, technology, and tactics of naval aviation that would win the war in the Pacific.

That same decade, the spirit of innovation allowed a smart marine major named Pete Ellis to understand that such a war would require the ability to land men and heavy equipment from a ship. So he spent the better part of his career developing the doctrine of amphibious warfare. The marines at Iwo Jima and Inchon were thankful he did.

The same spirit led Admiral Hyman Rickover, in the fifties, to the insight that the nuclear genie could be bottled to allow our submarines to stay underwater for months at a time. It led Admiral "Red" Raborn to understand how to put a nuclear missile on a submarine. And it led Arleigh Burke, the father of the modern Navy, to have the foresight to put these two men and their ideas together to create the third and most invulnerable leg of our cold war nuclear triad.

Creativity and imaginative thinking are the great competitive advantages of America and America's military. Today I call upon you to seize and to join this tradition of creativity and innovation. Our national and military leaders owe you a culture that supports innovation and a system that rewards it.

Officers willing to think big thoughts and look at problems with a fresh eye are sometimes wrong. New ideas don't always work. If you pick up this mantle, some of your ideas may fail. But we need to give you this freedom, and we will. It is from your failures that we will learn and acquire the knowledge that will make successful innovation possible. As President, I am committed to fostering a military culture where intelligent risktaking and forward thinking are rewarded, not dreaded. And I'm committed to ensuring that visionary leaders who take risks are recognized and promoted.

The Navy of the future will require innovation and entrepreneurial leadership. It will require safeguarding naval traditions of accountability and responsibility. And as it always has, it will require men and women, who live and breathe, the values that have made America and her military great.

You know by now that life in the Navy and Marine Corps is not glamorous. You will endure long hours of routine, punctuated—at times without warning—by moments of danger, where the stakes for your crew and your country could not be higher. Annapolis has prepared you well for this life. It has strengthened your bodies and sharpened your minds. Most importantly, it has fortified

your character with timeless values, honor, courage, and commitment. Through 4 years, your class has sat through many a lecture about the meaning of these values. You don't need another lecture today. But I do urge you to reflect upon their importance. Reminders of their relevance surround us.

Last month when our EP–3 crew came home from Hainan Island in China, millions of Americans had the opportunity to hear their story on television. From officers and crew, including Lieutenant John Comerford, Annapolis class of 1997, America learned firsthand about the skill and courage it took to land their wounded plane. We also saw a glimpse of the fortitude that allowed the crew to maintain its unity and spirit.

What Americans couldn't know from those television appearances was that these men and women of uncommon valor are, in fact, quite common in today's Navy. What looked extraordinary to America is nothing out of the ordinary among those who wear the uniform. And our Navy and Marine Corps is filled with people, both officers and enlisted, who have the courage, maturity, and judgment they displayed. I'm sure the admirals from the class of 1951 who joined us today could tell you quite explicitly how the Navy's core values have served them throughout their illustrious careers.

But there are many others from the class of '51 whose stories are lessor known, such as retired Lieutenant Colonel Bill Holmberg. One year and a handful of days after graduation, Second Lieutenant Bill Holmberg found himself on the Korean Peninsula, faced with the daunting task: to infiltrate his platoon deep behind enemy lines in an area swarming with patrol, to rout a tenacious enemy, to seize and hold their position. And that's what he did, and that's what his platoon did. Along the way they came under heavy fire and engaged in fierce hand-to-hand combat. Despite severe wounds, Lieutenant Holmberg refused to be evacuated and continued to deliver orders and direct the offensive until the mission was accomplished.

And that's why he wears the Navy Cross. And today, his deeds, and the deeds of other heroes from that class, echo down through the ages to you. You can't dictate the values that make a hero. You can't buy them, but you can foster them. And you can give a class like yours a sense of confidence and teamwork that will carry you through the toughest moments in a life of service to a cause greater than all of us.

Today you leave here knowing in your heart a great truth that some in life never discover, that values are important. You understand that life cannot be lived with casual commitments and shallow creeds. You understand that no one can be neutral between right and wrong, tyranny and freedom, cynicism and honor. And you know that the greatest victories are sometimes won on the private battlefields of conscience. Over time, your weapons and methods must change, but your values will not. And because of this, you contribute not just to the military might of our country but to its meaning and conscience and soul. You will not only be the defenders of America but an example to America, and we're deeply grateful.

Finally, as you go about your great work, remember that you're not only officers but ambassadors from the land of freedom. Your work will take you far from our shores. And for many people, you will be, literally, the face of America, the first and, perhaps, only American they will ever meet.

Remember that your very diversity of regional, racial, and religious heritage is, itself, a rebuke to those who hate the ideals you have pledged to defend. Remember that America has always been committed to enlarging the circle of human freedom, not reaching for the crown of empire.

And as you wear your Nation's uniform, remember also to wear the humility of true greatness. As your class helps America chart its new course in this new century, these values—honor, courage, commitment, and humility—must be both your anchor and your compass. You are part of the long, blue line of service and sacrifice committed to defending the highest aspirations of the human heart.

The best days of our Navy and our Nation are yet to come, and you, by the grace of God, will help us reach the next shore.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy; Adm. Vern

Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and Vice Adm. John R. Ryan, USN, Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy; Gen. James L. Jones, USMC, Commandant, Marine Corps; Vice Adm. Edward A. Burkhalter, Jr., USN (Ret.); Vice Adm. Robert F. Dunn, USN (Ret.); Adm. Kinnaird R. McKee, USN (Ret.); Vice Adm. Joseph Metcalf III, USN (Ret.); and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Proclamation 7444—Prayer For Peace, Memorial Day, 2001

May 25, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

"Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends." These words, spoken by General Dwight D. Eisenhower following Germany's surrender in 1945, paid tribute to his fallen comrades as he humbly acknowledged that their ultimate sacrifice gave occasion for recognition of his leadership.

Similarly, we stand as a Nation that is strong and deserving of praise. Yet we are humbled, because we remember that the wealth of this Nation's heritage, the strength of its ideals, and the extent of its freedom came with a tremendous price. These treasures were purchased with the lives of American service men and women, a cost borne prominently by several generations. We are humbled because so many bright futures, hopes, and dreams were sacrificed for the abundance of opportunities we now freely pursue.

Through the course of our Nation's history, more than 41 million Americans have served the cause of freedom and more than a million have died in its name. On this noble American holiday, we solemnly pause to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation. We honor those generations and individuals who fought for liberty and in defiance of tyranny that this unique experiment in self-government might long endure.

At a bridge at Concord, in the muddy trenches of Europe, the rugged mountains of Korea, the dense forests of Asia, or across the burning sands of the Persian Gulf, America's heroes have advanced democracy around the globe and defended the liberties we hold dear. We are particularly mindful of our fallen patriots as we mark the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the 10th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm.

We honor the final sacrifice of our service men and women by dedicating our own lives to peace and the defense of freedom. For these ideals they fought, and for these ideals we continue to strive. May we stand with diligence and with humility on the broad shoulders of those whose brave deeds and sacrifice we memorialize today. Let all of us commit this day, whether in public ceremony or in quiet reflection over a single grave, to remember them in fitting tribute.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106–579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Memorial Day, May 28, 2001, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. I urge the press, radio, television, and all other media to participate in these observances.

I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control.

I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 30, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 31.

Message on the Observance of National Missing Children's Day

May 25, 2001

I am pleased to send greetings to all those commemorating National Missing Children's Day on May 25. This observance provides an opportunity to honor hard-working and dedicated law enforcement officers, celebrate the recovery of missing children, and draw attention to children who are still missing.

As we remember the children we have lost on National Missing Children's Day, we renew our resolve and dedication to reuniting families with their loved ones. I commend local, state, and Federal law enforcement personnel for the important role they play in missing or exploited children investigations and searches. Across America, partnerships between local law enforcement officers and community groups are helping to protect our children so that they can be nurtured in love and live rich, full lives.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children deserves special recognition for its work to reunite children with their families. Since 1984, the center has received more than 1.5 million hotline calls, provided assistance in the recovery of more than 55,000 children, and distributed millions of publications regarding missing and exploited children. These efforts make a difference in the lives of countless individuals, and I salute you.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Achieving Benchmarks for a Sustainable Peace Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina

May 25, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the Levin Amendment to the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act (section 7(b) of Public Law 105–174) and section 1203(a) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I transmit herewith a report on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In July 2000, the fourth semiannual report was sent to the Congress detailing progress towards achieving the ten benchmarks that were adopted by the Peace Implementation Council and the North Atlantic Council in order to evaluate implementation of the Dayton Accords. This fifth report, which also includes supplemental reporting as required by section 1203(a) of Public Law 105–261, provides an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks covering the period July 1, 2000, to February 28, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 25, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Notre Dame, IN, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

May 21

In the morning, the President traveled to New Haven, CT, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Price to be Ambassador to Maritius.

May 22

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss the Mitchell report and the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President met with Senator James M. Jeffords in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wendy J. Chamberlin to be Ambassador to Pakistan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles Blahous III, as Executive Director of the President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security.

May 23

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss the Mitchell report and the situation in the Middle East. Later, the President met with the Dalai Lama in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Goodman Brinker to be Ambassador to Hungary.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas Alan Hartwick to be Ambassador to Laos.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alberto Jose Mora to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Everet Beckner to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas C. Hubbard to be Ambassador to South Korea.

May 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Cleveland, OH, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Albert E. Smith to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Montelongo to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven John Morello, Sr., to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Edward Rogan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa at the White House for a working visit on June 26.

May 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico to express condolences over the deaths of 14 Mexicans in the Arizona desert earlier in the week. Later, the President traveled to Annapolis, MD.

In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, and later, he went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas P. Christie to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dennis P. Coleman to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lyons Brown Jr., to be Ambassador to Austria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Charles Kurtzer to be Ambassador to Israel.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur F. Rosenfeld to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced the appointment of the following individuals as members of the Federal Home Mortgage Corporation: William Dodd Powers, Cesar Benito

Cabrera, David James Gribbin III, Catherine Lynn Stepp, and Michelle Engler.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 21

Sharon Prost,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, vice S. Jay Plager, retired.

Submitted May 22

Eduardo Aguirre, Jr.,
of Texas, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2005, vice Jackie M. Clegg, term expired.

Wendy Jean Chamberlin,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

William S. Farish,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Janet Hale,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice John Joseph Callahan, resigned.

Neal A. McCaleb,
of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Kevin Gover.

Donald E. Powell,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of 6 years, vice Donna Tanoue, term expired.

Donald E. Powell,
of Texas, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of 5 years, vice Donna Tanoue.

Thomas L. Sansonetti,
of Wyoming, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Lois Jane Schiffer, resigned.

Lavenski R. Smith,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice Richard S. Arnold, retired.

Francis Xavier Taylor,
of Maryland, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, vice Michael A. Sheehan.

Submitted May 23

Robert D. Blackwill,
of Kansas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to India.

J. Robert Flores,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice Sheldon C. Bilchik.

Anthony Horace Gioia,
of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

William Gerry Myers III,
of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, vice John D. Leshy, resigned.

Ronald Rosenfeld,
of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, vice Kevin G. Chavers, resigned.

William J. Riley,
of Nebraska, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice Clarence A. Beam, retired.

Submitted May 24

Jennifer L. Dorn,
of Nebraska, to be Federal Transit Administrator, vice Gordon J. Linton, resigned.

Sarah V. Hart,
of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Institute of Justice, vice Jeremy Travis, resigned.

Howard H. Leach,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to France.

Bennett William Raley,
of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Patricia J. Beneke, resigned.

James Edward Rogan,
of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, vice Q. Todd Dickinson, resigned.

Thomas P. Christie,
of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense, vice Philip Edward Coyle III.

Sue McCourt Cobb,
of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

Eileen J. O'Connor,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Loretta Collins Argrett, resigned.

Arthur F. Rosenfeld,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of 4 years, vice Leonard R. Page.

Odessa F. Vincent,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Evelyn E. Crawford Queen, term expiring.

Submitted May 25

Charles W. Pickering, Sr.,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice Henry A. Politz, retired.

Timothy M. Tymkovich,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice John C. Porfilio, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Eighth Circuit

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Federal Circuit

Released May 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With the Dalai Lama

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Gulf, Southwest Asia, and Other Regional Issues at the National Security Council

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Eighth Circuit

Released May 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa

Released May 25

Transcript of a telephone conversation by Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card, Jr., and National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey with journalists

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Fifth Circuit

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Tenth Circuit

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 24

S. 700 / Public Law 107–9
Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001

Statement on Passage of the "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001"

May 25, 2001

As a result of this landmark tax relief agreement, the American taxpayers will have more money in their pockets to save and invest, and the economy will receive a much-needed shot in the arm. I commend the Members of the House and Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, who made this happen. Tax relief is a centerpiece of our American agenda, and I look forward to signing it into law.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 26, 2001

Good morning. Most Americans are enjoying a 3-day weekend this Saturday, and I hope you are enjoying yours. I also hope you'll find the time to share in our Nation's observance of Memorial Day, when we pause to reflect on the cost of the free lives we live today.

I will be marking the day with military veterans gathering at the White House, who knew and remember the people who never came back from our Nation's wars. I will then go to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. It will be a high honor, and I will be there on behalf of all the people of the United States. Later that day I will join with veterans in Arizona for a commemoration and national moment of remembrance.

Most of us know war veterans. I had the privilege of being raised by one. Usually, they are reticent about their experiences. It is often difficult for them to think back on those names and faces, on the ones who never lived to be called veterans. But on Memorial Day, we accept our obligation to do just that.

We will remember the heroism, the hardship, the national gain, and personal loss our wars have brought. America has been given so much, but of all our assets, resources, and strengths, none have counted for more than the courage of young soldiers in the face of battle.

When war has come, the great decisions were made here at the White House. But when the orders went out and were received half a world away, victory has always come down to the people flying the planes, manning the ships, carrying the gun and the pack. They're the ones who have cleared the seas, crossed the rivers, charged the hills, and covered the skies. They have defended us. They have died for us. They have never disappointed us. We are in their debt more than a lifetime of Memorial Days could ever repay.

With their sacrifice comes a duty that will go on through the generations, to honor them in our thoughts, in our words, and in our lives. Every Memorial Day we try to grasp the extent of this loss and the meaning of this sacrifice. But it always seems more than words can convey. In the end, all we can do is be thankful; all we can do is remember and always appreciate the price that was paid for our own lives and our own freedom.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:40 p.m. on May 24 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Passage of the "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001"

May 26, 2001

Well, thank you all very much for joining me here at the people's house on this historic occasion. I asked all of you to join me here to be able to publicly thank the Members of the House and the Senate for working so diligently to give Americans another important reason to celebrate this holiday weekend.

I first want to thank House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott for their strong and effective leadership, leadership that was instrumental in delivering significant tax relief for the American people. I thank the incoming majority leader of the Senate, Tom Daschle, for working with us to schedule today's vote promptly. I very much appreciate Senator Daschle's willingness to allow the will of the majority of the Senate to prevail, even though he, himself, did not agree.

I thank all the members of the conference committee, especially Chairman Chuck Grassley and Chairman Bill Thomas, Senator Max Baucus and Senator John Breaux, who worked tirelessly to make tax relief a reality. I also want to especially thank Don Nickles, Phil Gramm, Olympia Snowe, and House Majority Leader Dick Armey and all who helped make tax relief possible. And while I'm thanking people, I want to thank all those who voted aye, and so do the taxpayers of America.

Today, for the first time since the landmark tax relief championed 20 years ago by President Ronald Reagan, and 40 years ago by President John F. Kennedy, an American President has the wonderful honor of letting the American people know significant tax relief is on the way.

What is especially significant about the tax relief passed by the United States House and Senate today is that it cuts income taxes for everyone who pays them. Nothing could be more profound, and nothing could be more fair. No more wondering whether you're targeted in or whether you meet all the fine print requirements to qualify for one special tax break or another. No, this tax relief is straightforward and fair. If you pay income taxes, you get relief.

And for this year's first installment of the tax cut, the check will literally be in the mail. Late this summer and into the fall, every single American who pays income taxes will receive a check. Single taxpayers will receive a check of $300. Single parents who are heads of household will receive a check of $500. And married couples will receive a check of $600.

That immediate tax relief will provide an important boost at an important time for our economy. And what is more is you can feel comfortable using it because more tax relief is on the way. The checks are the first installment of lasting, long-term reductions in tax rates. As a result, when this tax relief plan is fully implemented, a typical family of four will see their taxes cut by about half.

The check you will receive in the mail represents your benefit from the newest lowest rate, which drops from 15 percent to 10 percent. Starting in July and continuing next January, the Federal Government will begin reducing the amount it withholds from paychecks to reflect the first phase of new and lower tax rates.

Ultimately, tax rates will be reduced from the current 28 to 25, from 31 down to 28, from 36 to 33, and from 39.6 to 35 percent. Over the next 10 years, the child credit will double from last year's $500 per child to $600 per child this year to $1,000 by the year 2010. The marriage penalty will be dramatically reduced, and the unfair death tax will be completely abolished by the year 2010.

This tax relief helps all taxpayers. It especially helps those at the low end of the economic ladder. It helps American workers by letting them keep more money. And it helps small businesses, so that family-owned restaurants and startup software companies can hire more workers and provide more jobs for Americans. The tax relief package honors marriage and family by reducing the unfair marriage penalty and doubling the credit for children. It does away with one of the most unfair aspects of the Tax Code, a death tax that taxes earnings when you make them, the interest when you save them, and one more time when you die.

As many of you know, throughout my campaign I met tax families all across the country, diverse people from all walks of life who represented the hopes and dreams of American families. Joining us today is one of those families, the Petersons, Paul and Deborah and Juliette and Sarah Kate.

They work hard. Paul works during the day at Ukrop's Supermarket in downtown Richmond, Virginia. At night he's working on an MBA at Avery College. Deborah works at home caring for their daughters. The Peterson family was here last February when the prospects for tax relief were not exactly what they were—like they are today.

Well, Paul and Deborah, I'm delighted to let you know that your family will receive $800 in tax relief this year—600 from the check and another 200 from the immediate increase in the child credit.

I have even more good news for the Petersons and folks like them all across America. When you were here in February, we calculated that your ultimate tax savings would be $1,100 a year. Well, when all aspects of the plan are phased in, you will receive not $1,100 a year, but $1,700 a year. That is 1,700 more dollars for this good family to spend on their children and on their dreams. I'm confident about one thing: These good folks can spend the $1,700 better than the Federal Government can.

Tax relief was the right thing to do, and it is the responsible thing to do, for the American people and for our economy.

I, once again, thank and applaud the Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, who joined together to get results on behalf of the American people. The tax relief package that was voted on today was agreed on last night, after this week's change in the balance of power in the United States Senate. And it can be a model for the work that is ahead. Tax relief was based on important principles, principles that are compassionate and conservative and principles that were preserved during the legislative process of give-and-take.

We listened to the voices of those in my party and in the Democratic Party who wanted additional help for those at the lowest end of the economic ladder. We listened, and as a result, this plan has even more help for lower income Americans. The earned-income credit is expanded for low income married couples, and the child credit is refundable for parents, providing the most help for those who earn between $10,000 and $25,000 a year.

We acted on principle. We worked together to build consensus and to get results. This is significant, and this is only the beginning. The Peterson family, and families like them all across America, need more than just a tax cut. The Petersons want us to work together to improve public education, strengthen their retirement security, modernize Medicare, and strengthen and modernize our national defenses.

Again, thanks to the Members of Congress. I hope you enjoy your Memorial Day recess. And then, let's work together to complete the great progress we are making on legislation to improve America's public schools.

Again, I want to thank you all for coming. This is an historic day. It explains the art of the possible. It shows what can happen when good people come together with the intention of doing what's right for the American people. And we have done right by the American people today.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Breakfast

May 28, 2001

Thank you. Well, Tony, thank you very much. I appreciate so very much the fine work you are doing on behalf of the veterans for America. I knew that I made a pretty good selection when I picked Tony. I didn't realize that so many would agree with me so quickly, and I thank you very much for taking on such a tough assignment.

I am also honored that the Secretary of Defense is here. Mr. Secretary, thank you, and thanks for bringing your great wife, as well. I'm pleased to know that Mel Martinez and his wife are here, another Cabinet Secretary, as well as Ann Veneman and Tommy

Thompson, head of Health and Human Services. Thank you all for being here today. Jeni, thank you for your kind prayer.

Senator Dole, it's great to see you, sir. I'm really pleased you brought your better half. [*Laughter*] Elizabeth is one of our all-time favorites. I know you've worked hard for this moment, and I want to thank you for being here. I see Freddie Smith, as well, who—you did a fine job of twisting his arm to take over the head of the World War II Memorial Fund. And thanks, Fred, so much for your hard work.

I'm glad Members of the Congress who are here—I thought most of you were trying to escape town, but some of you stayed behind to help celebrate this occasion. Senator Hutchinson from the great State of Arkansas is here. Thank you very much, Tim, for being here. Senator Bob Smith, thank you, sir, for coming. Senator Ted Stevens, I appreciate so very much, you being here. And of course, the chairman, John Warner, thanks for coming. Members of the House—Cass Ballenger and Ralph Regula, Ike Skelton and Chris Smith—are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

I've got to say something about an ex-Congressman. I just saw Sonny Montgomery sitting here, and Sonny, you may not be in the House but a lot of people wish you still were, and thanks so much for being here.

I want to thank the members of the Joint Chiefs who are here. I also want to thank all the World War II vets who are here. And if you wouldn't mind standing, I wish you would, please. [*Applause*]

William Schmidt, an ex-POW, and Joseph Alexander, a Defender of Bataan & Corregidor, are here. You just stood, but I want to thank you two gentlemen for coming, as well.

I want to welcome everybody to the White House. Laura and I are so honored you are here this morning. Later today I will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, one of the many acts of remembrance that will mark this day. Many of you will be there. Thank you for coming, not only here but there, as well.

Each of you is not only a veteran in this room, but each of you is a servant to other veterans, and for that our Nation is grateful. America's veterans have earned not only honors but specific benefits, and those only become more necessary with the years.

My administration will do all it can to assist our veterans and to correct oversights of the past. My budget provides a significant increase for health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where Senator Principi is very much in charge. We are making considerable progress on implementing the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act. And the Secretary—did I say Senator Principi? [*Laughter*] Always worried about that balance of power. [*Laughter*] Secretary Principi has begun a top-to-bottom review of VA claims processing in order to identify weaknesses and areas of improvement. These are good first steps, but they are only first steps.

We must also improve the way the VA and the Department of Defense work together to provide care to those who have served in uniform. I am today announcing the creation of a Presidential task force to recommend major reforms in the delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees.

I have asked two distinguished Americans to lead it. Dr. Gail Wilensky is a prominent expert on health policy and a faithful friend to veterans. She will work with Gerry Solomon, who is a long-time advocate for veterans and a former Congressman. One might be tempted to call him an ex-marine, but we all know there is no such thing as an ex-marine. [*Laughter*] I'm honored that both have agreed to serve. I am honored they are both here. Please stand. [*Applause*] Thank you for coming.

America really has been given so much. Yet, of all our assets, resources, and strengths, none have counted more than the courage of our young soldiers in the face of battle. They have cleared the seas, crossed the rivers, charged the hills, and covered the skies, and they have never let America down.

I know that those who have seen war are rarely eager to look back on it, and the hardest memories of all concern those who serve their country and never live to be called veterans. Yet, memory is our responsibility. We are in their debt more than a lifetime of Memorial Days could repay. Their sacrifices left

us with a duty that goes on through the generations, to honor them in our thoughts and our words and in our lives.

We have been given that opportunity this morning. On your way to Arlington National Cemetery you will pass The Mall, where our Nation raised up memorials to Washington, Lincoln, and those lost in Vietnam. That same Mall will soon be the site of the World War II Memorial.

The generation of World War II defeated history's greatest tyranny, leaving graves and freedom from Europe to Asia. Our Nation must always remember their heroism and humility and terrible suffering. And that memory must be and will be preserved on the Washington Mall.

The World War II Memorial has been in the works for a long time. The Congress of the United States has acted to remove the obstacles and begin the project. What is required now is a signature, and I am glad to give it. In the 60th year after Pearl Harbor, it is my huge honor to set my name on this bill, ordering construction of a monument that will stand for the ages. Not only will I sign the bill, I will make sure the monument gets built.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, who introduced the President; Kitty Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Joyce Martinez, wife of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel R. Martinez; Jeni Cook, Director of Chaplain Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; former Senator Bob Dole, national chairman, and Frederick W. Smith, cochairman, World War II Memorial Campaign; and Elizabeth Dole, former Secretary of Transportation. Following his remarks, the President signed H.R. 1696, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, assigned Public Law No. 107–11.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Expedite the Construction of the World War II Memorial

May 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1696, a bill to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. It is indeed fitting that this measure becomes law on Memorial Day.

This legislation will allow the Nation to express the appreciation due the World War II generation for their selfless sacrifices that preserved the freedoms we all enjoy. I commend the Congress for a truly bipartisan effort to expedite construction of the memorial.

Now that debate over the site and basic design is concluded, the time has come for all concerned with the creation of the memorial to act with the same determination and sense of common purpose so wonderfully displayed by those we honor. We must get the job done, so that those who served are able to see the Nation's permanent expression of remembrance and thanks.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1696, approved May 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–11.

Executive Order 13214—President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans

May 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to provide prompt and efficient access to consistently high quality health care for veterans who have served the Nation, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans (Task Force).

Sec. 2. *Membership.* The Task Force shall be comprised of 15 members appointed by the President. Two of the 15 members shall serve as co-chairs of the Task Force. The Task Force membership shall include health care experts, officials familiar with Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health care systems, and representatives from veteran and military service organizations.

Sec. 3. *Mission.* The mission of the Task Force shall be to:

(a) identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiaries and Department of Defense military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;

(b) review barriers and challenges that impede Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement. Identify opportunities to improve such business practices to ensure high quality and cost effective health care; and

(c) identify opportunities for improved resource utilization through partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including: buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services, and delivery of care.

Sec. 4. *Administration.*

(a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Task Force.

(b) Members of the Task Force shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Task Force. Members appointed from among private citizens of the United States, however, while engaged in the work of the Task Force, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(c) The co-chairs of the Task Force shall appoint an Executive Director to coordinate administration of the Task Force. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Commission shall be provided by executive branch departments and agencies as directed by the President.

(d) The heads of the executive branch departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Task Force with information as requested by the co-chairs.

(e) At the call of the co-chairs, the Task Force shall meet as necessary to accomplish its mission.

(f) The functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except for those in section 6 of that Act, that are applicable to the Task Force, shall be performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 5. *Reports.* The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Defense. The Task Force shall issue an interim report in 9 months from the date of the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force shall issue a final report prior to the end of the second year of operation.

Sec. 6. *Termination.* The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, but no later than 2 years from the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 30, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 31.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

May 28, 2001

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for those kind remarks. Secretary Principi, General Shelton, and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jackson, members

of the Cabinet, Members of the United States Congress, honored guests. We have a lot of generations represented here today. But I would like for what's now called the "Greatest Generation" to please stand with those who served in World War II, their widows, World War II orphans. Please rise. [*Applause*]

My fellow Americans, a few moments ago, for the first time as President, I paid tribute at this tomb where American soldiers were laid to rest. Their names are known only to God, but there is much we do know about them and about all the others we remember today. We know that they all loved their lives as we love ours. We know they had a place in the world, families waiting for them, and friends they expected to see again. We know that they thought of a future, just as we do, with plans and hopes for a long and full life. And we know that they left those hopes behind when they went to war and parted with them forever when they died.

Every Memorial Day we try to grasp the extent of this loss and the meaning of this sacrifice. And it always seems more than words can convey. All we can do is remember and always appreciate the price that was paid for our own lives and for our own freedom.

Today, in thousands of towns across this great land, Americans are gathered to pay their own tributes. At 3 o'clock this afternoon Americans will pause for a moment of remembrance. They will meet at monuments or in public squares or, like us, in places where those we honor were laid to rest.

More than any words we say, the truth is told in the things we see, in markers, in dates, in names around us. Some of the names here at Arlington are written large in our history: President John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert; General George C. Marshall; Second Lieutenant Audie Murphy of Kingston, Texas; General Chappy James; Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., of the Union Army; Captain Robert Todd Lincoln; Generals Bradley and Pershing; Admirals Leahy and Rickover; and three of the men who planted the flag at Iwo Jima. These men were known for their wartime service, and also for the lives they lived afterward.

For many, however, the afterward never came. Within these 200 acres are the remains of men and women who died young, some very young. Walking along these paths, a visitor to this national cemetery might view these markers as one great national loss. And that is certainly the case.

But we must remember, for many who come here, there is one marker that will always stand out among all the others. In their eyes, it lies alone.

For one woman, Memorial Day brings thoughts of the father she never knew. She recalled as a young child, learning to pray the words, "Our Father, who art in heaven," thinking she was talking to her own father.

For others, there is the memory of the last kiss as the train pulled away, a last wink and parting wisecrack from a big brother, a brave smile from a son who seemed like a boy. And then there was the telegram that came.

To those who have known that loss and felt that absence, Memorial Day gives formal expression to a very personal experience. Their losses can be marked but not measured. We can never measure the full value of what was gained in their sacrifice. We live it every day in the comforts of peace and the gifts of freedom. These have all been purchased for us.

From the very beginning, our country has faced many tests of courage. Our answer to such tests can be found here on these hills and in America's cemeteries, from the islands of the Pacific to the north coast of France.

And on Memorial Day, we must remember a special group of veterans, Americans still missing and unaccounted for from Vietnam, Korea, the cold war, and World War II. We honor them today. They deserve and will have our best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting and, alive or dead, to return them home to America.

It is not in our nature to seek out wars and conflicts. But whenever they have come, when adversaries have left us no alternative, American men and women have stood ready to take the risks and to pay the ultimate price. People of the same caliber and the same character today fill the ranks of the Armed Forces of the United States. Any foe who might ever challenge our national resolve would be repeating the grave errors of defeated enemies. Because this Nation loves peace, we do not take it for granted. Because

we love freedom, we are always prepared to bear even its greatest costs.

Arriving here today, all of us passed the strong straight figures of men and women who serve our country today. To see their youth and discipline and clarity of purpose is humbling to a Commander in Chief. They are the new generation of America's defenders. They follow an unbroken line of good and brave and unfaltering people who have never let this country down.

Today we honor those who fell from the line, who left us never knowing how much they would be missed. We pray for them with an affection that grows deeper with the years. And we remember them, all of them, with the love of a grateful Nation.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. James T. Jackson, USA, Commanding General, Military District of Washington.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Commemoration in Mesa, Arizona

May 28, 2001

Thank you all very much. Secretary Principi, thank you for agreeing to serve our Nation. Thank you for your vision and hard work to make sure that those who have worn the uniform receive the benefits that they are owed. Principi is a good man who is going to do a fine job on behalf of the American people.

I'm honored to be here with my friend the Governor of the State of Arizona, Jane Dee Hull; Senator Jon Kyl from the great State of Arizona; Congressman Bob Stump, the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee; J.D. Hayworth; and the Congressman from this district, Jeff Flake.

It's an honor to be here with the commanders of Arizona's military bases. I'm pleased to be here with the distinguished guests on the stage. There's one special American here today, a man named Tom Lockhart, who was a captain in the United States Air Force, who had the dubious distinction of trying to teach me how to fly a T–38 aircraft at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. And I'm so honored my friend, Silver Star winner Tom Lockhart, is with us today, as well.

Before I begin, I do want to ask us to join in a moment of silence for a veteran who passed away today, the Congressman from the State of Massachusetts, Congressman Joe Moakley. Please join me in a moment of silence.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

Thank you very much. Joe loved America, and he will be sorely missed.

Today's the day we say thanks to many heroes. There's a true hero who is a Senator from the State of Arizona, he is overseas today, but I know you all join me in thanking John McCain for his service, not only to Arizona but to the United States of America. And no President can pass through Arizona without remembering the great Arizona statesman who left us 3 years ago, Senator and Major General Barry Goldwater.

I want to thank you all for coming out. I am so pleased that so many of your citizens lined the streets and came into this hangar on this kind of warm Arizona day. [*Laughter*] I began this day with a group of veterans at the White House by signing into law a bill to expedite construction of a national World War II Memorial on The Mall in Washington, DC.

I had the honor of bringing one of the two pens I used to sign the bill with me today and present it to the law's primary sponsor in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bob Stump.

Throughout America, we will find monuments to those who served in that war. The generation of World War II defeated one of history's greatest tyrannies, leaving graves and freedom from Europe to Asia. In Phoenix, near your State capital, you keep the anchor of the U.S.S. *Arizona*, honoring the men who died on that ship almost 60 years ago. It is time to build a lasting national memorial to World War II in our Nation's Capital, and the work begins soon.

I would like all those who served our Nation in World War II, World War II widows, and World War II orphans to raise their

hands so we can thank you for your service. [*Applause*] Now you can put them down.

Many veterans of other wars are with us today, Korea, Vietnam, the cold war, and other conflicts. We're honored by your presence. And we're honored by the president of the Buffalo Soldiers standing with us today, as well. And we're especially honored by the presence of several men who wear the Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Thank you all for being here.

Arizona is also home to some veterans of the Navajo Code Talkers program. In the Pacific theater, these men made a brilliant and legendary contribution to victory in the Second World War. Countless American lives were spared because our military could communicate in the unbreakable code of the Navajo language. In a time of great need, our country was served bravely and served well by the Navajo.

There are many thousands of veterans in this State. And often veterans are not eager to look back at their experiences. Hardest of all is to recall the ones who never lived to be called veterans. But memory is our duty, and on this day, it is our privilege.

At 3 p.m., in every town, city, village, and hamlet in America, Americans of all walks of life are pausing for a moment of silence. It is 3 p.m. in this great State of Arizona. Please join me in a moment of silence for those who gave their lives to our great Nation.

[*A moment of silence was observed.*]

God bless.

The heroes we remember never really set out to be heroes. Each loved his life as much as we love ours. Each had a place in the world, a family waiting, and friends to see again. They thought of the future, just as we do, with plans and hopes for a long life. But they left it all behind when they went to war and parted with it forever when they died. Every Memorial Day we gather at places like this to grasp the extent of their loss and the meaning of the sacrifice. It always seems more than words can cover. In the end, all we can do is be thankful; all we can do is remember, and always appreciate the price that was paid for our own lives and our own freedom.

Today, in thousands of towns, Americans have gathered to pay their own tributes to the men and women who died young, some very young. We often think of this as one of great national loss, and that is certainly the case. But for so many, and perhaps many here today, there is one name among all the others, a name that recalls a different time and memories held close and quiet. To those who have known such loss and felt such absence in their life, Memorial Day gives formal expression to a very personal experience. Your losses can be marked but not measured. And we can never measure the value of what was gained in their sacrifice. We live it every day in the comforts of peace and the gifts of freedom. These have all been purchased for us, and we're grateful for the sacrifice.

It's not in our nature to seek out wars and conflicts, but whenever they have come, when adversaries have left us no alternative, American men and women have stood ready to take the risks and pay the ultimate price. People of the same caliber and the same character today fill the ranks of the All-Volunteer Army of the United States of America. Any foe who might ever challenge our national resolve would be repeating the grave error of defeated adversaries. Because this Nation loves peace, we do not take it for granted. And because we love freedom, we are always prepared to bear its greatest costs.

I oftentimes see the military folks who serve our Nation so proud and humbled—to see them in lines of such discipline and training and preparedness. They're the new generation of America's defenders. They follow in an unbroken line of good and brave and unfaltering people who have never let this country down.

Today we honor those who fell from the line, who left us never knowing how much they would be missed. We pray for them with an affection that grows deeper with the years. And we remember them, all of them, with the love of a grateful Nation.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. at the Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum.

Statement on the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity II

May 28, 2001

The corruption of governmental institutions threatens the common aspirations of all honest members of the international community. It threatens our common interests in promoting political and economic stability, upholding core democratic values, ending the reign of dictators, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities.

A few short years ago, talking openly about corruption was considered taboo. Today, however, officials from many countries are meeting and working together to demand greater transparency and accountability in public affairs. From Asia to Europe to Africa to the Americas, these efforts are exposing corrupt practices to the sunshine of public scrutiny, where, ultimately, they cannot survive.

This week the second Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity will help to keep the promotion of integrity and transparency high on the international agenda. I want to underscore the United States' support for the Global Forum's work, applaud the large number of participating states, and especially, thank the Government of the Netherlands for hosting this event.

Increasing accountability and transparency in governance around the world is an important foreign policy objective for my administration. The United States is committed to bringing renewed energy to the global anticorruption agenda and to increasing the effectiveness of the American policies and programs that address this important issue.

I salute the work of delegates to the second Global Forum, and I strongly support your important objectives.

Statement on the Death of Representative John Joseph Moakley

May 28, 2001

Laura and I extend our deepest sympathies to the Moakley family. Joe was a fine man. As a veteran and later a Congressman, he served his country and the people of Massachusetts with distinction and honor. He was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was known for his candor, wit, and humility. We will miss him.

Remarks at Camp Pendleton, California

May 29, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. General Hagee, thank you very much. Thank you for your warm welcome here at the white house——

[*At this point, there was an interruption in the audience.*]

The President. Thank you. Behave yourself. [*Laughter*]

General Hanlon, thank you very much. And General Conway, I appreciate so very much you greeting me. It's an honor to be here with Colonel Christian, Sergeant Major Royce Coffee, Sergeant Major M.G. Markiewicz, and the fine troops of Camp Pendleton.

I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who are here, stalwarts when it comes to sound defense spending, strong advocates for tax relief, education reform—Congressmen Mary Bono, Duke Cunningham, Duncan Hunter, Darrell Issa, and Dana Rohrabacher. Thank you so much for coming here.

It is a real great privilege for me to be here today. I've had a heck of a week, particularly since I've been able to spend a lot of time around America's military forces. Last Wednesday I attended a reenlistment ceremony at the White House, where we swore in a group of sailors and marine airmen to a new term. Two days later I had the honor of giving the commencement address at Annapolis at the Naval Academy. And yesterday I had the high privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery. I spent a lot of quality time with a lot of quality people, the people who wear the uniform in the United States military, the men and women who serve and sacrifice so Americans can sleep in peace, knowing that freedom is in good hands.

I've been looking forward to this trip, and looking forward to being able to extend a proper Marine Corps greeting—Ooh-rah!

Audience members. Ooh-rah! [*Laughter*]

The President. There's no higher honor than to serve as Commander in Chief. It's also a high honor to be able to come to Camp Pendleton, a place that helps turn new recruits into leathernecks, a place that serves as home to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and to one of America's oldest and most decorated units, the 1st Marine Division.

Camp Pendleton serves as the launching pad for what Marines do best, to deploy rapidly so you can be the first on the scene wherever freedom and America's interests are threatened. As the stone markers in our midst remind us, marines have sailed from Camp Pendleton to fight at Guadalcanal, at Okinawa, and Inchon. Marines from Camp Pendleton fought in the jungles and rice paddies of Vietnam. Marines from Camp Pendleton helped liberate Kuwait. Today, you carry forward this proud tradition, ready to answer when America calls.

Because you are Marines, you are often asked to perform the most difficult and dangerous missions. Because you are Marines, you not only accept this challenge, you embrace it, not for glory and not for self but for God, country, corps, and your fellow marines.

I respect your service. I appreciate your sacrifice, and I know what you contribute to our Nation. In a world of fast-changing threats, you give us stability. Because of you, America's secure, and the march of freedom continues.

I know how hard your work is. I know that your frequent deployments are hard on you and hard on your families. Marines pride themselves on traveling light and fighting hard. But here at home, you and your families deserve something better. You deserve our Nation's full support, and with this administration, you will get it.

The first budget I submitted to Congress contains a $1.4 billion military pay raise. That's on top of the pay raises that Congress recently passed. It provides $400 million in new funds to improve military housing and $3.9 billion to improve military health benefits. After all your country receives from you, you must receive better housing, better pay, and better health. You're entitled to a defense budget that meets our current needs and our future obligations. And you're entitled to a Commander in Chief who sets a clear goal, a clear vision for our military. And that goal is to be well equipped and well trained, to be able to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent wars from happening in the first place.

No one can come here without being struck by the physical beauty. Marines are good stewards of our southern California coastline. You're also practicing good stewardship by the way you're using—and not using—the supply of energy in California.

The Federal Government is the single biggest user of electricity in the State of California. On May 3d, I ordered all Federal agencies to take extra steps to conserve energy. And the Department of Defense immediately committed itself to reducing its electricity consumption by 10 percent during peak hours. I'm pleased to report that the military and Federal agencies are exceeding expectations.

And Camp Pendleton deserves special credit, and I am here to give you special credit. I congratulate you for seeking extra conservation savings over the 10 percent. And that's going above and beyond the call of duty, and I salute you. Altogether, we estimate that the Federal conservation efforts will save the State 76 megawatts per hour during peak use periods, when power is most needed; 76 megawatts per hour is enough electricity for 140,000 people during peak demand periods. That's as many people who live in Pasadena, California.

Over the past 30 years, Americans have made steady conservation progress. If we still used energy the way we did in 1972, we'd be using 74 percent more energy today than we actually do. A new car uses about 60 percent as much gasoline as a car made in 1972. A new refrigerator uses about only 30 percent as much electricity as a 1972 refrigerator.

Yet this conservation progress slowed in the 1990s, and more than 40 of the 100-plus

recommendations in my administration's energy plan are intended to protect the environment, help hard-hit communities, and revitalize our conservation efforts all across the country.

We have other initiatives, as well. Our Nation needs to modernize its networks for moving energy from the powerplant to the outlet on the wall. Again, you in California know that well. For almost 20 years, it's been clear that what's called Path 15, the stretch of transmission line connecting the power grids of northern and southern California, needed to be expanded and modernized. And now we're taking action to get the job done.

Energy Secretary Spence Abraham is speeding approval of the necessary permits and easements. We're going to unplug the Path 15 bottleneck. We're advancing toward an interstate electric grid to match our interstate highways and interstate phone systems.

Rising energy prices are a challenge for everyone. I believe you will find my tax relief plan will provide some help, a tax relief plan that is worth $100 billion to the consumers all across America, including those who wear the uniform. But for some Americans and some Californians, high energy costs are more than a challenge, they're an emergency, and our Government must respond.

In February my budget—I asked Congress for $300 million in aid for low income people struggling with rising energy bills. Today I'm announcing I'll ask Congress for an additional $150 million in low income energy assistance, and I hope Congress acts quickly.

Energy debates sometimes throw off some sparks. But this is no time for harsh rhetoric. It's certainly no time for name calling. It's time for leadership. It's time for results. It's time to put politics aside and focus on the best interests of the people.

This is an administration that's focused on results. We're going to work together—the Federal Government, the State government, the military, and all the citizens. Speaking of citizens, you're the best of citizens. You commit your lives to our country. You dedicate yourself to something greater than yourself.

Whatever is asked of you and your fellow marines, you have given, as Abraham Lincoln said, "The last full measure of devotion." As I look in the eyes and shake the firm grips of your fellow marines, it reminds me the Marine Corps is in good hands, and so is our country.

Thank you so very much for your hospitality and *Semper Fi.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 a.m. at the 1st Marine Division headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Michael W. Hagee, USMC, commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Royce G. Coffee, USMC, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force; Maj. Gen. Edward Hanlon, Jr., USMC, commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Michael G. Markiewicz, USMC, Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base; Maj. Gen. James T. Conway, USMC, commanding general, 1st Marine Division; and Col. Paul C. Christian, USMC, commanding officer, Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station.

Remarks to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council in Los Angeles, California

May 29, 2001

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. I think what he's saying is there's some pretty big shoes to follow when he leaves office. [*Laughter*] Mayor, I appreciate your leadership. Thank you for your friendship. Tell Shaq they don't fit. [*Laughter*]

Governor Davis, thank you so much for being here. I'm looking forward to our meeting today. I'm honored by your presence. Secretary of State Jones, thank you for being here. Members of the congressional delegation—David Dreier, Buck McKeon, Ed Royce, and Stephen Horn are here, and I'm honored that you came.

I want to thank Bruce so very much for your invitation and putting together this august crowd of fellow citizens. I want to thank Stephen Bollenbach, as well, all the officers. I especially want to thank you all for coming and giving me a chance to talk about important issues facing our Nation.

Some people say, "What brings you out here?" [*Laughter*] Well, there's a lot of reasons, and one is particularly profound: My cat lives here. [*Laughter*] When Laura and I moved to Washington we, unfortunately, had to find another home for our cat, Ernie. We loved him a lot, but we were not sure

that he was the sort of cat who could be trusted around the historic furniture in the White House. [*Laughter*]

Our good friend Brad Freeman, had developed a close relationship with Ernie—[*laughter*]—and he adopted him and brought him out here to L.A. I figured it was time to check up on both of them. [*Laughter*] I'm pleased to report that Ernie is doing fine. He loves Los Angeles. He's dating. [*Laughter*] He has an agent—[*laughter*]—and for some reason, he looks 10 years younger. [*Laughter*]

Laura and I had the wonderful honor of moving into the White House, but Ernie may be a little luckier. He gets to live in California.

I'm glad to be here today to talk about our economy and a prosperity agenda for America. These are uncertain times for our economy at home and for the economies of our friends in different parts of the world, including the Pacific rim. Yet, I know we have an opportunity to build an enduring prosperity through principled leadership and sound public policy.

So we're reducing taxes to create jobs by speeding up economic growth and encouraging capital formation. We're enacting sweeping reforms to improve our public schools and prepare our people to succeed in a high-tech economy of the future. We will negotiate open trade to find new markets for American products, from movies to electronics to California farm produce. And we will secure our Nation's energy future by generating clean and reliable power on which high-tech economy depends.

There's no better place to talk about this prosperity agenda than right here in California, our largest State and the sixth largest economy in the world. California is our Nation's biggest exporter. It receives more foreign direct investment than any other State in our Union. More than 40 percent of the Nation's venture capital is sourced here, and California is home to more than one-quarter of our computing manufacturing industry.

Our prosperity agenda is designed for the economy of our whole Nation and for the 13 percent of that economy that is located right here in the great State of California.

One important element of our prosperity agenda is now complete, the biggest tax cut in 20 years. A year ago, tax relief was supposed to be a political impossibility. Six months ago, it was supposed to be a political liability. Now, it's reality. That's an achievement that is good for our economy. It's an achievement that's good for California. It's an achievement that's good for America.

For taxpayers, tax relief will mean more money to spend and save. For parents, tax relief will make it easier to raise a child. For farmers and business owners, death tax relief will protect your property for your loved ones. And for small business, tax relief creates jobs and new opportunities.

The vast majority of small businesses pay taxes on the personal, rather than the corporate tax schedule. By cutting the rates many small businesses pay, we're putting American Government on the side of the entrepreneur, on the side of the inventors of Silicon Valley, on the side of the Korean businesspeople who have revived long blocks of Wilshire Boulevard, on the side of hundreds of thousands of Latino-owned businesses in Los Angeles alone.

Tax relief reverses one of the most ominous economic trends of recent years, a trend toward Government consuming a larger and larger share of the national income. Last year the Federal Government took a larger share of our national income than it did in 1945. We were paying wartime prices for peacetime Government. Once we fund our priorities and meet our Nation's important needs, we should return tax dollars to the people who earned them. And that's exactly what we're doing.

Tax relief is supported by Members of Congress from both political parties, who work together to serve the American people. And here, let me pay special tribute to one of the hardest working of those Members, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the first Californian ever to hold that influential post, my good friend from Bakersfield, Bill Thomas. Thanks to his leadership and the leadership of others, April 15th will be a less taxing experience for Americans.

Another item on the prosperity agenda is education reform. And here, too, the spirit

of cooperation and the spirit of getting things done in Washington is producing results for the American people. The House has passed, overwhelmingly—and I hope the Senate will pass soon—the most significant education reform in 35 years. These bipartisan reforms will require testing of all schoolchildren in grades three through eight to make sure that they are learning.

These reforms will direct additional resources to those who need help. They will give new options to parents of children in persistently failing schools. They will reduce Federal bureaucracy and strengthen local control of schools. They will help local schools reach a significant goal by funding early childhood reading programs. We will more likely make sure that no child is left behind in America. Education reform is essential to keep faith with our country's promise of equality of opportunity, and education reform is essential to our economic progress.

We're grateful that the world's most skilled workers want to come to the United States. Our technology advantage rests on the contributions of immigrants from places like India or China, Russia, Iran, and hundreds of others of countries. But while we're importing the world's best, too many Americans are locked out of the economy of a future by schools that don't teach and won't change. Our prosperity agenda will equip every American child with the skills he or she needs to do valuable work and earn a good wage.

Our prosperity agenda also includes the opening of world markets. The United States has been hamstrung at the world's negotiating tables for too long. In the 1980s and early nineties we negotiated one important trade agreement after another: the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement; U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement; NAFTA; and the Uruguay Multilateral Round. These trade-expanding agreements enriched America and strengthened democracy around the world and in our hemisphere.

But in 1994 Presidential trade promotion authority lapsed. Since then, our trade progress has faltered. We have few better friends in the world, for example, than Chile. Yet, American goods are burdened with a higher tariff in Chile than Canadian goods. Canada has negotiated a free trade agreement with Chile; America has not.

The growth of the world economy depends on world trade. The growth of world trade depends on American leadership. And America will lead toward freer trade, toward wider and more lasting prosperity for ourselves and for the world.

We need to advance free trade globally, regionally, and bilaterally. It is time to initiate a new global trade round, just as we have launched negotiations in our own hemisphere with the Free Trade Area of the Americas. We need congressional action on trade agreements with Jordan and Vietnam. We want to complete our free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore.

To demonstrate American leadership on all these issues, I'm asking the United States Congress to approve U.S. trade promotion authority this year. And because trade creates prosperity, and prosperity promotes democracy, I will notify Congress on June 1st that I intend to extend normal trade relation status with China for another year.

Open trade is a force for freedom in China, a force for stability in Asia, and a force for prosperity in the United States. And this is not just my personal view. The institutions and individuals in China who are the least friendly to freedom are often the least friendly to trade. The institutions and individuals most sympathetic to freedom are often the most friendly to trade. They know what I know: Free trade supports and sustains freedom in all its forms.

Free trade has expanded the portion of China's economy that is independent of the State. Free trade has swelled the ranks of independent businessmen. Free trade has introduced new technologies that offer Chinese people access to uncensored information and democratic ideas.

When we open trade, we open minds. We trade with China because trade is good policy for our economy, because trade is good policy for democracy, and because trade is good policy for our national security.

California benefits greatly from trade. More than a million jobs in this State are supported by manufactured exports alone. In

addition, California is the Nation's largest agricultural exporter. Long Beach and Los Angeles handle more traffic than any other ports in the country. This State is the headquarters of our entertainment industry, which also draws more and more of its earnings from overseas sales. Altogether, California's exports grew by more than 20 percent in the year just ended. When the world trades in freedom, it buys what California sells.

And our prosperity agenda makes a priority of energy security. We can get everything else right, but if we—if our energy supply is unreliable or unaffordable, our economy cannot thrive. For too long, America has neglected energy. The neglect ends now.

My administration has developed a comprehensive national energy policy, more than 100 recommendations to promote conservation, expand energy production, improve energy transmission, and protect the environment. We put conservation first because we have seen the important difference conservation can make. Our economy has grown by 126 percent since 1973, adjusting for inflation. Our energy use has grown by only 30 percent. To add one dollar to our gross domestic product takes only about a half as much energy as it did 30 years ago.

These are the achievements of conservation. Yet, progress on conservation slowed in the 1990s. Our energy plan will renew and reinvigorate conservation by supporting productive research into energy-saving efficiency and by offering businesses and consumers incentives to switch to new energy sources that consume less fuel and emit fewer pollutants.

Conservation is an important part of the energy equation, as Californians know. California is already an impressive conservation leader, one of the most energy-efficient States in the Union. And I commend and salute your achievement. But even California's admirable conservation effort was not, by itself, enough to keep pace with your growing demand. So our energy plan encourages to produce a diverse supply of energy in an environmentally friendly way, through safe and clean nuclear power; wind, solar, biomass, and other renewables; hydropower; clean coal; and using new technologies to tap oil and natural gas in ways that tread lightly on the Earth. Our energy plan promotes new technologies to ensure this new supply is produced cleanly and with respect for our environment.

And Mr. Governor, I will honor my commitment to you to uphold the moratorium on new drilling leases off the coast of California.

We must do all our part to conserve energy. On May the 3d I called on all Federal agencies to take extra steps to conserve energy. And the Department of Defense immediately committed itself to reducing its electricity consumption by 10 percent at peak hours.

I visited Camp Pendleton this morning and saw the contribution our military is making. I was impressed. We estimate that Federal conservation efforts will save this State at least 76 megawatts per hour during peak periods. Seventy-six megawatts in a peak hour is enough power to supply the entire city of Pasadena.

And we must bring new supply on-line as quickly as possible. My administration has worked with your good Governor and Californian authorities to speed the approval of new powerplants, expand electricity production, and to increase the flow of natural gas into your State. But for too long, too often, too many have wasted energy, pointing fingers and laying blame. Energy is a problem that requires action—not politics, not excuses, but action. Blame shifting is not action, it's a distraction. My administration will continue to work to help California through the difficult months ahead.

All our efforts are guided by a simple test: Will any action increase supply at fair and reasonable prices? Will it decrease demand in equitable ways? Anything that meets that test will alleviate the shortage, and we will move swiftly to adopt it. Anything that fails that test will make the shortage worse. We will not take any action that makes California's problems worse. And that's why I oppose price caps. Price caps do nothing to reduce demand, and they do nothing to increase supply. This is not only my administration's position; this was the position of the prior administration.

At first blush, for those struggling to pay high energy bills, price caps may sound appealing. But their result will ultimately be more serious shortages and, therefore, even higher prices.

I want to assure Californians that the Federal Government takes very seriously our responsibility to make sure that companies are not illegally gouging consumers. I have publicly called on Federal agencies to investigate all complaints of illegal gouging and, if those complaints are justified, to take strong and appropriate action. I'm pleased that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has done just that. It has rolled back a record amount of overcharges where objective investigation has found abuses.

My administration is committing to doing our part to help California as it confronts its energy problems. We'll protect consumers from abuses. We'll do our part to conserve energy and to speed up the issuing of permits for new energy projects. We're committed to a new approach for a new century. Energy and the environment do not have to be competing priorities. They are shared goals, and both are important to all Americans.

For decades, California has been the place where the future happens first. Your continuing success is essential to the success of our national economy. Our shared success will come from a pro-growth tax policy, schools that teach, an open and vibrant world economy, and an abundant, affordable energy supply.

This is the agenda for every State and for all our people. We must get these fundamentals right. Yet the purpose of a strong foundation is to build something greater. Just as every individual must look for a fulfillment deeper than wealth, our Nation must seek purposes beyond prosperity. This is our history, a heritage of idealism. We want to build more than the wealth of our country; we want to build the character of our children. We want to expand more than the influence of a Nation; we want to expand the compassion of our Nation.

Our country faces problems that seem immune to affluence—addiction and abuse, fragile families and brittle values. These problems have often been immune to the policies of the past. They call America to a deeper renewal, a renewal of the soul. They challenge our political leadership. We must find creative new ways to promote the compassion of charities and communities to meet the needs of our country. And we must do more to take the side of parents as they struggle to raise responsible, decent, motivated children. These problems also challenge every citizen to be responsible for your families, for your lives, and for loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

We want our wealthy Nation to be a decent, generous, and compassionate Nation. These are the goals that unite our country. These are the goals that inspire my administration. And these are the goals, when achieved, that will continue America's greatness.

It is my honor to be here. God bless California, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Los Angeles Ballroom at The Century Plaza Hotel & Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard J. Riordan of Los Angeles; Shaquille O'Neal, center, NBA Los Angeles Lakers; Gov. Gray Davis and Secretary of State Bill Jones of California; and Bruce E. Karatz, chairman, and Stephen F. Bollenbach, vice chairman, Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

Remarks at Sequoia National Park, California

May 30, 2001

Thank you all very much. Gale, thank you very much. You're going to like working for Gale. She's a commonsense person who cares deeply about our national park system and about our Nation's environment. I picked a fine, fine person to lead this very important agency. And Madam Secretary, thank you for traveling with me today.

Dick, thank you very much for your fine hospitality. It's a fantastic trip up to Moro Rock. I'm a survivor of the march up to Moro—[*laughter*]—led by Debbie Bird, chief ranger. What a fantastic hike it was. It's a spectacular place. And it must be a joyous place to work. And for all of you who work on behalf of the people of the United States and the Park Service, I thank you very much for your service.

I'm so very pleased that three Members of the United States Congress are here, three really fine public servants: Cal Dooley, Gary Condit, and George Radanovich. Thank you all so much for coming.

I, too, want to thank the board members of the Sequoia Fund and the board members of the Sequoia Natural History Association. Thank you for working with these fine public stewards to make sure this park offers this beauty for every citizen who wants to come here.

Any day that you can take in sights like these is a great day. It has been a great day for me. This place leaves each of us with a feeling of incredible humility. That's one reason why it's so important. In our daily lives we're surrounded by things of our own making, buildings and machines and goods we create ourselves. There's much to admire and appreciate in the works of man. But come here and you're reminded of a design that is not our own. Here we find a grandeur beyond our power to equal.

We're standing amongst the largest trees on Earth, and some of the very oldest. When the *Mayflower* arrived on the eastern shore of this continent, the great sequoias were already here. When the seal was fixed on the Magna Carta, the great sequoias were already here. They were here when the Roman Empire fell, and they were here when the Roman Empire rose. And had Christ himself stood on this spot, He would have been in the shade of this very tree.

When men and women walk into a setting like this, we must walk with care. Of all the forces on Earth, only man is capable of cutting down a sequoia, and only man is capable of fully appreciating its beauty.

And fortunately, more than a century ago, the Government of the United States stayed the hand of all who would destroy this place and these trees. That decision, by President Benjamin Harrison, reflects an ethic of respect for the natural world that was once shared only by a few but is now a basic commitment of American life.

Our duty is to use the land well and, sometimes, not to use it at all. This is our responsibility as citizens, but more than that, it is our calling as stewards of the Earth. Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility; it is a public value. Americans are united in the belief that we must preserve our natural heritage and safeguard the land around us. This belief is affirmed in our laws.

With more than 80 million acres under protection, our National Park System has set the standard for the world in preserving natural lands. We've given a reprieve to our national symbol, the bald eagle. Through cooperative efforts with wildlife biologists and private landowners, the condors are back in the wilds of California. Americans have come to understand that other creatures need the room to roam and places to live.

Other laws express this same commitment. Our lakes and rivers are much cleaner than they were 30 years ago. Firm limits on toxic emissions have greatly improved the quality of the air we breathe. And I'm proud that it was my dad's signature on the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 that helped reduce acid rain and urban air pollutions.

Over the last three decades, nearly 3,000 hazardous waste facilities have been closed. We've made much progress in ridding our towns and cities of brownfields, and even more progress will be made over the next several years. And the Environmental Protection Agency has begun or completed cleanups in more than 90 percent of the sites targeted under Superfund.

This marks tremendous progress in protecting our Nation's environment. It's not the doing of a single party or the branch of Government or a State or a community or a group; it's been the work of Presidents and Congresses and Governors, as well as landowners, environmentalists, and local leaders. All have responded to the appeal of conscience and the clear wishes of the American people.

Today I continue to speak about my conservation policies and the principles that will guide them. These policies reflect the vital role we each play as stewards of our lands and the Federal Government's part as steward of nearly one-third of the American landmass. And they reflect that, while we've made great progress, much more must be done to protect the environment.

In spite of the successes of the past 30 years, at times we've seen needless conflict

and policies that have done more harm than good. Today, we must seek the best ways to achieve the common goal of leaving to posterity a nation of fresh air, clean water, and natural beauty. These policies arise from the conviction that a healthy environment is a national concern and requires an active National Government. At the same time, States and localities have their own responsibilities for the environment. They have their own authority, too. And usually they have a better grasp of the problem and what is needed to solve it. Washington has sometimes relied too much on threat and mandate from afar, when it should be encouraging innovation and high standards from the people closest to the land.

My administration will adopt a new spirit of respect and cooperation, because in the end, that is the better way to protect the environment we all share—a new environmentalism for the 21st century. Citizens and private groups play a crucial role. Just as we share an ethic of stewardship, we must share in the work of stewardship. Our challenge is to work in partnership. We must protect the claims of nature while also protecting the legal rights of property owners. We will succeed, not by antagonizing one another but by inviting all to play a part in the solutions we seek.

For the Federal Government, good stewardship begins right here, in this and in the hundreds of other park areas across America. Washington has a very clear and direct responsibility for these lands. Yet many parks have gone years without receiving the kind of care and upkeep the American people expect. More than 287 million people now visit our national parks each year. At the same time, however, many of our parks have gone neglected. So, today I'm announcing the National Parks Legacy Project. My administration will make a major investment in our national parks to preserve the legacy of protection for future generations. We will spend $5 billion over 5 years to clean up the backlog in maintenance and make our parks more inviting and accessible to all citizens.

We're the first administration to request full funding for our country's Land and Water Conservation Fund, to provide needed dollars to help local folks meet conservation concerns.

This park is a model to follow. The Park Service is nearing completion of a project to remove structures once thought necessary but which now threaten to damage the roots of the sequoias. In my budget, I propose spending $1.5 billion to help complete this project. Working with the local community and the Sequoia Natural History Association, we will offer the young and old alike an opportunity to learn more about the wonders of nature.

In all our parks, we want visitors to feel welcome and to enjoy the experiences that nature and history have to offer. Future renovations will make this more possible by adding, for example, many more miles of carefully drawn hiking paths. Here again, Sequoia is a model, allowing for more visitors without destroying the very things that draw people here, the scenery, the quiet, the animals left unharmed in their natural habitat. And we will leave them that way.

Our parklands are home to thousands of species of flora and fauna. And as stewards of these lands, the Federal Government has the responsibility to protect and nurture them in their habitats and enhance the science that helps to protect biodiversity. For the next 5 years, we'll protect nearly 4,000 miles of river and restore nearly 9,000 acres of parklands to their natural conditions. We have more than doubled the budget to help us better study our parks' natural resources, learn better ways to protect and restore them, and teach visitors about how they can help.

My administration will also pass new rules to help remove haze in many of America's national parks. Our national parks are for all to visit and all Americans to enjoy. And we will continue our work to make these national treasures accessible to those with disabilities and to welcome people of all backgrounds. And to make sure that we're achieving our goals in these areas, I'm asking our park rangers to prepare stewardship plans for each park in America. I'll also direct Secretary Norton to prepare an annual report describing the condition of our parks, with recommendations of ways to improve them.

Some fear that places like this are scenes from a passing world. They're not. They will

be here as long as we're willing to show careful regard for the environment. This is a great responsibility. I strongly believe our country is equal to it.

America, itself, is just 225 years old, a momentous era and yet so short a time in the life of the world. We cannot see into the centuries ahead, but we can be sure, in a place like this, that we're in the presence of enduring things. And it will be to our lasting credit if these works of God are still standing a thousand years from now.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. at the Giant Forest Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton and Richard H. Martin, Superintendent, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

Proclamation 7445—To Provide for the Efficient and Fair Administration of Action Taken With Regard to Imports of Lamb Meat and for Other Purposes

May 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On July 7, 1999, President Clinton issued Proclamation 7208, which implemented action of a type described in section 203(a)(3) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)) (the "Trade Act"), with respect to imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen lamb meat, provided for in subheadings 0204.10.00, 0204.22.20, 0204.23.20, 0204.30.00, 0204.42.20, and 0204.43.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). Proclamation 7208 took effect on July 22, 1999.

2. Proclamation 7208 established import relief in the form of tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) and increased duties but did not make specific provision for their administration. Accordingly, on July 30, 1999, President Clinton issued Proclamation 7214, which exempted from the TRQ goods that were exported prior to July 22, 1999, and delegated the President's authority to administer the TRQs to the United States Trade Representative. Proclamation 7214 took effect on July 30, 1999.

3. I have determined under section 203(g)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(g)(1)) that it is necessary for the efficient and fair administration of the actions undertaken in Proclamation 7208 and Proclamation 7214 to grant second-year "in-quota" treatment to certain goods covered by the entry numbers set forth in the Annex to this proclamation.

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to sections 203 and 604 of the Trade Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide for the efficient and fair administration of the TRQs on imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen lamb meat classified in HTS subheadings 0204.10.00, 0204.22.20, 0204.23.20, 0204.30.00, 0204.42.20, and 0204.43.20, notwithstanding the provisions of subheadings 9903.02.01 through 9903.02.04 and immediately superior text thereto, goods covered by the entry numbers set forth in the Annex to this proclamation that are covered by a second quota year export certificate and that were exported in the first quota year shall be charged against the in-quota quantity provided for in HTS subheading 9903.02.03.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The actions taken in this proclamation shall be effective on the date of signature of this proclamation and shall continue in effect through the close of the dates on which actions proclaimed in Proclamation 7208 and

Proclamation 7214 cease to be effective, unless such actions are earlier expressly modified or terminated.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:03 p.m., June 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 31, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 4.

Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibilities Related to the Latin American Development Act of 1960

May 30, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Delegation of Responsibilities Related to the Latin American Development Act of 1960

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions conferred upon the President by the Latin American Development Act of 1960, 22 U.S.C. 1942 *et seq.*

The functions delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated as appropriate.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 31. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Honoring the 2000 NCAA Women's Volleyball Champion University of Nebraska Cornhuskers

May 31, 2001

The President. Welcome. Thank you. Be seated.

It's my honor to welcome some true champs to the Rose Garden, and thank you all for coming. To the team, I'm honored you're here. To the family and friends who are here, thank you so much for accompanying the champions. Coach Cook, thank you for being here. And I want to thank the athletic director, as well.

I've spent some time watching Big 12 sports. [*Laughter*] Ever since the Big 12 combined, some of my Texas teams haven't fared too well—[*laughter*]—including the Texas volleyball teams. So I want to congratulate you all for being here. When I ran for office, I told the voters I would surround myself with excellence. I did so again today. [*Laughter*]

This has been an unbelievably strong team, made up of some unique individuals, starting with the Player of the Year, Greichaly Cepero. It is a huge honor to be the Player of the Year. And Greichaly, congratulations to you, and Amber Holmquist and Laura Pilakowski.

But it's more than just to be great players; it's important to be good people, too. And that's the thing that I have been most impressed with by this club. Not only are the girls up here champs on the court, but they've been champs in the classroom. And it's important for young men and women who look at the Nebraska champs to understand that quality of life is more than just blocking shots. Good quality of life means excelling in the classroom and also in the neighborhoods across America.

One of the reasons I'm so thankful to be able to welcome sports champions to the Rose Garden is that it gives me a chance to remind people about what a responsible society should be about, and it should be about loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself or setting good, strong examples when you have an opportunity to do so.

And finally, I can't go without saying how impressed I am by the Nebraska fan base—[*laughter*]—whether it be for women's volleyball or maybe football. [*Laughter*] But there's nothing like the Big Red. So again, I want to congratulate you all for coming.

The other thing I want to say about the coach is that obviously it requires—a good team requires somebody who knows how to

build a team. And that's why your coach is Coach of the Year and deservedly so.

So on behalf of a well-oiled unit of people who came together to serve something greater than themselves, congratulations.

[*At this point, player Jill McWillaims made brief remarks and, with teammates Kim Behrends and Angie Oxley, presented the President with a jersey and a signed volleyball.*]

The President. So here's what we're going to do. Why don't you all come—and if you'd complete the trip, why don't you come into the Oval Office so I can show you one of the great shrines of America.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John Cook, women's volleyball coach, and Bill Byrne, director of athletics, University of Nebraska.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Under Section 703 of the Security Assistance Act of 2000

May 31, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Section 703 of the Security Assistance Act of 2000

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the authority vested in me under section 703 of the Security Assistance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–280).

The authority delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated not lower than the Assistant Secretary level.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Executive Order 13215—President's Information Technology Advisory Committee, Further Amendment to Executive Order 13035, as Amended

May 31, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–194), as amended by the Next Generation Internet Research Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–305), and in order to extend the life of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee so that it may continue to carry out its responsibilities, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13035 of February 11, 1997, as amended by Executive Orders 13092, 13113, and 13200 (Executive Order 13035, as amended), is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of Executive Order 13035, as amended, is further amended by deleting the last sentence and inserting in lieu thereof: "Members appointed prior to June 1, 2001, shall serve until December 1, 2001, unless reappointed by the President. Members appointed or reappointed on or after June 1, 2001, shall serve for no more than 2 years from the date of their appointment, unless their period of service is extended by the President. The President shall designate two co-chairs from among the members of the Committee. A co-chair may serve for a term of 2 years or until the end of his or her service as a member of the Committee, whichever is the shorter period."

Sec. 2. Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13035, as amended, is further amended by deleting "June 1, 2001," and inserting in lieu thereof: "June 1, 2003."

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 31, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 4, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1, and it

will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Sanctions Pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act

May 31, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hereby report pursuant to section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908, 8 U.S.C. 1182 (the "Kingpin Act"), that the following 12 foreign persons are appropriate for sanctions pursuant to the Kingpin Act, and that I am imposing sanctions upon them pursuant to that Act:

Osiel Cardenas Guillen
Miguel Caro Quintero
Joaquin Guzman Loera
Ismael Higuera Guerrero
Oscar Malherbe de Leon
Alcides Ramon Magana
Jose Alvarez Tostado
Sher Afghan
Nasir Ali Khan
Chang Ping Yun
Jamil Hamieh
Joseph Gilboa

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Committee on Intelligence; Bob Stump, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Richard C. Shelby, chairman, Senate Committee on Intelligence; and Chuck E. Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1.

Remarks to National Race for the Cure Participants

June 1, 2001

The President. Thank you, First Lady. [*Laughter*] Thank you all for coming. It's kind of a raucous crowd here in the White House. [*Laughter*] But for a reason. There's a lot of joy here. I'm so honored to be here with Nancy and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. I want to thank Congressman Ken Bentsen, who is here, I believe. And I certainly want to thank Jo Dee Messina for lending your talents.

It's my honor to welcome you to the White House. Your great movement represents hope for cancer victims and hope for cancer's cures. And I can't tell you how honored we are to have you here.

Many of you play key roles in the fight against breast cancer, beginning with our dear friend, Ambassador-designee Nancy Brinker, the founder of the Komen Foundation, which during the last 20 years has become the largest private funder of breast cancer research and community outreach in the Nation. You've raised over $400 million to support breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

I want to thank those of you who are participating in tomorrow's Race for the Cure. I wish I was running. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. Come on out! [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, talk to the Secret Service. [*Laughter*] Plus I'm a little older than the last time I ran. [*Laughter*]

Less than 20 years ago, the first Komen Race for the Cure was held in Dallas, Texas. Eight hundred people participated in that race, and we raised $130,000. This year there will be 115 races across the country and around the world, involving 1.3 million participants. Last year alone, the National Race for the Cure in Washington, DC, raised more than $3 million.

The great thing about this race is you're not running for time, running for ribbons; you're running to save lives. And America is grateful.

Laura and I want to recognize those of you in the audience who have had breast cancer.

We appreciate your courage. You've endured, and many of you are still undergoing, one of life's toughest and most terrifying struggles. In your suffering you have demonstrated dignity and determination, grit and grace, courage and character. And through your fight against cancer you have become witnesses to the power of hope.

Lisa Rodriguez has endured that struggle and cherishes that hope. Lisa is here with us today. I had the honor of meeting her this morning. She says her cancer diagnosis taught her how important time was and how important finding a cure is. Since then, she's been focused on beating cancer and working to make sure others have the support and information they need to fight and to win.

Like Lisa, most of you did not fight your battle alone. You've had the support of your families. They've suffered with you; they have remained faithful in their love for you; and we want to thank them, as well.

Breast cancer, as you know, is the second most common type of cancer amongst women in the United States. Every 3 minutes brings a new case. Every 13 minutes brings another death from breast cancer. Yet, we also live in a profoundly hopeful time. Fewer women are dying of breast cancer each year. Awareness about breast cancer has never been greater. We've made progress in early detection and screening. We're seeing better and more effective treatment. New drugs offer exciting possibilities, and we are gathering a wealth of information about how cancer works at its most basic molecular level.

We have just received the 2001 cancer statistics from the Public Health Service. It shows that breast cancer death rates declined an average of 3.4 percent between 1995 and 1998. That's more than double the rate of decline—[*applause*].

There are still many high medical hurdles that need to be cleared, and we have enough experience with cancer to know that we'll suffer some disappointments and setbacks along the way. But for the first time in human history, we can say with some measure of confidence that the war on cancer is winnable.

With this hope comes responsibility. Now is the time to bolster our efforts. We'll increase funding at the National Institutes of Health by $2.8 billion in 2002.

We must continue to raise awareness about the importance of early detection and increased access to screening services. We need to close the treatment gap between research discoveries and treatment options, so that cancer victims have access to the latest technology.

I want to thank Secretary Tommy Thompson for his efforts to encourage States to provide Medicaid coverage to low income women diagnosed with breast cancer. I'm committed to passing a strong Patients' Bill of Rights this year to provide women with needed access to life-saving clinical trials and medical specialists.

I hope, I believe, and I pray that we're on the verge of great victories against cancer. You've seen the great victories already, in the lives of many people in this room.

Every survivor of cancer is a defeat for cancer and a triumph for faith and courage and hope. We will not rest until our victory against breast cancer is complete.

I want to thank you all for your good work, your courage, and have a great race.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:12 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador-designee to Hungary Nancy Goodman Brinker, founding chair, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; and country/western singer Jo Dee Messina.

Statement on Renewing Normal Trade Relations Status for China

June 1, 2001

Earlier today I informed Congress of my decision to extend normal trade relations status for China, as every President has done since 1980. This decision advances the economic and security interests of the American people, and I urge Congress to support it.

Normal trade relations—a status which virtually every other country in the world receives from the United States—is in the interests of American workers, some 400,000 of whom are employed in or benefit directly from America's trade with China.

Trade is in the interests of American farmers, who last year exported more than $3 billion to China and Hong Kong and who this year should export even more as China removes bans on key American products like citrus, wheat, and meat.

Trade is in the interests of American business, nearly 80 percent of which are small or medium sized, which last year increased their overall exports to China by 24 percent, making China our 11th largest export market.

Trade is in the interests of American consumers, especially those who live from paycheck to paycheck and depend on inexpensive goods from China to enhance their quality of life.

Fair trade is essential not only to improving living standards for Americans but also for a strong and productive relationship with China. Normal trade relations status is important if we are to promote American values of transparency and accountability and ensure that the Chinese Government adheres to the rule of law in its dealings with its own people as well as with the international community.

Renewal of normal trade relations also sends a clear but simple message to the people of China: The United States is committed to helping China become part of the new international trading system so that the Chinese people can enjoy the better life that comes from economic choice and freedom.

The United States has a huge stake in the emergence of an economically open, politically stable, and secure China. Recent events have shown not only that we need to speak frankly and directly about our differences but that we also need to maintain dialog and cooperate with one another on those areas where we have common interests. An important area where the interests of our two countries converge is in maintaining a healthy trading relationship. Renewing normal trade relations status for China will only make those ties stronger.

Memorandum on Renewing Normal Trade Relations Status for China

June 1, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–16

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for the People's Republic of China

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93–618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to the People's Republic of China will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Renewing Normal Trade Relations Status for China

June 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit a report, including my reasons for determining that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for the People's Republic of China under subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Memorandum on Renewing Normal Trade Relations Status for Vietnam

June 1, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–17

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Vietnam

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93–618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Renewing Normal Trade Relations Status for Vietnam

June 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit a report including my reasons for determining that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Vietnam under subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 26

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

May 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, and later traveled to Mesa, AZ, and Los Angeles, CA.

May 29

In the morning, the President traveled to Camp Pendleton, CA.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Los Angeles, CA, where he met with Gov. Gray Davis of California at the Century Plaza Hotel & Spa to discuss California's energy shortage.

In the evening, the President traveled to Sequoia National Park, CA.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rebecca O. Campoverde to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Legislative and Congressional Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Henrietta Holsman Fore to be Director of the Mint.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dionel M. Aviles to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate William A. Eaton to be Assistant Secretary of State for Administration.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan for a working visit in Washington, DC, on June 30.

May 30

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate George G. Williams to be Assistant

Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology.

The President announced his intention to nominate Otto Wolff to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Mysliwy Conlin to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael W. Wynne to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

The President announced his intention to nominate Diane K. Morales to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

The President announced his intention to nominate William A. Navas, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert C. Bonner to be Commissioner of Customs at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced that he has designated Edward F. Reilly to be Chairman of the U.S. Parole Commission.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Boston, MA, to attend the funeral service for Representative John Joseph Moakley on June 1.

May 31

The President made additional disaster assistance available to North Dakota for rebuilding public facilities damaged by severe storms, flooding, and ground saturation on April 5–August 12, 2000.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alex Azar III to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theresa Alvillar-Speake to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact in the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sharee M. Freeman to be Director of the Community Relations Service in the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce Cole to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger Francisco Noriega to be U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ross J. Connelly to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia deStacy Harrison to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kirk Van Tine to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen G. Engleman to be Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sheila C. Bair to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.

June 1

In the morning, the President traveled to Boston, MA, to attend the funeral service for Representative John Joseph Moakley. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Juan Carlos Benitez to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janet Rehnquist to be Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carole L. Brookins to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Senior Adviser to the President Karl Rove, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Robert McNally, and former California Bush campaign chairman Gerald Parsky on the President's meeting with Gov. Gray Davis of California

Transcript of remarks to the press pool by Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card, Jr., on the President's meeting with Gov. Gray Davis of California

Statement by the Press Secretary: Japanese Prime Minister To Visit Washington

Released May 30

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Boston, MA

Statement by the Press Secretary: German Bundestag Votes for Payments to Holocaust, Other WWII-Era Nazi Victims

Released May 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President signed H.R. 802 on May 30

Statement by the Press Secretary on additional disaster assistance North Dakota

Released June 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on sanctions pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act

Fact sheet: Overview of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 28

H.R. 428 / Public Law 107–10
Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization

H.R. 1696 / Public Law 107–11
To expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia

Approved May 30

H.R. 802 / Public Law 107–12
Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Tel Aviv

June 1, 2001

I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening. There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians. This illustrates the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence. I call upon Chairman Arafat to condemn this act and to call for an immediate cease fire. My deepest condolences and those of the American people go out to the victims and their families.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 2, 2001

Good morning. Over the last few months I have often used this radio time to advocate major tax relief. Today I'm pleased to report success. Soon Congress will send me a bill reducing Federal income taxes by $1.35 trillion over the next 11 years, and I will proudly sign it.

Under the new law, more than 98 million Americans who pay income taxes will be owed a refund. This year most single taxpayers will receive checks for $300; single-parent taxpayers will receive up to $500; and married couples will receive a check for up to $600. Over the next 10 years, the per-child tax credit will double from $500 to $1,000; the marriage penalty will be reduced; and the death tax will be completely abolished.

Some other provisions of the tax bill haven't received quite as much attention. But they will make a great difference in the lives of many Americans. For low income families, the child tax credit will now be partially refundable. Right now, many poor families don't qualify for the credit because they don't pay income taxes at all. Soon, they will receive a tax credit to help meet the cost of raising their children.

The new tax law also encourages higher contributions to retirement plans. In years to come, you'll have the chance to put more money into your IRA or 401k. You can better prepare for your later years, sending less of your money to Washington and more into your own savings.

I'm especially pleased by what these reforms will do for families that adopt children. Adoptive parents have a special calling, giving a loving home to children who otherwise would have none. The new law will double the maximum adoption tax credit to $10,000 and make the credit permanent. And regardless of their expenses, parents who adopt children with special needs will be able to claim this tax credit in the year the adoption is completed.

Tax relief is an important bipartisan achievement. And now we must build on that momentum to improve our public schools. We are within reach of historic education reform. So far, the signs are very good. Both parties have been working together, and I hope both parties will vote together, as well.

The plan I have sent to Congress stresses local control of schools, instead of trying to run the schools from Washington. The plan calls for accountability, requiring that every school set high standards and measure results. My plan gives flexibility to schools in meeting these standards and more freedom to parents in making their own choices.

Skeptics may claim that these education reforms are too much to hope for, but that's what used to be said about tax relief. The truth is that real reform is possible, if we lay our partisan differences aside and work together in the interests of the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:45 a.m. on May 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White

House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of King Birenda of Nepal

June 2, 2001

I am deeply saddened and shocked at King Birenda's untimely death. I also mourn the loss of Queen Aiswarya and other family members and extend my deepest sympathies to the King's extended family. I send my condolences to the Nepalese people during this difficult period. Our prayers are with the Government and people of Nepal.

Proclamation 7446—National Child's Day, 2001

June 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our children, who are today dreaming big dreams and who are filled with hope, will someday serve as leaders in government, industry, education, and the arts. For the good of our country and its continued progress and advancement, we must strive to give all young Americans the best possible start in life.

Falling between Mother's Day and Father's Day, Child's Day is celebrated this year on June 3, the first Sunday of the month. This special occasion gives us a unique opportunity to remember the joys and wonder of our own childhood and to reflect on how positive and healthy experiences in one's early years significantly influence later achievements and happiness.

All adults must work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our Nation's most precious resource, our children. Every youngster deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family; but, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Government cannot make people love one another, but it can and must cultivate a climate that helps families, as well as the individuals and groups that support them.

Our Nation must reaffirm its commitment to loving and caring for our children. We must improve the safety of schools and neighborhoods and mobilize faith-based and community groups to fight poverty and addiction. Because many youngsters now grow up in single-parent homes, we must promote responsible fatherhood, in all its aspects, including spiritual leadership, emotional security, and financial support. We must also help families in crisis, protect children from abuse and neglect, and encourage adoption for children who must be removed from their biological parents.

Our responsibility to our young people, however, extends beyond just their physical and emotional well-being. We must also provide them with a quality education, so that no child is left behind in our fast-paced global economy. Adults should also encourage youngsters to always set high goals, make right choices, and stay involved in their communities. By doing so, boys and girls can pursue lives of meaning and fulfillment as contributing members of society.

Every child in every neighborhood has unique gifts to offer. We must nurture our children's dreams, help them develop their talents and abilities, and ensure their healthy development so that they may reach their full potential. Our success in this vital endeavor will affect the direction of their lives and the future strength and vitality of our Nation.

In recognition of the importance of our Nation's children, the Senate, by Senate Resolution 90 approved May 25, 2001, has designated June 3, 2001, as "National Child's Day" and has requested that the President issue a Proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2001, as National Child's Day. I encourage all Americans to share in the mission of preparing our young people for life's challenges and opportunities. By reading to youngsters, listening to their cares and concerns, and providing

them with safe and loving homes, we can make a positive and lasting contribution to their health, happiness, and well-being.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 6.

Remarks at Everglades National Park, Florida

June 4, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you, Brother. [*Laughter*] I love my brother. People in Florida are lucky to have this good man as Governor.

I'm honored to be here with two fine United States Senators; thank you both for being here. Senator Graham, thanks for flying down with us, and Senator Nelson, it was good to see you at the airport today.

Peter Deutsch, this is his district. Congressman, thanks so much for coming. We're honored to have you here. Congressman—I just call her Ileana—[*laughter*]—thanks so very much for being here, Ileana, and same to you, Lincoln. I'm honored that you're here. The two chairmen, Chairman Shaw and Chairman Young, I'm honored that you all are here, as well. I don't see Congressperson Meek. I think she was going to be here. She's not, but Jerry, I appreciate you. I appreciate your staff. I appreciate so very much Maureen Finnerty for giving us the briefing. And I appreciate Larry Belli, as well, for taking time to chopper over this beautiful slice of heaven. Thank you both. And thank all your staff for making this experience such a meaningful experience for all of us. It's an honor to be here, especially in these surroundings.

Visitors from around the world come to this beautiful State to see the coasts and the Keys and the sandy beaches. Today we're standing in just as wondrous a scene in Florida and just as an important part of this State. It commands our care and attention. This area needs our protection. And I am here to join with your Governor in the cause of preserving and protecting the Florida Everglades.

Last week I visited the great Sequoia National Park in California. Just to get there we covered many miles of land that appeared exactly as it did to the first people who saw it. The same can be said of these surroundings and of this park. They are here to be appreciated, not changed. Their beauty is beyond our power to improve.

Our job here is to be good stewards of the Everglades, to restore what has been damaged and to reduce the risk of harm. The Everglades National Park was established more than 50 years ago. It is not just a beautiful place to visit but, as everybody down here knows, is a vital part of south Florida's ecosystem. The park extends nearly 1.4 million acres and is our country's largest remaining subtropical wilderness. It includes most of Florida Bay, mangrove forests, coastal prairie, cypress forests, pine lands, and freshwater streams that form, as they are now called, the River of Grass.

We're also visitors today in the home of 68 endangered species and the only place on Earth where crocodiles and alligators live side by side. We're kind of hoping that's the way it gets to be in the United States Congress one of these days. [*Laughter*]

Over the same half century, since the park was created, south Florida's population has doubled many times over, and it will continue to grow. For ages, the waters of the Everglades have sustained animal life. Today, south Florida's human population relies upon them, as well. Growth and progress are desirable, and environmental destruction is not inevitable. We must build and plan with respect for nature's prior claims.

Lost, if we are careless, are the sparrows and wading birds, panthers and bears who live here, and the chance for future generations to see these creatures in the place that nature gave them. We must meet the demands of growth but without harming the very things that give Florida and the Everglades their beauty.

For its part, the Federal Government carries important responsibilities and stewardship. It is not enough to regulate and dictate from afar. To preserve places like this, we must bring to our work a new spirit of respect and cooperation, what I call a new environmentalism for the 21st century. This was the spirit behind the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which passed Congress last year with strong bipartisan majorities in both Houses. The late Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island set the law in motion. It was advanced by the good work of a New Hampshire Senator, Bob Smith, and received crucial support from the Florida delegation, especially from former Governor and current United States Senator Bob Graham.

It shows—protecting the Everglades shows that bipartisanship is possible but, more importantly, crucial to doing the will of the American people. When we talk about empowering State and local governments to do more to protect the environment, we do not mean Washington will do less. We mean that the Federal Government will work more closely and effectively with people closest to the problem and, therefore, best equipped to solve it. Everglades restoration is a good example. It is a long-term commitment shared by the Federal Government and by the State of Florida.

Restoration will not take years, but it'll take decades. It will require the best efforts of all involved for a long period of time, from government officials to tribal leaders to landowners and environmentalists. The hard work, patience, and goodwill of these groups have brought us thus far in restoring the Everglades. We will need the same qualities to finish the job in years ahead. For my administration, the people of Florida can count on the commitment to carry out this important project.

My budget for next year proposes an investment of $219 million, a 36 percent increase from last year. Working together, the State of Florida and the Federal Government will provide nearly $8 billion in the coming decades for Everglade restoration.

The Federal Government has clear responsibility for the Everglades, as in each of the nearly 400 other national parks. In recent years, that obligation has sometimes been neglected. Many parks have lacked the resources they need for their basic care and maintenance. My administration will restore and renew America's national parks. Last week I announced our National Parks Legacy Project, a major investment in preserving places such as this. We will clear up nearly $5 billion in maintenance to make our parks more inviting and accessible to all Americans.

We are also the first administration to request full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund provides Florida and other States with the means to set aside new parks, vital habitats, and restore threatened ecosystems.

To protect our parks and their inhabitants, we must have the best available information, so I've directed Secretary Norton to prepare an annual report that describes the condition of our parks and offer specific recommendations to improve them. I've also asked the people who know our parks best, our rangers, to prepare stewardship plans.

As many of you know, Florida was recently voted as America's best State park system. To be the best, you have to assemble the best team for the job. And joining Secretary Norton in that effort will be a new Director of the National Park Service. You know her well. I'm pleased to announce that Fran Maniella, Florida's director of State parks, is my choice to lead the National Park Service.

She's been a steady and conscientious steward of Florida's 500,000 acres of park lands. With the support of Senators Graham and Nelson and their colleagues, I'm hopeful she will soon assume responsibility for America's more than 80 million acres of parkland. Under her leadership, the National Park Service will continue to do its very important work.

I respect our park rangers, the folks who work in our national parks, a lot. Theirs is an incredibly tough job. Many times it's a thankless job. So on behalf of your Government and the people of the United States, thank you for your dedication to America. And thank you so very much for welcoming us to America's River of Grass.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at the Royal Palm Visitors Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, C. W. Bill Young, chairman, Committee on Appropriations, and E. Clay Shaw, Jr., chairman, Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee; Jerry Belson, regional director, southeastern region, National Park Service; Maureen Finnerty, superintendent, and Lawrence A. Belli, deputy superintendent, Everglades National Park. The President also referred to Title VI, Section 601—Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, part of Public Law 106–541, the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Hispanic Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in Miami, Florida

June 4, 2001

The President. It's been my honor to address community leaders from many nations in our hemisphere. Miami is the international capital of South America and Central America. It's one of the most vibrant cities in our Nation, and another reason why it's so culturally rich.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about different countries in our hemisphere. But I started off with a discussion about this administration's firm commitment to making sure our own neighborhood is free and democratic and trades—actively trades, so that we can promote wealth throughout the hemisphere. The best foreign policy for this country begins with having a neighborhood that's peaceful and free and secure and prosperous.

And I was able to share with the leaders here how pleased I was that the Summit of the Americas went well, particularly the embrace—the fact that 34 democratically elected leaders from our hemisphere, all but one nation, was represented there.

We had a great discussion, and it's so important for the President of the United States to sit at the same table with the leaders of this hemisphere. And they were—in our meetings where we were able just to sit around without a lot of people watching; we were able to have a free discussion. And they—I was able to explain our vision; they were able to share their problems. And many times, this great Nation of ours would be willing to help as much as we possibly can.

I am confident and optimistic that our hemisphere is going to be more free and more prosperous than it's ever been. As we've discussed here, there are some problem areas, but that's what—that's what we need to do. We need to discuss the problem areas and come together to figure out ways to solve them.

Anyway, I'm so thankful and so gracious—I'm gracious that my brother Jeb is concerned about the hemisphere, as well. I'm thankful that Mel Martinez, a product of the State of Florida, has agreed to see the Cabinet. I'm also thankful that these two people from the United States Congress, two great leaders, are—[*applause*].

Thank you for coming.

Cuba

Q. [*Inaudible*].

The President. Yes, we'll talk about Cuba again, of course.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. at the Omni Colonnade Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Tax Relief Celebration in Tampa, Florida

June 4, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. It is good to be back in the Tampa area. I remember the last time I was here was right around the corner, at the stadium. Many of you were there. Thanks for coming then, and thanks for coming now.

I appreciate my brother giving me credit for the rain, but the truth of the matter is, the current Governor and the future Governor gets credit for the rain, Jeb Bush. He's not only a great brother; he's a great Governor. He's the kind of fellow who does in office what he said he's going to do. We need more of that kind of talk in politics.

I'm honored to be traveling today with the Secretary of HUD, Mel Martinez, from the

great State of Florida. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. We're here with members of the congressional delegation; Congressmen Davis, Miller, Young, and Putnam. And I want you all to give a huge round of applause for those Congressmen who were bold enough to vote for you to have a tax cut. [*Applause*]

They did the right thing. They listened to the people. They heard the people speak loud and clear. And when that bill came up in front of the Congress, some of the members from this congressional delegation didn't blink; they did the right thing. I'm honored to be here, as well, with Speaker Feeney and Senator McKay from the State House, hard-working members of the Florida delegation at the State House.

I want to thank my friends, the Bellamy Brothers, for being here. It's good to see you all again. I want to thank my friend George Steinbrenner, as well, for opening up this beautiful park.

A year ago, tax relief was supposed to be a political impossibility. Six months ago, it was supposed to be a political liability. Today, folks, tax relief is reality. I have the honor of signing the largest tax relief bill in 20 years.

It's thanks to the American people that we're going to have meaningful tax relief. It's thanks to the thousands of hard-working Americans who made it clear at the ballot box, through phone calls, through e-mails, through letting everybody who is elected know that once we meet our needs at Washington, DC, it's important to always remember whose money we're spending. That surplus is not the Government's money. That surplus is the people's money. And in a couple of weeks, we're going to start sending checks back to the American people.

This year, if you're single, you get a $300 check. If you're raising a family, you get a $600 check in the mail. Every taxpayer in America who wrote a check to the Government is going to start getting money back this year, as soon as possible. But that's just the beginning. That's just the beginning.

We're also going to cut all rates. You remember over the course of the campaign, ours was a campaign that made it clear we're going to be fair to the American people, that we didn't believe in the Washington talk about targeted tax cuts, that we felt that a targeted tax cut meant folks in Washington got to decide who won and who didn't win, that the best tax policy—the best tax relief policy was to say, if you pay taxes, you get relief, everybody who pays taxes in America.

All rates will be cut. Everybody who pays taxes is going to get not only tax relief this year but tax relief in the coming years. During the course of the campaign, we said how unfair the marriage penalty was. The marriage penalty is unfair, and we eased the penalty of marriage in the Tax Code coming down the road.

During the course of the campaign, I heard from hundreds of small-business owners and farmers and ranchers, who said loud and clear, "We're sick and tired of having our assets taxed twice," who said loud and clear, "The death tax is unfair." Under the bill I'm going to sign this week, we finally eliminate the death tax in the American Tax Code.

Tax relief is the right thing to do. It's an answer to a prayer, such as this one: "Lead us not into temptation." The big surplus accumulating in Washington was one great temptation for the spenders. And once we met basic needs, with a reasonable growth in our budget, instead of increasing the size of your Federal Government, what we decided to do was to put faith in the American people. We would rather have you spend the money.

It's a fundamental difference of opinion. For those that voted against tax relief, they basically said to America, "We can spend your money better than you can."

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. It's just a philosophical difference of opinion. But one of the things that's loud and clear in this campaign is there is a group of folks in Washington who now understand where the power of this country is; it's with the people.

This bill is more than just tax relief. It is more than just preventing Washington from growing the size of Government. This bill reflects a philosophy that says, we trust the American people more than we trust Government. It's a philosophy represented in the hundreds of tax families that I had the opportunity of campaigning with all across the country.

One such family is here with us today, the Fuller family: Stephen Fuller, Quita Fuller, Andrew, and Anna Fuller. They're folks from this part of the world. He's a business manager. He's a hard-working man and so is she. They're deeply concerned about their family and their family's future.

This family will save $1,925 when the tax relief plan is fully phased in. They will receive an $800 check this year because the child credit kicks in immediately and increases to $1,000 per child.

And here's what the issue is about, folks. It's about, do you want the Fullers spending that $1,900, or do you want the Federal Government?

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. The people who stood on the side of tax relief understand we met our Nation's needs. But when it came down to it, with their aye vote they said, "We trust the Fullers to spend that $1,900. It's their money to begin with." We think they can better allocate that money than the Federal Government. We think they know how best to save for their children. We think they know how best to set aside money to make sure their family has got a safe and secure future. No, this tax relief bill is a victory for the American people.

There's a new attitude beginning to develop in Washington. This wasn't just a Republican bill. There were some wise Democrats that came along, too. And this coming Thursday, when I sit there at the White House and sign the bill, I'll be praising not only the Republicans who helped, but I'll be praising those Democrats who helped, as well. There's a new spirit in Washington, DC. There's a spirit of accomplishment. There's a spirit that says we can show the American people that it's possible to get positive things done. And we're just beginning.

We're working on an education bill that sets high standards for every child in America, a bill that trusts local people to run the schools, a bill that believes in accountability and results, a bill that says loud and clear, no child will be left behind in America.

We're strengthening the military. We will boost the pay for those who wear the uniform. We will improve the housing, we will improve the health benefits. And we will have a clear mission, which is to be trained well enough to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Ours is the first administration in a long time that has laid out a vision for a secure energy policy for America. It talks about the need to conserve and to use technologies to bring more efficiencies to the use of energy. But it also talks about a realistic, commonsense way to protect our environment and, at the same time, bring new energy supplies, so consumers will be able to have safe and secure and reliable energy sources.

Ours is an administration that talks about Medicare and Social Security reform. No, there's a new spirit of accomplishment in Washington, DC, and there's a bigger task at hand, as well.

It's one thing to pass legislation, and that's going to be important. But there's a larger calling for this country. Our Nation must come together to unite, to usher in what I call an era of personal responsibility, an era in our country where each of us who is fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad tells our children on a daily basis, "We love you with all our heart;" an era in our country where if you're fortunate, you turn to a neighbor and say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help, brother? What can I do to help?" We must rally the great faith of America and the faith-based institutions across this land to provide help and care and comfort to people in need.

In order to usher in a period of responsibility, it requires all of us who are in positions of responsibility to understand the awesome responsibility we bear. It is my high honor to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I take this responsibility very seriously. I understand people watch the office, and I can promise you, I will not let you down.

We are just beginning to show the American people what's possible. And we're just beginning to help work with you, the moms and dads and hard-working honest citizens, to change our culture in America, so that this great land holds out its promise for every single citizen, so people aren't left behind, so we're united with a common purpose of one land, indivisible, under God.

Thank you all for coming. God bless. It's my honor.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. at Legends Field. In his remarks, he referred to State Representative Tom Feeney; State Senator John M. McKay; country/western singers David and Howard Bellamy; and George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, New York Yankees.

Remarks to Habitat for Humanity Supporters in Tampa

June 5, 2001

Thank you very much. Mel, thank you very much. I'm so honored Mel agreed to become the Cabinet Secretary of HUD. He brings a fresh look and a true spirit of compassion to the job—plus, he's a Floridian. [*Laughter*] He's going to make a big difference.

It's great to be here with the Lieutenant Governor. Tell Governor Bush, I hope he slept in well. [*Laughter*] Here the rest of us are out working for a better Florida and a better America. [*Laughter*]

I'm so honored to be here with members of the congressional delegation: Davis, Miller, Putnam, and Young. Thank you, Congressmen, for being here, and I look forward to flying back to Washington with you today.

Millard, it is an honor to be here with you. I talk about soldiers and the armies of compassion; Millard is the general, and Corporal Bush reported for duty today. [*Laughter*] I did run into Sergeant Doris Meyer. [*Laughter*] I can barely lift my arm. [*Laughter*] What a great, great honor it was to be here with Roger and the leadership of Habitat for this part of the State and all the volunteers, people who work hard, sweat hard, and end up the day with a beautiful smile on your face.

I really wish I could spend more time building. It is one of these moments of life where you realize there is something greater than yourself in life, and that you get the joy of helping somebody help themselves.

Johana, thank you and your family for allowing for this invasion of your privacy. But it is important for America to see the fact that, one, you'll own a home, and two, that you're willing to work for it. And as importantly, there are hundreds of other Americans who are willing to stand side by side with you so that you can enjoy one of the great benefits of America—owning your own property, having a piece of the future of America—so that your future and the future of your *ninos* is very hopeful. And that's what America is about. This is the land of hope and promise and opportunity. And as importantly, it is a land of compassionate people.

I like to tell people that I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would make people love one another. That's not the Government; that comes from something much greater than people, as you all know. This is a land of faith and compassion. It is a land of thousands and hundreds of people who ask the question when they wake up, what can I do to love my neighbor? That is not a Government function. That doesn't happen because of Government, and you and I know that. And that's why it is so important for our Nation to recognize the promise and power of faith in America. And that's why our Government should not fear working side by side with faith-based organizations. Quite the opposite: We ought to fund faith-based organizations so that they can do their duty and love and compassion.

Oh, there are some in our society who are skeptical about funding faith. I hear it all the time in the Halls of Congress, "We can't fund faith-based organizations." If that's the case, are they willing to eliminate the line item for programs such as Habitat for Humanity in the budget? I say they shouldn't. As a matter of fact, I'm submitting a budget next year that triples the amount of money available for programs such as Habitat for Humanity. Should we eliminate college scholarships where a child can go to a faith-based university? Should we say Medicaid or Medicare recipients can't take their Federal money to a religious hospital?

To the skeptics of faith in our society, I say, come to Habitat Humanity building sites—listen to the opening prayer, so eloquently delivered today by a fellow Methodist—listen to the words that are said, that inspire people to take an extra step to help a neighbor in need.

No, those who worry about faith in our society and Government's willingness to stand side by side with faith, don't understand the power of faith and the promise of

faith and the hope of faith. And if this Nation expects to fulfill its promise, we ought to welcome faith-based and community-based programs all throughout America, encourage them to flourish, ask others to come and join, call upon mentors who are willing to put their arm around a child in need, welcome faith-based programs into our prisons, who understand that when you change a heart, you change a man or a woman's life.

No, this is a fabulous Nation because of our people and the compassion buried in the hearts and souls of the American people. And it's such a huge honor to come to a site of love and a site of compassion and a site of care, to work side by side with fellow Americans on kind of a hot day—[*laughter*]—with one thing in mind, to help Johana and, therefore, help our society and help America continue to be the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I'm so honored to be here, thankful for the chance to work. And thank you all so very much for what you do.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at a building site. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan of Florida; Millard Fuller, founder and president, Habitat for Humanity; Doris Meyer, house leader volunteer, and Roger Girson, chairman of the board, Hillsborough County Habitat for Humanity; and Johana Rodriguez, whose home the President helped build.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Senate Education Working Group and an Exchange With Reporters

June 5, 2001

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. It is good to see Members of the Senate coming back from the Memorial Day break. We're here to discuss the education bill that has been passed by the House of Representatives that will be debated soon, I believe. We hope soon—this afternoon on the floor of the United States Senate. And I, of course, am anxious to talk to the chairman of the Education Committee, Senator Kennedy, about getting the bill done.

There's been a lot of discussion about the bill, a lot of agreements that have been made. There's been a lot of hard work from a lot of people around this table, and my hope is, is that we don't try to add to or subtract from the bill after our agreements have been made.

I look forward to hearing from the Members about how best to get this bill complete. I think we have an opportunity—I know we have an opportunity to show the American people that although the structure of the Senate may have been altered somewhat, we still can get things done in a way that's positive for America. So, welcome the Members here.

Secondly, I am deeply concerned, as are Members of the Senate around this table, about the situation in the U.S. steel industry. And we're concerned about unfair trade practices that may be affecting the economics of the steel industry and, therefore, call upon the International Trade Commission under Section 201 to have a full investigation of the industry, the imports coming into the United States, and make sure that our industry is not being affected by unfair trade practices.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions, and then we look forward to a discussion.

Bipartisanship

Q. Mr. President, Senator Kennedy is the chairman of this committee because Senator Jeffords is leaving the party, saying that he could no longer—because of the conservative bent of the party, he could no longer work as well with you and other leaders of——

The President. Why do you have to make the guy feel bad in front of the TV cameras?

Q. Because I get paid good money for it, sir. [*Laughter*] Let's not get into your tax cut proposal now.

What does that say about your ability to oversee a party that's supposedly supposed to have a broad tent and, specifically, your ability to govern as you promised, as a bipartisan leader?

The President. Well, that's what this meeting is all about. And there's going to be an opportunity for us to work on a variety of issues. We did so on the tax relief package. That package got a pretty good Democratic vote out of the Senate and a good Democratic vote out of the House. We'll do so on the education plan.

There's a Patients' Bill of Rights that's working its way through the Senate. I'm confident we'll have a series of discussions on that. As a matter of fact, there's an author of one of the bills here, and there's two authors of a secondary bill—a second bill here. And as you know, we've been working with Senator Frist and Senator Jeffords on that alternative to try to make it conform to some principles that I discussed.

There's going to be a lot of give and take on key issues. And I think when people see the fine print of the education bill, they'll find there's been a lot of give and take in order to get a good bill out that improves public education. So I'm confident we'll be able to work together.

Multilateral Initiative on Steel

Q. And the steel ruling, is this going to anger European allies going into the summit?

The President. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I certainly hope it doesn't anger European allies. As you know, I've told the world that we are going to have an active international—internationalist foreign policy, with U.S. interests at its heart. And it's in our Nation's interests to make sure that if there are unfair trade practices in the steel industry, that we address them in an aggressive way, which this administration will do.

Yes, Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News]. Nice seeing your brother the other day.

Q. Yes, sir. He was happy to see you.

The President. He speaks highly of you. [*Laughter*]

Education Legislation

Q. Sir, do you have any fears that the changeover in the Senate will threaten the education reform? Is that the reason for calling this meeting?

The President. The reason for calling this meeting is because I wanted to touch base with the people that are making the bill move, to let them know how much I appreciate the hard work that has gone into the bill, ask what we can do to help make it move as quickly as possible so that we can sign a bill in time for public districts around the United States to plan for next fall.

And one reason why the Secretary of Education is here is, he is going to be in charge of implementing the new bill. And that's why they're here.

Q. You have more than 100 amendments still to be dealt with, sir. Is that something you would like to ask the Members here to streamline? Is there some way to make the process move a little faster?

The President. That's going to be up to the chairman, and I am sure he will have a few good ideas. He has been around here a lot longer than I have, and he'll have good ideas to move the bill as quickly as possible.

My only request is that we adhere to the spirit of our negotiations as best as possible. I know the Senator is a man of his word. Our administration is, as well. I am confident we can get something done in a positive way.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what are you expecting to accomplish by sending CIA Director Tenet to the Middle East, and what do you feel about the recent events out there?

The President. Well, we believe strongly we need to stop the cycle of violence before anything can happen. And I have been on the phone, and the Secretary of State has been on the phone, urging all parties involved to adhere to the cease-fire. We believe enough progress has been made on the cease-fire that it is time to send George Tenet to the Middle East to start serious discussions at the security level about how to make sure the cease-fire continues.

And we are very hopeful that this will—this step will continue to—will be a part of building confidence in the region, confidence between skeptical leaders. And George is going to be on a very important mission, and we are all hopeful in the United States that the mission begins to achieve the objective.

Once the violence has ceased, once there is a cease-fire in place, once there are strong security arrangements back in place, then we can start having political discussions.

Q. Former——

The President. The Mitchell report was a very good report, and I called former Senator Mitchell to thank him for his contributions. Our Government and our Nation supports the Mitchell report. The Mitchell report clearly says: Step one is to stop the violence. And that is where our efforts are from

our Government. We are doing everything we can to make it clear to all parties that we will work as hard as we can to stop the violence.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator George J. Mitchell, chairman, Sharm al-Sheikh Fact Finding Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on a Multilateral Initiative on Steel

June 5, 2001

This administration is committed to free trade as an engine of growth. As part of our free trade agenda, we are committed to ensuring that American industry and American workers can compete on a level playing field. That is why, today, I am announcing my intent to launch an initiative to respond to the challenges facing the U.S. steel industry. This initiative will be designed to restore market forces to world steel markets and eliminate the practices that harm our steel industry and its workers.

The U.S. steel industry has been affected by a 50-year legacy of foreign government intervention in the market and direct financial support of their steel industries. The result has been significant excess capacity, inefficient production, and a glut of steel on world markets.

My decision to pursue this initiative comes after extensive consultations by members of the Cabinet with our industry, our steelworkers, and interested Members of Congress. We have discussed the challenges facing U.S. steel manufacturers, and we understand that we have a critical stake in a healthy U.S. steel industry.

Thus, I intend to take the following steps. First, I am directing the United States Trade Representative, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the Treasury, to initiate negotiations with our trading partners seeking the near-term elimination of inefficient excess capacity in the steel industry worldwide, in a manner consistent with applicable U.S. laws.

Second, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative, together with the Secretaries of Commerce and the Treasury, to initiate negotiations on the rules that will govern steel trade in the future and eliminate the underlying market-distorting subsidies that led to the current conditions in the first place. Absent strict disciplines barring government support, direct or indirect, for inefficient steel-making capacity, the problems confronting the U.S. steel industry—and the steel industry worldwide—will only recur.

We see these negotiations—and the goal of restoring market forces—as being in our interest and in the interest of our trading partners and their steel industries. That is why we would like to work cooperatively with our trading partners in pursuing this initiative.

Third, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative to request the initiation of an investigation of injury to the United States industry by the International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action is consistent with our WTO obligations.

This three-part strategy, coupled with further restructuring of the U.S. industry, should help the industry meet the challenges it faces. I look forward to working together with the industry, the steelworkers, Congress, and our international trading partners in support of this important initiative.

Memorandum on Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

June 5, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

Section 6 of the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982 imposed a moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to motor carriers domiciled in, or owned or controlled by, persons of a contiguous foreign country, and authorized the President to modify the moratorium. The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

(ICCTA) maintained these restrictions, subject to modifications made prior to the enactment of the ICCTA, and authorized the President to make further modifications to the moratorium. The relevant provisions of the ICCTA are codified at 49 U.S.C. 13902.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) established a schedule for liberalizing certain restrictions on investment in truck and bus services. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I have determined that the following modifications to the moratorium are consistent with obligations of the United States under NAFTA and with U.S. transportation policy, and that the moratorium shall be modified accordingly. First, enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide truck services for the transportation of international cargo between points in the United States. Second, enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide bus services between points in the United States. These modifications shall be effective today.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(5), I have determined that expeditious action is required to implement these modifications to the moratorium. Effective today, the Department of Transportation will accept and expeditiously process applications, submitted by enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico, to obtain operating authority to provide truck services for the transportation of international cargo between points in the United States or to provide bus services between points in the United States.

Motor carriers domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be subject to the same Federal and State regulations and procedures that apply to all other U.S. carriers. These include safety regulations, such as drug and alcohol testing; insurance requirements; taxes and fees; and all other applicable laws and regulations, including those administered by the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Department of Labor.

This memorandum shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:27 p.m., June 6, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia

June 6, 2001

Thank you all very much. At ease, and be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome.

Governor Gilmore, thank you so very much for your friendship and your leadership here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lieutenant Governor Hager and Attorney General Earley, thank you, as well, for your hospitality.

I'm honored to be traveling today with Secretary Principi, Veterans Affairs Department. I'm honored to be traveling today with two fantastic United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Virginia: Senator Warner and Senator Allen. Congressman Goode and Goodlatte are here, as well. Thank you for your presence. The Ambassador from France—it's a pleasure to see him, and thank you for your kind words. Delegate Putney, Chaplain Sessions, Bob Slaughter, Richard Burrow, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans. I'm honored to be here today to dedicate this memorial. And this is a proud day for the people of Virginia and for the people of the United States. I'm honored to share it with you, on behalf of millions of Americans.

We have many World War II and D-day veterans with us today, and we're honored by your presence. We appreciate your example, and thank you for coming. And let it be recorded, we're joined by one of the most distinguished of them all, a man who arrived at Normandy by glider with the 82d Airborne Division, a man who serves America to this very hour. Please welcome Maj. Gen. Strom Thurmond. [*Applause*]

You have raised a fitting memorial to D-day, and you have put it in just the right place, not on a battlefield of war but in a small Virginia town, a place like so many others that were home to the men and women who help liberate a continent.

Our presence here, 57 years removed from that event, gives testimony to how much was gained and how much was lost—what was gained that first day was a beach and then a village and then a country. And, in time, all of western Europe would be freed from fascism and its armies.

The achievement of Operation Overlord is nearly impossible to overstate, in its consequences for our own lives and the life of the world. Free societies in Europe can be traced to the first footprints on the first beach on June 6, 1944.

What was lost on D-day we can never measure and never forget. When the day was over, America and her Allies had lost at least 2,500 of the bravest men ever to wear a uniform. Many thousands more would die on the days that followed. They scaled towering cliffs, looking straight up into enemy fire. They dropped into grassy fields sown with landmines. They overran machine gun nests hidden everywhere, punched through walls of barbed wire, overtook bunkers of concrete and steel. The great journalist Ernie Pyle said, "It seemed to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all. The advantages were all theirs, the disadvantages all ours. And yet," said Pyle, "we got on."

A father and his son both fell during Operation Overlord. So did 33 pairs of brothers, including a boy having the same name as his hometown, Bedford T. Hoback, and his brother Raymond. Their sister Lucille, is with us today. She has recalled that Raymond was offered an early discharge for health reasons, but he turned it down. "He didn't want to leave his brother," she remembers. "He had come over with him, and he was going to stay with him." Both were killed on D-day. The only trace of Raymond Hoback was his Bible, found in the sand. Their mother asked that Bedford be laid to rest in France with Raymond, so that her sons might always be together.

Perhaps some of you knew Gordon White, Sr. He died here just a few years ago, at the age of 95, the last living parent of a soldier who died on D-day. His boy Henry, loved his days on the family farm and was especially fond of a workhorse named Major. Family members recall how Gordon just couldn't let go of Henry's old horse, and he never did. For 25 years after the war, Major was cherished by Gordon White as a last link to his son and a link to another life.

Upon this beautiful town fell the heaviest share of American losses on D-day, 19 men from a community of 3,200, 4 more afterwards. When people come here, it is important to see the town as the monument itself. Here were the images these soldiers carried with them and the thought of when they were afraid. This is the place they left behind, and here was the life they dreamed of returning to. They did not yearn to be heroes. They yearned for those long summer nights again and harvest time and paydays. They wanted to see Mom and Dad again and hold their sweethearts or wives or, for one young man who lived here, to see that baby girl born while he was away.

Bedford has a special place in our history. But there were neighborhoods like these all over America, from the smallest villages to the greatest cities. And somehow they all produced a generation of young men and women who, on a date certain, gathered and advanced as one and changed the course of history. Whatever it is about America that has given us such citizens, it is the greatest quality we have, and may it never leave us.

In some ways, modern society is very different from the Nation that the men and women of D-day knew, and it is sometimes fashionable to take a cynical view of the world. But when the calendar reads the 6th of June, such opinions are better left unspoken. No one who has heard and read about the events of D-day could possibly remain a cynic. Army Private Andy Rooney was there to survey the aftermath. A lifetime later he would write, "If you think the world is selfish and rotten, go to the cemetery at Colleville overlooking Omaha Beach. See what one group of men did for another on D-day, June 6, 1944."

Fifty-three hundred ships and landing craft, 1,500 tanks, 12,000 airplanes, but in the end, it came down to this: Scared and

brave kids by the thousands who kept fighting and kept climbing and carried out General Eisenhower's order of the day—nothing short of complete victory.

For us, nearly six decades later, the order of the day is gratitude. Today we give thanks for all that was gained on the beaches of Normandy. We remember what was lost with respect, admiration, and love.

The great enemies of that era have vanished. And it is one of history's remarkable turns that so many young men from the new world would cross the sea to help liberate the old. Beyond the peaceful beaches and quiet cemeteries lies a Europe whole and free, a continent of democratic governments and people more free and hopeful than ever before. This freedom and these hopes are what the heroes of D-day fought and died for. And these, in the end, are the greatest monuments of all to the sacrifices made that day.

When I go to Europe next week, I will reaffirm the ties that bind our nations in a common destiny. These are the ties of friendship and hard experiences. They have seen our nations through a World War and a cold war. Our shared values and experiences must guide us now in our continued partnership and in leading the peaceful democratic revolution that continues to this day.

We have learned that when there is conflict in Europe, America is affected and cannot stand by. We have learned, as well, in the years since the war that America gains when Europe is united and peaceful.

Fifty-seven years ago today, America and the nations of Europe formed a bond that has never been broken. And all of us incurred a debt that can never be repaid. Today, as America dedicates our D-Day Memorial, we pray that our country will always be worthy of the courage that delivered us from evil and saved the free world.

God bless America. And God bless the World War II generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III, Lt. Gov. John Hager, and former Attorney General Mark L. Earley of Virginia; Francois Bujon de l'Estang, French Ambassador to the United States; Lacey E. Putney, delegate, Virginia House of Delegates; Col. David C. Sessions, USAF, chaplain, 20th Fighter Wing; John Robert Slaughter, chairman, board of directors, and Richard B. Burrow, president, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; and journalist Andy Rooney.

Executive Order 13216—Amendment to Executive Order 13125, Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs

June 6, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to change the title of Executive Order 13125 of June 7, 1999, and to extend by 2 years the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that was created by Executive Order 13125, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The title of Executive Order 13125 is deleted and the following title is inserted in lieu thereof: "Increasing Opportunity and Improving Quality of Life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

Sec. 2. Section 9 of Executive Order 13125 is amended by deleting "2 years after the date of this Executive order unless the Commission is renewed by the President prior to the end of that 2-year period" and inserting in lieu thereof "on June 7, 2003, unless renewed by the President prior to that date."

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Proclamation 7447—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2001

June 6, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On June 14, 2001, Americans will observe the 224th birthday of the flag of the United States of America. This special day provides a time for our Nation to reflect on our flag's rich history and its meaning to Americans and people around the world.

The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of our young republic on June 14, 1777. Describing the new flag, the Congress wrote, "White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice." Over time, the flag's design evolved to keep pace with our Nation's development and growth, but its meaning as a symbol of democracy and freedom has remained constant.

Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1877 to mark the centennial of the birth of our national symbol. As so often happens in our communities, a caring teacher encouraging students to develop a love for learning sparked renewed interest in the flag. Wisconsin schoolteacher B.J. Cigrand arranged for his pupils in 1885 to observe the 108th anniversary of the flag's official adoption.

In magazine and newspaper articles and public addresses in the following years, Cigrand promoted an official national celebration of June 14 as "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day." Groups in Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois took up the cause. After three decades of State and local celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day by proclamation in 1916.

During the darkest hours of World War II, Americans looked to the purity, hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance, and justice represented by the flag as ideals worthy of the ultimate sacrifice in order to defeat tyranny. In celebration of the flag's powerful meaning to Americans and its place in our culture and history, Flag Day became a national observance by Act of Congress in 1949 and was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for a national observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. In a second joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), the Congress requested the President to also issue annually a proclamation designating the week during which June 14 falls as "National Flag Week" and called upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2001, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 10, 2001, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings during the week. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to recite publicly the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Remarks on Signing the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001

June 7, 2001

Thank you. Sit down. Behave yourself. You're at the White House. [*Laughter*]

Laura, thank you very much for being here on this historic moment. Mr. Vice President, Secretary O'Neill, Director Daniels, Secretary Evans and Chao are here, as well. Secretary Abraham, Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, Members of the United States Senate, Members of the House of Representatives, fellow Americans, welcome.

Some months ago, in my speech to the joint session of Congress, I had the honor of introducing Steven Ramos to the Nation. Steven is the network administrator for a school district. His wife, Josefina, teaches at a charter school. They have a little girl named Lianna. And they're trying to save for Lianna's college education.

High taxes made saving difficult. Last year they paid nearly $8,000 in Federal income taxes. Well, today we're beginning to make life for the Ramos' a lot easier. Today we start to return some of the Ramos' money and not only their money but the money of everybody who paid taxes in the United States of America.

Across the board tax relief does not happen often in Washington, DC. In fact, since World War II, it has happened only twice: President Kennedy's tax cut in the sixties and President Reagan's tax cuts in the 1980s. And now it's happening for the third time, and it's about time.

A year ago tax relief was said to be a political impossibility. Six months ago it was supposed to be a political liability. Today it becomes reality. It becomes reality because of the bipartisan leadership of the Members of the United States Congress: Members like Bill Thomas of California, Ralph Hall of Texas, Charles Grassley of Iowa, Max Baucus of Montana, Zell Miller of Georgia, John Breaux of Louisiana, Trent Lott of Mississippi, and the entire leadership team in the Senate and Denny Hastert of Illinois and the leadership team in the House of Representatives; some Democrats, many Republicans, who worked tirelessly and effectively to produce this important result.

I also want to pay tribute to the members of my administration who worked with Congress to bring about this day: Vice President Cheney, Secretary O'Neill, Director Daniels, and the team inside the White House of Andy Card and Larry Lindsey, Nick Calio and their staffs.

With us today are 15 of the many families I met as I toured our country making the case for tax relief—hard-working Americans. I was able to talk about their stories and their struggles and their hopes, which made the case for tax relief much stronger than my words could possible convey. And I want to thank you all for coming.

And here at the White House today are representatives of millions of Americans, including labor union members, small-business owners, and family farmers. Your persistence and determination helped bring us to this day. The American people should be proud of your efforts on their behalf, and I personally thank you all for coming.

Tax relief is a great achievement for the American people. Tax relief is the first achievement produced by the new tone in Washington, and it was produced in record time. Tax relief is an achievement for families struggling to enter the middle class. For hard-working lower income families, we have cut the bottom rate of Federal income tax from 15 percent to 10 percent. We doubled the per-child tax credit to $1,000 and made it refundable. Tax relief is compassionate, and it is now on the way.

Tax relief is an achievement for middle class families squeezed by high energy prices and credit card debt. Most families can look forward to a $600 tax rebate before they have to pay the September back-to-school bills. And in the years ahead, taxpayers can look forward to steadily declining income tax rates.

Tax relief is an achievement for families that want the Government tax policy to be fair and not penalize them for making good choices, good choices such as marriage and raising a family. So we cut the marriage penalty.

Tax relief makes the code more fair for small businesses and farmers and individuals

by eliminating the death tax. Over the long haul, tax relief will encourage work and innovation. It will allow American workers to save more on their pension plan or individual retirement accounts. Tax relief expands individual freedom. The money we return, or don't take in the first place, can be saved for a child's education, spent on family needs, invested in a home or in a business or a mutual fund or used to reduce personal debt.

The message we send today: It's up to the American people; it's the American people's choice. We recognize, loud and clear, the surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money, and we ought to trust them with their own money.

This tax relief plan is principled. We cut taxes for every income tax payer. We target nobody in; we target nobody out. And tax relief is now on the way.

Today is a great day for America. It is the first major achievement of a new era, an era of steady cooperation. And more achievements are ahead. I thank the Members of Congress in both parties who made today possible. Together, we will lead our country to new progress and new possibilities.

It is now my honor to sign the first broad tax relief in a generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 1836, approved June 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107–16.

Remarks to the Fourth National Summit on Fatherhood

June 7, 2001

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be introduced by Tommy Thompson, who not only was an outstanding Governor but, I can assure you, is going to be an outstanding Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is bright, capable, smart, and does everything the President tells him. [*Laughter*] He's my buddy. But thank you, Tommy, very much.

I am so honored Members of the United States Congress are here. I appreciate you all being here, Senator Carper, Senator Bayh, Congressman J.C. Watts. If there are other Members of the Congress here, thank you all for coming, as well. Roland Warren, it's good to meet you, sir. I appreciate your focus and effort. I've got something to say about the other two characters up here in a minute. [*Laughter*]

For 7 years, the National Fatherhood Initiative has been a powerful voice for responsible fatherhood. And for those of you involved, on behalf of our Nation, I say thanks from the bottom of our collective hearts. You have generated grassroots support and important national awareness. You've encouraged public officials like me to think and act on this incredibly important issue.

I worked with many of you on the Texas Fatherhood Initiative. We created a statewide public awareness campaign, mobilized community and corporate leadership, established a Texas Fatherhood Resource Center, and lent support to grassroots organizations all across our great State.

Promoting fatherhood was a commitment I made as Governor; it's a commitment I make as President; and it's a commitment I have made every day since our little girls were born in Dallas, Texas.

Two people who have been a central part of the National Fatherhood Initiative are now a valuable part of my administration, the Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Don Eberly, and the Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services—and, we hope, a man confirmed soon—Wade Horn. [*Applause*] I was pleased to see Senator Carper leading the applause. [*Laughter*] Thank you, guys, for your service, and thank you for your willingness to work on behalf of the American people.

The intellectual roots of the fatherhood movement reach back to one exceptional public servant who spoke about the importance of fathers earlier, more often, and more eloquently than any other public figure, former United States Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. Now, the fatherhood movement counts amongst its supporters a variety of public officials: Republicans Tom Ridge and Secretary of State Colin Powell; great Democrats, like Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

Most States now have initiatives that promote responsible fatherhood, and more than

50 mayors are involved in the National Fatherhood Initiative's bipartisan Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion. The fatherhood movement is diverse, but it is united by one belief: Fathers have a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of children.

For our children and for our Nation, nothing is more important than this initiative. Nearly every man who has a child wants to be a good father; I truly believe that. It's a natural longing of the human heart to care for and cherish your child, but this longing must find concrete expression.

Raising a child requires sacrifice, effort, time, and presence. And there is a wide gap between our best intentions and the reality of today's society. More than one-third of American children are living apart from their biological fathers. Of these, five out of six do not see their fathers more than once a week. And 40 percent of the children who live in fatherless households have not seen their fathers in at least a year.

Some fathers are forced away by circumstances beyond their control, but many times when a couple with children splits up, the father moves away or simply drifts away.

We know that children who grow up with absent fathers can suffer lasting damage. They are more likely to end up in poverty or drop out of school, become addicted to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, or end up in prison. Fatherlessness is not the only cause of these things, but our Nation must recognize it is an important factor.

There is a familiar litany that behind every statistic is a child, and a compassionate society can never forget the large place a father occupies in that child's life. Children look to their fathers to provide, even imperfectly, and nurture protection, provide discipline and care, guidance, and most importantly, unconditional love. Fathers are the object of a young child's admiration. They provide their sons and daughters with an example of what it means to be a good man. And many of us believe a father's love, like a mother's love, even imperfectly, mirrors divine love.

The absence of a father can shatter a child's world. One 14-year-old girl put it this way: "My father left me when I learned to say 'daddy.' Even though my father is not around, in my heart he's always there. Every birthday, every Christmas, I cross my fingers in hopes that my father will come home. Does my wish come true? No. But I never quit looking and hoping."

When children quit looking and stop hoping, something terrible happened to them and to us. Over the past four decades, fatherlessness has emerged as one of our greatest social problems. Yet, during this period, we've also made some important social progress. Today, marriages is often a more equal partnership. Many fathers are more emotionally involved in the lives of their children. And our society now recognizes domestic violence for the violent crime it is. These trends are welcome and noble and overdue.

Many families with one parent do well. Single mothers do amazing work in difficult circumstances, succeeding at a job far harder than most of us can possibly imagine. They deserve our respect, and they deserve our support. And millions of children have strong, loving relationships with their nonresident dads. But on the whole, we must never forget children need their dads, and when they're absent, something is lost.

Fatherlessness has public consequences; so public officials have a role to play. My budget, for example, provides $64 million in 2002 and $315 million over 5 years for programs designed to strengthen fatherhood. We have proposed increased funding for promoting safe and stable families program and are taking steps to help make adoption more affordable.

And we have tried to set an example by creating an atmosphere favorable to families in the White House, in the workplace, as should all of us who have responsibility for employees. Democratic Senator Evan Bayh has taken the lead on fatherhood legislation in the last Congress, and will do so again this year. And he deserves our gratitude.

I look forward to working with him and Senator Domenici, as well as other key supporters of fatherhood legislation, like Nancy Johnson, to secure passage this year of a bill that provides financial support to community based fatherhood programs all across the country.

I'm asking my Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to develop resource materials to guide urban congregations and

other community groups in finding role models for young men who have been raised without fathers. And we will be working with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to enlist dads in our national campaign against drug use.

We have a responsibility to help children who have been born into harsh circumstances and fractured families. As a society, we must work to promote mentors—committed, caring adults in the lives of children. I always like to say, I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would cause people to love one another. I'm confident these Senators, and I know this Member of the House, would sponsor it. I can assure you the President would sign it.

But governments can't cause people to love one another. Love comes from the hearts and souls of citizens who want to help. And we must gather up the great compassion of our society, to encourage loving citizens to put their arm around a child who may not have a dad and say, "Somebody in this country loves you, and somebody cares for you."

There's no substitute for a dad. I recognize that. But there's sure a lot of hope when a child has a mentor. Just look at the record of Big Brothers and Big Sisters in America. They've had an incredible positive effect on the lives of children. Children who meet with a Big Brother and Big Sister regularly for a year are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 32 percent less likely to assault somebody. They are less likely to skip school, and more likely to realize a dream.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America is an amazing story. And I want you all to hear this. There are estimates that more than 14 million children in this country could benefit from having a mentor. To begin addressing the need, my budget proposes a $67 million initiative to mentor children whose parents are incarcerated. Our law should encourage responsible fatherhood; when children are abandoned, our society should encourage mentoring.

But ultimately, fatherhood is a deeply personal calling. Our own children are given to our care, and they depend on our love. Every parent knows that raising a child is among the most affirming experiences a human being will ever know. So many of my generation had the same—had this experience. When we held our children for the first time, we really found ourselves. We found a world of duty and love that changed our lives. And since that day—since that day, "dad" has been the most important title I have ever had. [*Applause*] Thank you very much. Thank you.

Children need a father's love and attention. And they also need a loving family. To paraphrase my friend Josh McDowell, a child's greatest source of security today is not only knowing my mom loves me and my dad loves me, but also that mom and dad love each other.

If we are serious about renewing fatherhood, we must be serious about renewing marriage. Ultimately, this, too, is a deeply personal calling. Renewing marriage depends on renewing the inward things of the heart, mutual respect and cooperation, support and affirmation, love and devotion.

Healthy marriages are not always possible. But we must remember, they are incredibly important for children. Our hearts know this, and our Nation must recognize this. "What greater thing is there for two human souls," George Eliot wrote, "than to feel that they are joined for life to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting."

None of us is perfect. And so no marriage and no family is perfect. After all, we all are human. Yet, we need fathers and families precisely because we are human. We all live, it is said, in the shelter of one another. And our urgent hope is that one of the oldest hopes of humanity is this, to turn the hearts of children toward their parents and the hearts of parents toward their young. This is the hope of the Fatherhood Initiative. And because of your hard work, America will be a better place.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Ticonderoga Room at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred

to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Don Eberly, chairman and founder, Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Wade F. Horn, president, and Roland Warren, executive vice president, National Fatherhood Initiative; Josh McDowell, founder, Josh McDowell Ministries; and former Vice President Al Gore.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens

June 7, 2001

Thank you. Please be seated. It seems like we drew quite a crowd here today. It's been a big day here at the White House. I got to sign the most significant tax relief in a generation, recycling a few tax families here. [*Laughter*] Then, of course, I get the high honor of welcoming the Super Bowl champs, the Baltimore Ravens.

First, I do want to thank the Members of the United States Congress from the State of Maryland who are here. It seems like they have got a particular interest in this event. Thank you all for coming. Cardinal, thank you for being here, as well. With you on the side of the Ravens, I can now understand why teams like the Cowboys didn't do very well.

Art, welcome, and congratulations. Some of you may know, or don't know, I used to be an owner in the professional leagues. It happened to be in baseball. I never had the thrill of receiving a trophy like you and your family have done. It's a great tribute to good ownership, to win a trophy such as this. And I congratulate you for being here. And I congratulate you for putting together a fine organization. Big Ozzie, congratulations, sir. I'm your age. [*Laughter*] You look younger. [*Laughter*]

I also want to congratulate the coach. Brian, it's good to see you again. I think the players know this, that you can't win a championship without a good coach, without a good leader. And it's pretty hard to inspire a group of strong-headed, great athletes—[*laughter*]—but you did. I congratulate you.

I want to congratulate all the players who are here. And I want to congratulate your families, too. It's sometimes not easy to be the wife of a football player or a baseball player. There's a lot of time away from the home. And while the players, of course, deserve the great credit for winning on the field, the wives deserve a lot of credit, too, by standing behind the players. So congratulate to the family members.

This is a team that is blessed by five native—having five native Texans on the team. [*Laughter*] Very wise of you. [*Laughter*] So to my fellow Texans, welcome to the White House, it's good to see you. [*Laughter*]

A couple of points I want to make. First, I realize it's been 30 years since the Lombardi Trophy rested in Baltimore, Maryland. It's clear by bringing it back home, Art, that you have indelibly etched your team and your style and the team's culture in the hearts of the people of Baltimore.

I also want to use this opportunity—as you know, I'm going over to Europe, and one of the discussions there in Europe will be about defense—[*laughter*]—Senator Sarbanes. [*Laughter*] I think our Allies need to look at the Baltimore Ravens. [*Laughter*] They'll realize good defense wins. A good defense is one which adjusts to the times. A good defense is modern. A good defense is clear. And if Secretary Rumsfeld gets tired of his job, Secretary Marvin Lewis sounds pretty good—[*laughter*]—Secretary of Defense. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, congratulations for winning. I also want to congratulate Michael McCrary. I do, because he recently received the NFL Player's Association highest honor of humanitary achievement. That's important. It's important to be a champ on the field, and it's important to be a champ off the field. And Michael, I want to thank you for your work with the Special Olympics.

I don't know if any of you have ever had a chance to go to see the Special Olympics, but if you do, and somebody offers you a chance to be a hugger—which means you're standing on the other side of the finish line to hug somebody who comes running across—do it. It touches your heart. And Michael, thank you for that. And thank you for setting a good example.

Thank you all for coming to the White House. Thanks for being champs. And on behalf of the American people, I congratulate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore; and owner Art Modell, vice president of player personnel Ozzie Newsome, head coach Brian Billick, defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis, and defensive end Michael McCrary, Baltimore Ravens.

Proclamation 7448—Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day

June 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

All of America's service personnel and veterans deserve our gratitude, and it is fitting to pay tribute to the United States Asiatic Fleet.

The United States Navy's presence in the Far East dates to 1822. The Asiatic Fleet was formed in 1902, reestablished in 1910, and continued to serve into 1942. Through years of unrest and disturbance, the Fleet protected American lives and interests along the China coast and the Yangtze River, bearing responsibilities that were as much diplomatic as Naval. The Fleet also assisted civilian areas devastated by the forces of nature and by internal warfare.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor thrust the United States into World War II, the Asiatic Fleet played a key role in the defense of the Philippines. Outnumbered and outgunned at sea and in the air, the Fleet was joined by ships of the British, Dutch, and Australian navies to oppose the Japanese advance through what is now Indonesia. The Fleet's destroyers hit the Japanese at Balikpapan and Badung Strait, and the cruiser *Marblehead* fought her way through massive air attacks off Bali while submarines, short of fuel and torpedoes, struck Japanese supply lines.

The battle for the "Malay Barrier" reached its climax in the Java Sea. In the opening hours of March 1, 1942, the American cruiser *Houston* and the Australian cruiser *Perth*, outnumbered and outgunned by the Japanese, fought to the last in the Sunda Strait. They went down with their guns still firing and were followed hours later by the British cruiser *Exeter*. The remaining Allied ships were then ordered to make their way to Australia.

The Asiatic Fleet was no more, but its heritage of courage and selfless dedication helped spur our Navy to victory in World War II. Since then, the Seventh Fleet has carried on the Asiatic Fleet's duties, earning honor in Korea and Vietnam and helping to preserve peace and stability in East Asia. The men and women of our Naval services who saw the Cold War to a peaceful conclusion and won victory in Operation Desert Storm are worthy descendants of the sailors and Marines who earned glory in the Java Sea. As we pay tribute to the memory of the Asiatic Fleet, I call on all Americans to join me in saluting its proud heritage of bravery and honor.

The Congress, by Public Law 105–261, on October 17, 1998, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in commemoration of the United States Navy Asiatic Fleet.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 1, 2002, as U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Remarks at a Tax Relief Celebration in Dallas Center, Iowa

June 8, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's nice to be back on the farm. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the Barretts for their hospitality. I was here before. I'm going to make mention of that in a minute, but it's great to be back here again. Tom and Judy and their family represent what America is all about—family values, family love, hard work, tradition, history, generations. So it's an honor to be back here and be able to talk a little bit about what's going on in the Nation's Capital.

I am so honored to be traveling today with members of the Iowa congressional delegation, at least those who had the wisdom to support tax relief for the hard-working people of Iowa.

The Senator was really effective. I know you were proud of him before this piece of legislation passed. But if you had seen him like I saw him, working hard on behalf of people, you'd really be proud. This is a monumental legislative achievement, because the chairman from the great State of Iowa worked diligently on behalf of the American people. This happened because Chairman Grassley made it happen, and I am so grateful.

As you know, we Bushes are used to taking orders from people named Barbara. [*Laughter*] That's right, it is her birthday. I want you to note, those in the press corps, I called her first thing this morning and wished her a happy birthday.

But Senator Grassley listens to someone named Barbara, as well, and she is with us today, Barbara Grassley. Thank you for coming, Barbara.

Four Congressmen from Iowa stood fast with the people of Iowa. Congressman Ganske—some say he might be thinking down the road. If he is, I hope everybody gives him a serious look, because he was steadfast when it came to worrying about the working people in the State of Iowa and the farmers in the State of Iowa.

And you've allowed others from the great State of Iowa to come into the greater Des Moines area: Latham, Leach, and Nussle. Fine Congressmen, honest, decent Americans. And by the way, Congressman Jim Nussle was the head of the Budget Committee, who did a superb job, an unbelievably good job of shepherding through a budget that not only helps the Nation meet our priorities but a budget that also included some of the surplus going back to the people that pay the bills. Congressman Nussle distinguished himself on behalf of all Americans and, particularly, the people of the State of Iowa. So I am so honored that the three—four Congressmen are with us.

You may have heard that I'm on my way from here to chunk out the first pitch at the College World Series. As you know, it's in Nebraska. I see a man with a Nebraska—there you go, yes—Nebraska hat on. Well, we've got a Congressman from Nebraska, as well, with us, Congressman Lee Terry. I appreciate you coming, Lee, as well; thanks for being here.

I haven't decided whether or not I'm going to go with the fastball or slider today. [*Laughter*] I just hope it's not the same pitch I used in Milwaukee to open the stadium, where there was a nice little bounce to it before it got to the plate. [*Laughter*] At any rate, I'm so honored to be here. Kay, I appreciate you being here. I remember well the speech I gave to the Greater Des Moines Partnership. And I want to thank all the Chamber of Commerce members who are here.

I also want to recognize two former Governors, friends of mine who were steadfast in their support, Bob Ray and Terry Branstad. Thank you both for coming. They still remember you. And I know the Speaker of the House is here, as well. Where's Brent? Brent, thanks for coming. It's great to see you, sir. Thank you.

The last time I was here, we were talking about foreign policy, and there were two people who were here then that aren't here now. And I'm so sad that Herb Plambeck and Bob Lounsberry are not here with us. But I can assure you that they're smiling when they've heard that we had gotten rid of the death tax.

I also want to thank the tax families who are here. For those of you who paid attention to the campaign, one of the things I tried to do in the course of the campaign, in order to build public will for good public policy,

was to talk about how tax relief would benefit real-life families, how tax relief would make a difference in the lives of hard-working Iowa citizens—the Kozol family, the Skiles family, and the Barrett family are here with us.

Thank you all so very much for coming. Thanks for letting me use you as a live example. You should take special pride in knowing that your hard work, along with the hard work of millions of others, convinced the United States Congress to do the right thing. Tax relief is real, and tax relief is on the way.

Somebody said, "Well, why are you going back to the farm to talk about the joint accomplishment that happened in Washington?" Well, it's the place where I made the promise. It was here that I talked about the agricultural policy that I felt was good for the Nation. It was here where I, amongst other things, said two things loud and clear. One, my administration will support ethanol not only during the campaign but afterwards.

We believe in value-added processing. I haven't changed my mind since I got elected. I still strongly believe that ethanol is important, not only to reduce dependency upon foreign sources of energy but also as a source and a way to clean the air.

And secondly, I said, if given a chance to be the President, I would do everything I could to get rid of the death tax. The bill I signed yesterday gets rid of the death tax over time. The bill I signed yesterday recognizes that, when you tax a person's assets twice, it's unfair. The bill we worked on and I signed recognized the importance of the family farmer in America.

I heard somebody say, "Well, you know, the death tax doesn't cause people to sell their farms." I don't know who they're talking to in Iowa. I've talked to people who were forced to sell their farms in order to pay for the death tax.

But I'll tell you what else the death tax used to do. It used to cause generation after generation to bear debt, to live under the heavy onus of having to borrow money to pay their taxes. Now, in some cases, they may not have transferred the assets out of the family, but in many cases the death tax caused one generation after another to try to climb out from underneath heavy debt, and those days are ended, as far as we're concerned, in America.

And then I went over—that was September 1st, '99. And to complete the circle, I went—and December 1st—Kay mentioned—and talked about tax relief beyond just the death tax. I laid out some principles. I said, first and foremost, I believe our Government can afford tax relief. Then the economy turned a little south on us, and I began to say, not only can we afford it, we cannot afford not to have it. It's important for us to have made a case, and I think people listened, that tax relief will provide a second wind to our economy. I said that a principle that needed to be—this needs to be a tax cut that was fair.

We said in the course of the campaign—the Chairman embraced the idea—that if you pay taxes, you get tax relief. That instead of having this business about Washington, DC, targeting people in or targeting people out, we didn't think that was fair. We said, everybody who pays—the only fair way to deal with tax relief is to reduce all rates on all taxpayers, so that Washington doesn't pick and choose winners and losers. And that's what this bill did.

It said, we're going to be fair about tax relief. And as the Senator mentioned, this is the first reduction in all rates in 20 years—as a matter of fact, since World War II, it has only happened twice: President Kennedy had the honor of signing the tax relief plan; President Ronald Reagan had the honor of signing an overhaul of the Tax Code and overall tax relief plan. And now President George W. Bush has that honor, and I'm in distinguished company, I might add.

We also said in the campaign that it was important to make the code respond to people who make good choices. A good choice is being married. [*Laughter*] And we did something about the marriage penalty in the Tax Code. We say, if you're struggling hard to get ahead, that we ought to—and you're raising kids, we recognize that in tax relief. And so part of the tax relief package has raised the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

And we also said in this bill, which I supported and I know the Chairman supported,

that there is some who may not have qualified for the tax credit in the past, that we ought to have a refundable tax credit for the poor citizens in our society. And that's a part of the bill, as well.

This tax legislation is good for the country. It's good for the economy. And as importantly, it embodies a principle that is embedded in my political soul. And it says that our Government, at all times, ought to trust the people—that we ought to trust the people of this country. It says, once we meet our priorities, that we ought to trust the people with the surplus. After all, it's the people's money; it's not the Government's money. I would much rather have the tax families making the decisions with their own money than the Federal Government deciding what's best for American families.

No, the core principle of this tax relief plan says, we trust people. We trust the American people. And all of us in public office should, because the American people are the finest people on the face of the Earth.

This tax relief plan is also important because it's the beginning of the change of the tone in Washington, DC. You know, a lot of us that weren't in Washington in the past and used to look up there and weren't really pleased with the bickering that was going on and the name calling and the unnecessary shrillness that were echoing through the Halls of the Capitol. There is still some of that. Sometimes I catch some of those elected officials, maybe not saying things about me that my mother would like to hear. [*Laughter*] But the tone is changing. It is. We're working hard to change it.

The chairman worked hard with his counterpart, with the Democrat in a western State, to get this bill done. Tax relief is important for the economy. Tax relief is really important for the American people. Tax relief is going to be evident pretty quickly, by the way, when married couples start getting a $600 check this summer. Single head of the household, $500 check. Single folks, a $300 check, followed by reduction in rates.

But tax relief also shows what can happen with the right spirit and right attitude in our Nation's Capital. It shows the American people that, if you set aside partisanship and focus on good public policy, we can accomplish things on behalf of the American people, instead of kind of worrying about your own standing or focusing on a focus group, taking a poll to figure out what to believe in. If you put the interest of the American people ahead of self-interest or political interest, we can get positive things done in the Nation's Capital. This is the beginning of a lot of reform that's going to take place.

And I'm excited about what's coming down the pike. We're fixing to get a good education bill out—I hope the Senate moves it quickly—one that sets high standards, trusts local people to make the decisions for their children; one that embodies an Iowa concept of accountability, right in the core of the education bill.

I'm excited about the progress we're making as far as our military. I said, loud and clear, when I came to Iowa, it's important for our military to be of high standing, high morale. The first thing we're going to do is pay our troops more money and make sure they're better housed.

I'm going to Europe and looking forward to my trip, going to Europe. But I cannot wait to describe to the people of Europe, the leaders in Europe, how important it is for freedom-loving people to think differently about how to keep peace. Now, Russia is not our enemy. Russia is no longer our enemy, and therefore, we shouldn't be locked into a cold war mentality that says we keep the peace by blowing each other up. In my attitude, that's old; that's tired; that's stale.

Our United States and our allies ought to develop the capacity to address the true threats of the 21st century. The true threats are biological and informational warfare. The true threats are the fact that some rogue nations who can't stand America, our allies, our freedoms, or our successes, would try to point a missile at us. And we must have the capacity to shoot that missile down. It's time to think differently about defense.

We're making progress. We're not only making progress and changing the tone, we're making progress of convincing people that some issues require a different way of thinking.

I'm so excited to be the President. It is an incredible honor, because we also have

a chance to work together to change our Nation's culture, to usher in a period of personal responsibility, to say, loud and clear, to citizens who need help,"Somebody loves you."

You see, Government can spend money, and we will. Our budgets reflect the compassion of America. But compassion isn't measured in dollars and cents. Compassion is measured in acts of kindness, in decency. One of the most important initiatives we're working on is what I call a Faith-Based and Community Initiative. It says, in order to make sure people aren't left behind, not only do children need to be educated, but our Nation must rally mentors to say to children whose parents may be in prison, "I care for you. I want to provide you with hope."

Or that we've got to understand—I'll never forget going to Colfax, Iowa, to understand that sometimes in order to get a person off alcohol or drugs, the most effective way is to change the person's heart.

Government can't cause people to love one another. But what Government and leaders can do is gather up the great compassion of America, encourage faith-based programs to flourish, welcome community-based programs in neighborhoods, all aimed at making sure no citizen in this land is left behind.

And I believe we're on our way. I believe we're on our way to a much better America. We're great. We can be even greater. And it begins by understanding where the strength of this country is. The strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of loving, decent, honorable citizens.

My job is to call upon the best, and it's my honor to do so. It also starts with understanding the awesome responsibilities of the collective offices we hold. I'll never forget that I hold the highest office of the land and, with it, comes an awesome responsibility, and I accept it gladly, and I'm not going to let you down.

Thanks for coming. Thanks for having me back. I'm honored to have your hospitality. God bless you all and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. at the Barrett Farm. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, Barbara Bush; farm co-owners Tom and Judy Barrett; Barbara Grassley, wife of Senator Charles E. Grassley; Kay King, president and founder, Travel World; and Speaker Brent Siegrist, Iowa General Assembly.

Statement on the Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement

June 8, 2001

Free trade and open markets are at the foundation of my administration's efforts to promote prosperity and opportunity around the world. Our free trade agenda is designed to engage our trading partners at the global, regional, and bilateral level and to expand economic integration and political cooperation. The history of the previous century teaches us that trade is a powerful tool for improving and reforming economies and opening up entire societies.

Today I am sending to the Congress the Vietnam bilateral trade agreement, an important part of my administration's trade agenda. This agreement will increase opportunities for U.S. firms by requiring Vietnam to dismantle a wide range of trade barriers, open its services markets, and provide comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights. Expanding ties between the United States and Vietnam will continue the historic process of normalizing our relations—a process that began during the first Bush administration and advanced in the Clinton administration with the negotiation of this agreement.

This agreement enjoys broad bipartisan support in the Congress, including from many Members who are Vietnam veterans. Enactment of the agreement will provide a solid bipartisan foundation for action on other trade issues.

I recently extended the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam for one year, based on my belief that Vietnam is making progress on liberalizing its emigration statutes. My administration will continue to press for improvements in Vietnam's overall record on human rights and religious freedom.

At the dawn of a new millennium, the United States stands ready to shoulder its leadership role throughout the world. Engaging other nations in trade is a vital part of U.S. leadership, and it is a key element of promoting economic growth at home and

abroad. I urge the Congress to approve this agreement.

Proclamation 7449—To Implement the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations

June 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to the authority vested in the President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and acting through duly empowered representatives, the United States entered into negotiations with representatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam ("Vietnam") to conclude an agreement on trade relations between the United States and Vietnam.

2. These negotiations were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*) (the "Trade Act").

3. As a result of these negotiations, an "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations" (the "Agreement"), including annexes and an exchange of letters which form an integral part of the Agreement, the foregoing in English and Vietnamese, was signed on July 13, 2000, by duly empowered representatives of the two Governments, and is set forth as an annex to this proclamation.

4. The Agreement conforms to the requirements relating to bilateral commercial agreements set forth in section 405(b) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(b)).

5. Chapter VII, Article 8:1 of the Agreement provides that the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance by the two Governments.

6. Section 405(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(c)) provides that a bilateral commercial agreement providing nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of a country denied such treatment prior to the date of enactment of the Trade Act, and a proclamation implementing such agreement, shall take effect only if a joint resolution described in section 151(b)(3) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2191(b)(3)) that approves of the Agreement is enacted into law.

7. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the provisions of that Act, of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including, but not limited to, sections 404, 405, and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) This proclamation shall become effective, the Agreement shall enter into force, and nondiscriminatory treatment shall be extended to the products of Vietnam, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, and after Congress approves the Agreement by joint resolution, on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 8:1 of the Agreement. The United States Trade Representative shall publish notice of the effective date in the *Federal Register*.

(2) Effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date provided in paragraph (1) of this proclamation, general note 3(b) to the HTS, enumerating those countries whose products are subject to duty at rates set forth in Rates of Duty Column 2 of the tariff schedule, is modified by striking out "Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12.

Message to the Congress on Trade With Vietnam

June 8, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 407 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2434) (the "Trade Act"), I am transmitting a copy of a proclamation that extends nondiscriminatory tariff treatment to the products of Vietnam. As an annex to the proclamation, I also enclose the text of the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations," which was signed on July 13, 2000, including related annexes and exchanges of letters.

Implementation of this Agreement will strengthen political relations between the United States and Vietnam and produce economic benefits for both countries. It will also help to reinforce political and economic reform in Vietnam.

I believe that the Agreement is consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Trade Act. The Agreement provides for mutual extension of nondiscriminatory tariff treatment, while seeking to ensure overall reciprocity of economic benefits. The Agreement includes safeguard arrangements designed to ensure that imports from Vietnam will not disrupt the U.S. market.

The Agreement also facilitates and expands the rights that U.S. businesses will have in conducting commercial transactions both within Vietnam and with Vietnamese nationals and business entities, and includes provisions dealing with settlement of commercial disputes, investment, financial transactions, and the establishment of government commercial offices. Vietnam also agrees to adopt standards for intellectual property protection that match the standards set forth in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

On June 1, 2001, I waived application of subsections 402 (a) and (b) of the Trade Act with respect to Vietnam. I urge that Congress act as soon as possible to approve, by a joint resolution referred to in section 151 (b) (3) of the Trade Act, the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Vietnam as provided for in the Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 8, 2001.

Memorandum on a Determination Under Section 405(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended, Concerning the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

June 8, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–18

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination under Section 405(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Concerning the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*) (the "Trade Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 405(a) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(a)), that the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations" will promote the purposes of the Trade Act and is in the national interest.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 3

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC, where he and Mrs. Bush hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

June 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Everglades National Park, FL.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Miami, FL, where he met with the Most Rev. John Clement Favalora, Archbishop of Miami. Later, he traveled to Tampa, FL.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laurie Rich to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frances P. Maniella to be Director of the National Park Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick M. Cronin to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Policy and Program Coordination.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides beginning May 15 and continuing.

June 5

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Bedford, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Francis Kennedy to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador.

June 7

In the morning, the President participated in a telephone interview with the Omaha World-Herald from the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Thomas Schieffer to be Ambassador to Australia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Jo Powell to be Ambassador to Ghana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Miller to be Ambassador to Greece.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Guest to be Ambassador to Romania.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Parker to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The President announced his intention to nominate Reginald Jude Brown to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald M. Sega to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

The President announced his intention to nominate Josefina Carbonell to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Kennedy to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Bureau of Humanitarian Response.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laura E. Kennedy to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate John P. Stenbit to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Judith Elizabeth Ayres to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for International Activities.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jo Anne Barnhart to be a Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude M. Kicklighter to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning.

The White House announced that the President has invited President John Kufuor of Ghana, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, and President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali to the Oval Office for a working visit on June 28.

June 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas Center, IA, and later, traveled to Omaha, NE, where he threw the first pitch at the College World Series Game 1.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Susan Schmidt Bies to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System representing the Seventh District.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Miguel Angel Rodriguez of Costa Rica on July 13.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Alfonso Portillo of Guatemala at the White House on July 5.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Chok Tong Goh of Singapore on June 11.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 5

Vicky A. Bailey,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy), vice David L. Goldwyn, resigned.

Rebecca O. Campoverde,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, vice Scott Snyder Fleming, resigned.

Deborah J. Daniels,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Laurie O. Robinson, resigned.

William A. Eaton,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Assistant Secretary of State (Administration), vice Patrick Francis Kennedy.

Robert S. Martin,
of Texas, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, vice Diane B. Frankel, resigned.

Mark B. McClellan,
of California, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Robert Z. Lawrence.

Diane K. Morales,
of Texas, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, vice Roger W. Kallock.

Richard R. Nedelkoff,
of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, vice Nancy E. Gist, resigned.

Janet Rehnquist,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, vice June Gibbs Brown, resigned.

Mercer Reynolds,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Alexander R. Vershbow,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

John P. Walters,
of Michigan, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, vice Barry R. McCaffrey, resigned.

Submitted June 7

Alex Azar II,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, vice Harriet S. Rabb, resigned.

Sheila C. Bair,
of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Gregory A. Baer, resigned.

Ellen G. Engleman,
of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Kelley S. Coyner, resigned.

Steven John Morello, Sr.,
of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, vice Charles A. Blanchard, resigned.

William A. Navas, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice Carolyn H. Becraft.

Clark T. Randt, Jr.,
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China.

C. David Welch,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Submitted June 8

Josefina Carbonell,
of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Jeanette C. Takamura, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 4

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law H.R. 581, providing wildland fire management reimbursement authority to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture in connection with the National Fire Plan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Transcript of a remarks by Deputy Superintendent of Everglades National Park Larry Belli to the press pool

Released June 5

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law H.R. 801, the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001

Released June 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming trip to Europe

Released June 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting with Ghanaian President Kufuor, Senegalese President Wade, and Malian President Konare

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Council on Foreign Relations on Foreign Policy Priorities and Challenges of the Administration

Released June 8

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Portillo of Guatemala

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Prime Minister Goh of Singapore

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Rodriguez of Costa Rica

Announcement: President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security To Hold First Meeting

Fact Sheet: Background on the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 3

H.R. 581 / Public Law 107–13
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appropriated for wildland fire management in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management

Approved June 5

H.R. 801 / Public Law 107–14
Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001

H.R. 1727 / Public Law 107–15
Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act of 2001

Approved June 7

H.R. 1836 / Public Law 107–16
Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001

The President's Radio Address

June 9, 2001

Good morning. This week I marked National Homeownership Week by volunteering with a local Habitat for Humanity work crew in Tampa, Florida. I was privileged to work with local volunteers to help build a home for Johana Rodriguez and her family.

Like all Habitat families, Ms. Rodriguez contributed her own hard work to her home's construction. And she takes great pride in the fact that she'll soon fulfill the American Dream of being a homeowner.

More Americans than ever before are experiencing that dream. But it still eludes too many people. For instance, while the rate of homeownership amongst all Americans is nearly 68 percent, the rate among African-American and Hispanic families is under 50 percent. These numbers are troubling because homeownership lies at the heart of the American Dream. It is a key to upward mobility for low and middle income Americans. It is an anchor for families and a source of stability for communities. It serves as the foundation of many people's financial security. And it is a source of pride for people who have worked hard to provide for their families. We need to do more to promote homeownership in America. And my administration is proposing a number of ways to do just that.

Our 2002 budget dedicates more than $30 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is an increase of almost $2 billion over current funding levels. We are working in a variety of ways to build and sustain neighborhoods in inner cities and rural communities across America.

One particular program, the American Dream Downpayment Fund, will provide $200 million in downpayment assistance to help 130,000 low income families buy homes. In addition, my administration announced earlier this week a program to allow people who receive low income rental assistance to bundle a year's worth of payments and use the money for a downpayment or to make monthly payments on a new mortgage.

We're also proposing a $1.7 billion tax credit to support the rehabilitation or new construction of up to 100,000 homes over a 5 year period. And this week I was proud to sign a bipartisan tax relief bill that will let Americans keep more of their hard earned money, money they can use to help purchase a new home or pay the mortgage of an existing home.

Government can play a helpful role but so must many others. My administration is dedicated to helping the private sector organizations, like Habitat for Humanity, that build homes and lift lives. HUD's Self-Help Ownership Opportunity Program provides seed money to groups like Habitat to purchase land for homes and build streets and utilities in local neighborhoods. Next year's budget will propose tripling the program's funds to expand its reach.

If you have an opportunity to help Habitat for Humanity or other organizations working to make the American Dream a reality for more families, I hope you do so. Government funding can help. But Habitat relies on volunteers to accomplish the bulk of its mission. And I can tell you from personal experience, there's no better way to feel like you're making a difference than to put hammer to nail and help people realize their dreams.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:10 p.m. on June 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Execution of Timothy McVeigh

June 11, 2001

This morning the United States of America carried out the severest sentence for the gravest of crimes. The victims of the Oklahoma City bombing have been given not vengeance but justice. And one young man met the fate he chose for himself 6 years ago.

For the survivors of the crime and for the families of the dead, the pain goes on. Final punishment of the guilty cannot alone bring peace to the innocent. It cannot recover the loss or balance the scales, and it is not meant to do so. Today every living person who was hurt by the evil done in Oklahoma City can rest in the knowledge that there has been a reckoning.

At every point, from the morning of April 19, 1995, to this hour, we have seen the good that overcomes evil. We saw it in the rescuers who saved and suffered with the victims. We have seen it in a community that has grieved and held close the memory of the lost. We have seen it in the work of detectives, marshal, and police, and we've seen it in the courts. Due process ruled: The case was proved; the verdict was calmly reached; and the rights of the accused were protected and observed to the full and to the end. Under the laws of our country, the matter is concluded.

Life and history bring tragedies, and often they cannot be explained. But they can be redeemed. They are redeemed by dispensing justice, though eternal justice is not ours to deliver. By remembering those who grieve, including Timothy McVeigh's mother, father, and sisters, and by trusting in purposes greater than our own, may God in his mercy grant peace to all—to the lives that were taken 6 years ago, to the lives that go on, and to the life that ended today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:44 a.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. Timothy McVeigh was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death for the murder of 168 people in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK.

Remarks on Global Climate Change

June 11, 2001

Good morning. I've just met with senior members of my administration who are working to develop an effective and science-based approach to addressing the important issues of global climate change.

This is an issue that I know is very important to the nations of Europe, which I will be visiting for the first time as President. The Earth's well-being is also an issue important to America, and it's an issue that should be important to every nation in every part of our world.

The issue of climate change respects no border. Its effects cannot be reined in by an army nor advanced by any ideology. Climate change, with its potential to impact every corner of the world, is an issue that must be addressed by the world.

The Kyoto Protocol was fatally flawed in fundamental ways. But the process used to bring nations together to discuss our joint response to climate change is an important one. That is why I am today committing the United States of America to work within the United Nations framework and elsewhere to develop with our friends and allies and nations throughout the world an effective and science-based response to the issue of global warming.

My Cabinet-level working group has met regularly for the last 10 weeks to review the most recent, most accurate, and most comprehensive science. They have heard from scientists offering a wide spectrum of views. They have reviewed the facts, and they have listened to many theories and suppositions. The working group asked the highly respected National Academy of Sciences to provide us the most up-to-date information about what is known and about what is not known on the science of climate change.

First, we know the surface temperature of the Earth is warming. It has risen by .6 degrees Celsius over the past 100 years. There was a warming trend from the 1890s to the 1940s, cooling from the 1940s to the 1970s, and then sharply rising temperatures from the 1970s to today.

There is a natural greenhouse effect that contributes to warming. Greenhouse gases

trap heat and thus warm the Earth because they prevent a significant proportion of infrared radiation from escaping into space. Concentration of greenhouse gases, especially CO_2, have increased substantially since the beginning of the industrial revolution. And the National Academy of Sciences indicates that the increase is due in large part to human activity.

Yet, the Academy's report tells us that we do not know how much effect natural fluctuations in climate may have had on warming. We do not know how much our climate could or will change in the future. We do not know how fast change will occur or even how some of our actions could impact it. For example, our useful efforts to reduce sulfur emissions may have actually increased warming, because sulfate particles reflect sunlight, bouncing it back into space. And finally, no one can say with any certainty what constitutes a dangerous level of warming and, therefore, what level must be avoided.

The policy challenge is to act in a serious and sensible way, given the limits of our knowledge. While scientific uncertainties remain, we can begin now to address the factors that contribute to climate change.

There are only two ways to stabilize concentration of greenhouse gases: One is to avoid emitting them in the first place; the other is to try to capture them after they're created. And there are problems with both approaches. We're making great progress through technology but have not yet developed cost-effective ways to capture carbon emissions at their source, although there is some promising work that is being done.

And a growing population requires more energy to heat and cool our homes, more gas to drive our cars. Even though we're making progress on conservation and energy efficiency and have significantly reduced the amount of carbon emissions per unit of GDP, our country, the United States, is the world's largest emitter of manmade greenhouse gases. We account for almost 20 percent of the world's manmade greenhouse emissions. We also account for about one-quarter of the world's economic output. We recognize the responsibility to reduce our emissions. We also recognize the other part of the story, that the rest of the world emits 80 percent of all greenhouse gases, and many of those emissions come from developing countries.

This is a challenge that requires a 100 percent effort, ours and the rest of the world's. The world's second largest emitter of greenhouse gases is China. Yet, China was entirely exempted from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol. India and Germany are among the top emitters. Yet, India was also exempt from Kyoto. These and other developing countries that are experiencing rapid growth face challenges in reducing their emissions without harming their economies. We want to work cooperatively with these countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions and maintain economic growth.

Kyoto also failed to address two major pollutants that have an impact on warming: black soot and tropospheric ozone. Both are proven health hazards. Reducing both would not only address climate change but also dramatically improve people's health.

Kyoto is, in many ways, unrealistic. Many countries cannot meet their Kyoto targets. The targets themselves were arbitrary and not based upon science. For America, complying with those mandates would have a negative economic impact, with layoffs of workers and price increases for consumers. And when you evaluate all these flaws, most reasonable people will understand that it's not sound public policy. That's why 95 Members of the United States Senate expressed a reluctance to endorse such an approach.

Yet, America's unwillingness to embrace a flawed treaty should not be read by our friends and allies as any abdication of responsibility. To the contrary, my administration is committed to a leadership role on the issue of climate change. We recognize our responsibility and will meet it—at home, in our hemisphere, and in the world.

My Cabinet-level working group on climate change is recommending a number of initial steps and will continue to work on additional ideas. The working group proposes the United States help lead the way by advancing the science on climate change, advancing the technology to monitor and reduce greenhouse gases, and creating partnerships within our hemisphere and beyond to monitor and measure and mitigate emissions.

I also call on Congress to work with my administration to achieve the significant emission reductions made possible by implementing the clean energy technologies proposed in our energy plan. Our working group study has made it clear that we need to know a lot more.

The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change commences to stabilizing concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate, but no one knows what that level is. The United States has spent $18 billion on climate research since 1990, 3 times as much as any other country and more than Japan and all 15 nations of the EU combined.

Today I make our investment in science even greater. My administration will establish the U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative to study areas of uncertainty and identify priority areas where investments can make a difference. I'm directing my Secretary of Commerce, working with other agencies, to set priorities for additional investments in climate change research, review such investments, and to improve coordination amongst Federal agencies. We will fully fund high-priority areas for climate change science over the next 5 years. We'll also provide resources to build climate observation systems in developing countries and encourage other developed nations to match our American commitment. And we propose a joint venture with the EU, Japan, and others to develop state-of-the-art climate modeling that will help us better understand the causes and impacts of climate change.

America's the leader in technology and innovation. We all believe technology offers great promise to significantly reduce emissions, especially carbon capture, storage, and sequestration technologies. So we're creating the National Climate Change Technology Initiative to strengthen research at universities and national labs, to enhance partnerships in applied research, to develop improved technology for measuring and monitoring gross and net greenhouse gas emissions, and to fund demonstration projects for cutting-edge technologies, such as bioreactors and fuel cells.

Even with the best science, even with the best technology, we all know the United States cannot solve this global problem alone. We're building partnerships within the Western Hemisphere and with other like-minded countries. Last week Secretary Powell signed a new CONCAUSA Declaration with the countries of Central America, calling for cooperative efforts on science research, monitoring and measuring of emissions, technology development, and investment in forest conservation. We will work with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and other institutions to better understand regional impacts of climate change. We will establish a partnership to monitor and mitigate emissions. And at home, I call on Congress to work with my administration on the initiatives to enhance conservation and energy efficiency outlined in my energy plan, to implement the increased use of renewables, natural gas, and hydropower that are outlined in the plan, and to increase the generation of safe and clean nuclear power.

By increasing conservation and energy efficiency and aggressively using these clean energy technologies, we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by significant amounts in the coming years. We can make great progress in reducing emissions, and we will. Yet, even that isn't enough.

I've asked my advisers to consider approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including those that tap the power of markets, help realize the promise of technology, and ensure the widest possible global participation. As we analyze the possibilities, we will be guided by several basic principles. Our approach must be consistent with the long-term goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Our actions should be measured as we learn more from science and build on it. Our approach must be flexible to adjust to new information and take advantage of new technology. We must always act to ensure continued economic growth and prosperity for our citizens and for citizens throughout the world. We should pursue market-based incentives and spur technological innovation. And finally, our approach must be based on global participation, including that of developing countries whose net greenhouse gas emissions now exceed those in the developed countries.

I've asked Secretary Powell and Administrator Whitman to ensure they actively work with friends and allies to explore common approaches to climate change consistent with these principles.

Each step we take will increase our knowledge. We will act, learn, and act again, adjusting our approaches as science advances and technology evolves. Our administration will be creative. We're committed to protecting our environment and improving our economy, to acting at home and working in concert with the world. This is an administration that will make commitments we can keep and keep the commitments that we make.

I look forward to continued discussions with our friends and allies about this important issue.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

Proclamation 7450—Great Outdoors Week, 2001

June 11, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During Great Outdoors Week, our Nation celebrates the beauty and majesty of the great outdoors. This occasion allows Americans to reflect on the role our parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and other public lands and waters play in our lives. We also acknowledge how this wonderful shared legacy would not be possible without our strong tradition of natural resource conservation.

No other country boasts more extraordinary or more diverse options for recreation. Our Nation's federally managed lands account for nearly one in every three acres and, together with our Nation's waters, provide visitors with almost 2 billion opportunities for recreation annually. Eight of ten Americans participate at least monthly in outdoor recreation, and we may choose to challenge ourselves through demanding activities like mountain climbing or river rafting. Enjoying the outdoors also can be as tranquil as birdwatching or viewing a golden sunset from a campsite. These experiences leave us with wonderful memories of time shared with family and friends, provide opportunities for improving our health, and expose us to the wonders of nature.

Recognizing that most Americans enjoy the outdoors by visiting Federal, State, or local sites, my budget proposes to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at $900 million for Fiscal Year 2002. Half of the Fund will go toward grants to support State and local conservation and outdoor recreation efforts. My National Parks Legacy Project pledges to secure $4.9 billion to help ensure that our national parks are properly maintained and enhanced. In addition, I have directed the Department of the Interior to prepare an annual report describing the condition of our parks and offering specific recommendations to improve them.

During Great Outdoors Week, we also honor Americans who volunteer their time to restore and safeguard these national treasures. These generous individuals collectively contribute millions of hours to clean shorelines and waterways, maintain trails and campsites, staff interpretive centers, and perform other important tasks. Their efforts help ensure the continued vitality of our precious natural areas and enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 10–16, 2001, as Great Outdoors Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to participate in safe and wholesome outdoor recreation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 12, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 13.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 11, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–19

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of six months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register.*

This suspension shall take effect on June 15, 2001.

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Russia

June 11, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication. This notice states that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2001.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond June 21, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 11, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 12.

The President's News Conference With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain in Madrid, Spain

June 12, 2001

President Aznar. It's a great pleasure to be able to welcome the President of the United States of America, George Bush, to *Palacio de la Moncloa* on his first visit to Spain. I'd like to express my satisfaction with regard to the atmosphere of cordiality and the friendship that has ruled in our meetings today, our working luncheon, and our talks. And I also want to thank his advisers and his staff for all the kindness and all of the interest they have shown in issues that matter to Spain.

As all of you know, President Bush and his delegation spent several hours with us in *Quintos de Mora en Toledo,* where we had the opportunity to talk about a number of issues I will refer to.

As you know, the United States of America and Spain share a common history, before,

during, and after its independence, to which Spain has made a major contribution. At present, many U.S. citizens have Spanish as their mother tongue—the number, which in the next few years will be more than that of Spaniards, and a language which we hear the President, himself, speaking better and better every day. [*Laughter*] Our students and our researchers chose many university centers in the United States as the place of preference to study and work. And I, myself, have been able to find, on my trips to the United States, how quickly Spanish scientists are included in these research centers and institutions.

We share with the United States confidence in the values of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, which we believe are basic values, not simply to live within our own countries but also as a model of behavior for the entire international community. We are open societies; we are firm defenders of market economies; and we are convinced of the importance of these shared and common values, such as the family in our countries.

These same values that we share and defend have led both our countries to take part in the same security organizations, and we defend the transatlantic dialog which has been the basis for peace and stability in the last half century.

As you know, President Bush and I will be attending the meeting of heads of state and government of NATO tomorrow, and on Thursday will be the U.S.-EU Summit, which will be followed by a dinner with the 15 heads of state and government, along with President Bush.

As I said earlier, there are many issues that we discussed, and I would very briefly like to refer to these. On the bilateral front, we talked about the implementation of the political joint statement that was signed last January. We are negotiating, as you all know, a review of the agreement for defense cooperation that we hope can be signed as soon as possible. We have discussed several issues with regard to our economic, industrial, cultural, and security cooperation.

On the international front, as was included in the joint statement that President Bush and I just signed and which has been given to you, we dealt with the development of our transatlantic economic relationship, the development of European defense, the Balkan situation, the Middle East conflict, and the need to increase and improve our cooperation with the developing world.

Allow me to indicate that because of our historical and political realities and our cultural realities, we have especially discussed the issue of Ibero-America, a region whose welfare and development is something that Spain and the United States are keenly interested in. I'd like to underscore the extreme sensitivity of President Bush with regard to Ibero-American issues, as was evidenced by the various initiatives he has implemented since becoming President of the United States, and which I, myself, have been able to see during our discussions today.

Before you ask any questions, I would like to say that as is the case on many issues that we have dealt with, we have not always been in agreement. But that, precisely, is always the case at meetings like these. We try to agree; we try to find meeting points on those issues, where interpretations perhaps are not always the same. For that reason, we have established regular contexts in our joint political declaration, and we have approved—and I am very grateful to President Bush for his kind invitation to visit the United States before the Spanish Presidency, in other words, before the end of this year.

My conclusion is that these discussions will promote and enhance the U.S.-Spain relationship even more, which will lead to great progress—promising progress, new contacts, new agreements, new opportunities, and new common objectives.

Thank you very much, and I give the floor to the President.

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. President. It's such an honor to be here. It is an appropriate place for me to begin my visit to Europe. Spain is a friend of the United States, and President Aznar is a friend of mine. *Es un enorme placer estar en España, cuya gran cultura ha marcado profundamente mi pais.*

Spain is one of America's most reliable Allies and one of the world's most dynamic societies. Spain has made one of Europe's most remarkable transitions to democracy

and prosperity. It is now the world's eighth largest industrial economy. Mr. President, you deserve a lot of credit.

Spain has prospered. It has found a new global role. Hundreds of millions of people now speak the language of Cervantes, and many millions of them live in the United States. We Americans, too, are now proud inheritors of *Hispanidad.*

President Aznar and I have today reconfirmed the close relationship between the United States and Spain. Our joint statement expresses a renewed commitment to the NATO Alliance and a readiness to respond to any new threats. The statement also underscores our shared support for a new round of global trade negotiations this year.

The United States and Spain have worked closely together to promote freedom, prosperity, and stability, both in the Americas and in southeast Europe. We appreciate Spain's contributions to peace in the Balkans and Spain's hospitable welcome to the American soldiers, sailors, marines, and aircrews on the bases here.

It is important that we continue this excellent record of military cooperation. It is also important that we continue to cooperate in the Middle East and that we combine our efforts to fight terrorism—terrorism around the world. And our Government is committed to stand side by side with the Spanish Government as it battles terrorism here in Spain.

I shared with President Aznar my administration's desire to work with our European partners to build a Europe that is whole, free, peaceful, and linked in solidarity with the United States. This week I'll be meeting with two great institutions of Europe, NATO and the European Union, to affirm our common purposes and to chart our path ahead of us.

Europe has often had a history of division and conflict, but Europe today is writing a new story, a story of democratic progress, economic reform, and ethnic tolerance. This commitment to a united, prosperous, peaceful Europe is an American commitment, as well. America benefits when Europe is united and peaceful and prosperous.

The hope of progress has never been greater, and America will do all it can to fulfill that promise. We must work together to prevent or resolve regional conflicts, to eliminate barriers to free trade, to extend Europe's zone of peace and stability by enlarging the great institutions of European unity, and to strengthen our ability to meet new challenges to our security.

I look forward to meeting with Russian President Putin to set out a new and constructive and realistic relationship between Russia and the United States. I'm looking forward to talking to President Putin, to assure him of our friendship and to offer him a strong, normal relationship with America.

President Aznar and I have discussed all these issues. And I gained much from his views and experience. I look forward to seeing all my European friends and Allies in the coming days. Europe and the United States are united by a single set of fundamental values, and with that unity, there is much we can accomplish.

Mr. President. Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Speak clearly.

Q. I'll try, sir. It's one of those things I have problems with.

President Bush. Speak for yourself. [*Laughter*]

Global Warming/National Missile Defense

Q. I was.

Mr. President, the EU today rejected your global warming initiative, Mr. President, and weeks of consultations have not eased the objections to your missile defense plans in most European capitals. I have two questions on that. Are these issues so important that you're willing to go it alone if the European Allies won't come on board? And what is your response to the EU today calling your climate change plan short on results?

President Bush. Well, first, there's a lot that unite us, trade, common values, great opportunities. I look forward to making my case, as I did today over lunch, about missile defense. It starts with explaining to Russia and our European friends and allies that Russia is not the enemy of the United States, that the attitude of mutually assured destruction is a relic of the cold war, and that we

must address the new threats of the 21st century if we're to have a peaceful continent and a peaceful world.

Those new threats are terrorism, based upon the capacity of some countries to develop weapons of mass destruction and, therefore, hold the United States and our friends hostage. It is so important we think differently in order to address those threats.

I believe that people are interested in our opinion. I believe Mr. Putin is interested in our opinions. I know the President of Spain was willing to listen as to why it's important to think differently in order to keep the peace. The ABM Treaty prevents our Nation and other freedom-loving nations from exploring opportunities to be able to say to those who would hold freedom-loving peoples hostage that we're not going to let you do so. So I look forward to consulting and continue the consultations that have already begun.

As far as global warming, I made a strong statement yesterday that said our Nation is concerned about CO_2 emissions and that we've begun the process to address that problem. I started with an energy plan that, on the one hand, talks about conservation measures. Our country can and will do a better job of conserving energy. But I also talked about new supplies that will not harm the environment—renewables, natural gas, and clean nuclear energy. And I hope the United States Congress responds positively to these measures, which will help in the global warming issue.

I also said our Nation is willing to continue to spend money on science, to make sure that any collective approach is one based upon sound science. I did speak out against the Kyoto treaty itself, because I felt that the Kyoto treaty was unrealistic, it was not based upon science. The stated mandates in the Kyoto treaty would affect our economy in a negative way.

On the other hand, I did say loud and clear that we must continue the process of dialog. I instructed people in our administration to adhere to the United Nations framework to figure out ways for us to come together to address this issue that knows no borders or no boundaries. I'm confident the people of—the leadership of Europe are interested in our opinions, and I'm confident we'll have a good and constructive dialog.

President Aznar. I'd like to express my own opinion on these two issues, because I want to tell you I've followed our conversations very carefully, and I want to thank President Bush for the initiatives he's taken on in explaining this missile defense program and all of the explanations and information he has been kind enough to provide me this afternoon.

I want to say that, according to my opinion, it's absolutely understandable for any President to be concerned about the security of his citizens. And in this particular case, obviously there is a concern that's shared as a result of the collective security that we share.

I sincerely believe that no one should be surprised that when we pose issues based on overcoming the past of the cold war, policies going beyond the cold war, presentations that go beyond the historical conflict of the cold war, and we talk about new threats, new challenges, new problems, new challenges in general, again, in security, we come to new initiatives. So far, these initiatives have all been virtual in the sense that they were based on an offensive deterrent factor. Now, we have an initiative that is based on defensive issues. It has not been demonstrated anywhere, nor has anyone been able to show that that defensive initiative is something that cannot lead to greater and better security.

For that reason, it is very important for President Bush to have decided to share that initiative with his Allies, to discuss it with them, to establish a framework of cooperation with his Allies with regard to this initiative, and as he announced, to also establish a framework of discussions, cooperation, and a new relationship with Russia.

What I'm surprised by is the fact that there are people who, from the start, disqualified this initiative. And that way, they're also disqualifying the deterrence that has existed so far, and probably they would also disqualify any other kind of initiative. But what we're dealing with here is an attempt to provide greater security for everyone. And from that point of view, that initiative, to share and discuss and dialog and reach common ground with the President of the United States, is something that I greatly appreciate.

With regard to the second issue, on the environment, as you know, Spain continues to support the position of the EU, and it has ratified the Kyoto Protocol. I understand that we have positions that may have some differences, but I am also absolutely convinced that our objectives—which are to guarantee the climate that will make life possible for everyone, to reduce emissions that can pollute our planet—is an objective that we share.

We can and we must discuss the instruments to achieve those objectives, and I hope that that dialog over the next few days will be even more intense. President Bush has adopted some initiatives, and those initiatives need to be studied by the EU, and they will also be studied by Spain—I insist—from the position that we have had of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol.

Cuba/Plan Colombia

Q. I'd like to tell you both something about Ibero-America. And I'd like to discuss the issue of Ibero-America with you. I want to know if you've adopted any kind of common position. And specifically, with regard to President Bush, two questions on that issue: With regard to Cuba, do you plan to keep the embargo, to continue with the situation that you have with regard to Europe and other countries there; and if, with regard to Plan Colombia, you plan to continue the situation? With regard to the first question, it had to do with Helms-Burton, excuse me.

Thank you very much for respecting the request to only ask one question at a time.

President Bush. Which one, Helms-Burton or Plan Colombia? [*Laughter*] *Los dos.* We plan to keep the embargo on Cuba and will do so until Fidel Castro frees prisoners, has free elections, embraces freedom. I believe strongly that's the right policy for the United States.

As to Helms-Burton, I'm fully aware there's an issue that has arisen between a Spanish corporation and the—and one of the titles of the Helms-Burton bill. And we will work to resolve that dispute.

President Aznar. We had very long discussions on the issue of Ibero-America, and I said earlier that I greatly appreciate President Bush's sensitivities with regard to his—sensitivity with regard to Ibero-America. And obviously, his sensitivity is demonstrated in a very intense way. We had the opportunity to exchange ideas, especially with regard to the issues that are now affecting the possible development of any possibilities in Ibero-America.

But we do agree on something very basic. In Ibero-America, Central America, South America, we see the circumstances there which are sufficient to decisively attract to that part of the world elements of prosperity in the 21st century with greater and better opportunities and, of course, to establish and trust democratic systems that are more and more solid, although there are some exceptions, and to strongly attract these countries towards prosperity, so that there will be more wealth, more welfare there for everyone. That will be very important for us, and it will also be important, I'm sure, for the stability and prosperity of the world at large.

And in that, the United States and Spain share and have a common balance. We are capable of working jointly on delicate issues, such as Plan Colombia, and on some issues, such as the law that you refer to. Although we are not in agreement with it, we are also working so that our relationship will not be damaged and so whatever problems are posed can be dealt with positively or that they do not even arise at all.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Mr. President, your Chief of Staff said over the weekend that your decision to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol was based more on emotion than on—was based more on emotion than on science and that you thought that some European countries were playing a little bit of a game because, unlike Spain, they did not ratify the treaty. Do you agree that the European view on this is colored more by emotion than by science, and do you think that there was some posturing——

President Bush. This is an appropriate question after I've had a chance to visit with all the leaders in Europe. I come to the conference believing that every leader is sincere about their desire to clean the world, and so are we. We have a different approach, but we have the same goals.

As I said earlier, I believe the Kyoto treaty is a flawed treaty. I think that it set unscientific goals. It didn't include developing countries. On the other hand, I want to reiterate today, and I will do so throughout the week, that we're committed to reducing greenhouse gases in the United States.

I had an opportunity to explain to the President that our Nation faces an energy crisis, and it's a serious issue. We've got incredible trading opportunities between our nations and between the United States and the EU. In order for us to be active traders, our Nation's economy must recover. We've taken some steps toward that. We've got sound monetary policy by the Federal Reserve. We've got a new fiscal stimulus package that is going to take effect soon. But we also must address energy. And we can do so in a way that not only enhances our economy, a way that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and a way, as well, that helps clean the environment.

One of my jobs in the United States is to build a consensus around more exploration and transportation of natural gas, which is a clean fuel, more use of renewables, as well as following up on the debate that we have stimulated, which is the use of clean nuclear power. Mr. President was anxious to hear about our plans for economic recovery because it affects trade. And trade is one of the most hopeful opportunities for people around the globe.

President Aznar. All matters related to the development of economic freedom is something that we have shared freely, as you will see in our joint statement.

With regards to the second part of your question, I'm absolutely convinced that the discussions the heads of state and government hold in the European Union with President Bush will be held in a constructive and positive atmosphere, trying to share objectives and share instruments—even though, perhaps, we start from basic differing opinions, because I insist the European Union has been favorable to the Kyoto Protocol unlike the United States. But we need to continue talking among ourselves to make sure that the objectives that we do share in the end, a cleaner world in which we can live better, are objectives that we all make possible.

Terrorism

Q. The same question for both of you, but I will pose it in a different way. I'd like to ask President Bush, how will this commitment that you have taken on to help Spain in the fight against terrorism be translated? What can the United States do? How can the United States provide any assistance, bearing in mind that in Spain we cannot apply—our ethical principles do not allow us to apply the solution that you apply, the death penalty, for terrorists?

And for Mr. Aznar, the same question. I wanted to ask what you have asked of Mr. Bush, and what do you expect of the United States to help them to solve the most serious problem your government has?

President Aznar. Since it's our most serious problem, if you'll allow me, I'll answer first. I want to express my thanks to the solidarity of the U.S. Government in our struggle against terrorism. The U.S. and Spain fully share the principles of the fight against terrorism in the global sense. But I wish to say that today I especially appreciate the fact that President Bush has specifically expressed support for the struggle the Spanish Government is carrying out against terrorism that takes place specifically in Spain. I very much appreciate that.

There are many channels for cooperation. Cooperation among Spanish and U.S. services is ongoing; it works well. In fact, what we discussed today is the enhancement of that cooperation, for it to be strengthened in the future. And certainly, we will in the immediate future see how that cooperation is going to be enhanced and strengthened.

But I would ask you please not to blend those issues with any other circumstance you may have referred to, because that is a particularly vital issue, particularly sensitive for us. And I am convinced, as I have always stated, that democracy, the rule of law, will always prevail over terror and against terror. We must defeat terror. We cannot dialog with them. All we must do is defeat them. And we will do that with the help of our friends, in this case the Americans and the

President of the United States, as he has said this afternoon.

President Bush. We've spent a fair amount of time today over lunch discussing terrorism, international terrorism, as well as terrorism within Spain. I confirmed our country's willingness and—strong willingness to stand side by side with the Government of Spain, to cooperate where necessary to help fight terrorism.

Freedom-loving people are going to be faced with terrorism. And countries such as ours must not yield, must not waver, in the face of terrorist activity. And to the extent that we can help the Government of Spain to fight terrorism within its borders, we will do so. We've signed a communique prior to me becoming President; I can reaffirm that commitment today. And we'll jointly fight terrorism on an international basis, as well.

Part of the missile defense dialog is about fighting terrorism. If someone is able to blackmail freedom-loving countries, it could prevent countries like Spain and the United States from being forward thinking about fighting terrorism. Terrorist activities will take place different kinds of ways in the 21st century: information terror, biological weaponry. And we committed today to combine our efforts and talents and resources to continue to fight terrorism.

Mr. President, I meant what I told you over lunch. We stand side by side with the Government of Spain and will not yield in the face of terrorism.

Kyoto Protocol/National Missile Defense

Q. You say the scientific evidence isn't strong enough to go forward with Kyoto. So how, then, do you justify your missile defense plan, when there's even less scientific evidence that that will work?

President Bush. Part of the problem with the ABM Treaty is that it prevents a full exploration of possibility. We're bound by a treaty signed in 1972 that prohibits the United States from investigating all possibilities as to how to intercept missiles. For example, the technology of intercept on launch is a technology that we must more fully explore in order to make sure that we have the defensive capabilities necessary to prevent what I call blackmail.

So part of the reasons we're having the dialog in the first place is to enable us to explore all our options, so that I can turn to the President of Spain one day and say, "Our research and development has shown us that not only can we deploy, but effectively deploy, the capacity to shoot down a weapon from someone that may threaten Spain, may threaten the United States, or threaten our Allies"—precisely why the debate occurs.

The ABM Treaty is a relic of the past. It prevents freedom-loving people from exploring the future. And that's why we've got to lay it aside. And that's why we've got to have the framework—the discussions necessary to explain to our friends and Allies, as well as Russia, that our intent is to make the world more peaceful, not more dangerous. Our intent is to bring stability into the world. And freedom-loving people must recognize the true threats that face democracies in the 21st century.

The days of the cold war have ended, and so must the cold war mentality, as far as I'm concerned. And I believe we're going to make great progress on this issue; I truly do. I realize it's going to require a lot of consultation, but I'm willing to listen. President Aznar had a lot of interesting points of view. He had a lot of very good questions to ask. One of them was your question, how do we know if it will work? And the only way to know—for it to work will be for the United States to spend the dollars, and have the capacity to do research and development on this very important issue.

Death Penalty

Q. President Bush, this is your first trip to Europe as U.S. President. You know that it's a basic constitutional principle to be a member of the EU to abolish the death penalty. This is a constitutional principle here in Spain, in fact. So my question is, do you feel like the champion of the death penalty, as you are perceived by some of the media? You want to persuade your Allies on issues such as Kyoto and so on. Do you think there might be a chance for them to persuade you that we go back to the period when the death penalty wasn't applied in the States? Because there are two Spanish citizens on death row

in Florida, in fact, where your brother is Governor.

President Aznar, did you discuss this? Did you mention the two Spaniards, specifically?

President Bush. Democracies debate issues. Democracies represent the will of the people. The death penalty is the will of the people in the United States. There are some people who don't agree with the death penalty in our country, and it's not an easy subject for any of us. But the majority of the people—and our laws reflect the majority of the people—believe that if the death penalty is certain, just, and fair, it'll deter crime.

I understand others don't agree with this position. The democracies in Europe reflect the will of the people of Europe. That doesn't mean we can't be friends; that doesn't mean we can't work in common areas of importance to our people. And that's the spirit in which I come to Europe. I recognize that not everybody agrees with the United States on positions. But there is so much more that unites us than divides us. We share common values; we trade together; we work on security matters together. And I refuse to let any issue isolate America from Europe, because Europe is too important for America's future.

My trip here is to confirm our Nation's strong commitment to NATO, and our strong commitment to work with the European Union, and our strong commitment to interface with our friends on a bilateral basis.

And so to answer your question, sure, there's going to be differences of opinion on big issues, but that will not prevent our friendship from enduring and growing stronger, as far as I'm concerned.

President Aznar. As you, yourself, said in your question, as you know, Spain has abolished the death penalty under the Constitution and, as you perfectly well know, I, personally, am against the death penalty. But as of that point, I also want to tell you that President Bush is perfectly well familiar with my position; I know his and the various circumstances affecting certain people at this point in time. However, from my political standpoint as President of the Government of Spain, I will do my utmost to bring about a strengthening of the transatlantic link and the relationship between Europe and the United States.

In my opinion, every time Europe and the States have become distanced from the security standpoint, as well as from the standpoint of prosperity and freedoms, the world has suffered seriously. I am in favor of strengthen the transatlantic ties so I will strengthening the bilateral relationship and strengthen developing the EU by taking on further responsibilities to bring about economic integration and enlargement.

I will work to ensure that all that development by no means weakens the transatlantic link at any time. We can cooperate on upholding freedoms, the free market, human rights, and to uphold a more stable world all over.

NATO Expansion

Q. President Bush, you've said that the expansion of NATO is a question of when, not whether. Tomorrow will you tell NATO leaders that you want that process to begin next year? And do you believe that the Balkan States should be the first to be considered?

President Bush. Tomorrow I will say it's not a question of whether, it's a question of when. We firmly believe NATO should expand. There is a process for member applicants to go through, and we support that process. I will also say that no nation should have a veto over who is admitted into NATO.

Tomorrow's speech is very important because it will reassure, I hope, our friends in NATO that this Government remains strongly committed to NATO. Our troop presence in NATO are making sure NATO is not weakened in any way. And the process will work, Judy [Judy Keen, USA Today]. The process will evolve. And when we meet a year from this fall, it will be clear who should be in and who should not be in.

President Aznar. We basically agree with that. I want to recall that in Madrid in 1997 at the NATO Summit was, in fact, when the enlargement spread to the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary. We've also discussed this issue, and we fully share the opinion that NATO can be enlarged. And Spain will also work to forge appropriate consensus for NATO enlargement with common agreement among the Allies.

Spain-U.S. Defense Agreement

Q. My question is for the President of the United States. Spain would like to renew the agreement on defense cooperation before the end of the year. Do you think this is possible? And is the subject to a greater presence of U.S. military in the basis of——

President Bush. *Es posible; es importante.* And I believe that we can finish the discussions by the end of the year, as to the U.S. presence in military bases here in Spain. And I am—we've had a very long discussion about this. There are going to be discussions this summer on the subject, and we will push hard to make sure we complete our agreement. It's an important agreement for the United States.

And I appreciate so very much our close cooperation and security arrangements with Spain. Spain is a loyal friend and a strong ally. And I'm so appreciative that the President has been straightforward and frank on a number of subjects. Our lunch today was one of the most beneficial lunches I've had since I've been the President of the United States, Mr. President. Part of the discussions were about our military agreements. Part of it was on issues that we don't agree on. Most of it is on issues where we do agree. And I leave Spain fully confident that our relationship will be very strong and our personal relationship will be very beneficial to the United States and, hopefully, to Spain, as well.

President Aznar. I'd like to confirm that it is my hope that the agreement will be ready by the end of the year. There are no things such as you mention, just a few things that need to be looked at.

I want to reiterate my thanks to President Bush for his visit to Spain and assure all of you that we have enjoyed extremely fruitful talks from the bilateral and general perspectives—EU, defense, and our cooperation in various areas around the world. I particularly expressed my thanks to the President for his time and for being here.

Thank you very much. Good afternoon.

NOTE: The President's seventh news conference began at 5:50 p.m. at the Moncloa Palace. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Fidel Castro of Cuba. A reporter referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Jose Maria Aznar

June 12, 2001

President Bush and President Aznar reaffirm the close friendship between the United States and Spain, rooted in common history, common values and common interests in Europe, the Mediterranean, Latin America, and beyond. Building upon our Joint Declaration of January 11, 2001, we commit ourselves to the shared goals of enhanced bilateral relations, a stronger Transatlantic alliance, and a Europe whole, free and at peace.

We commit to work together and with other European states to deepen Transatlantic economic relations and to seek out solutions when we disagree. We reaffirm our commitment to the multilateral trading system and strongly support the launch of a new round of global trade negotiations this year. It is our goal to open markets, both regionally and globally. We agree to intensify our efforts to liberalize fully our bilateral civil aviation relationship. We support the integration and ongoing transformation of Europe's new democracies and support their aspirations to join Europe's major institutions.

We affirm that NATO will remain the essential foundation of Transatlantic security. We are resolved to further develop our cooperation bilaterally and within the Atlantic Alliance and continue to make essential contributions to the Alliance. NATO will continue to adapt itself to meet new missions and challenges by strengthening its capabilities; seeking to reinforce cooperation with Russia, Ukraine and other members of the Partnership for Peace; and continuing to admit to its ranks European democracies prepared to assume the responsibilities of membership. Just as Spain's entry into NATO in 1982 marked a milestone in its return to the Transatlantic community, so NATO's continuing enlargement will allow

new Allies to join with and make contributions to an undivided Europe and Euro-Atlantic area. We will work together to advance NATO's enlargement at NATO's Prague Summit in November, 2002.

We support efforts of NATO's European Members and other European nations to assume greater responsibility for crisis management in Europe by committing new resources to strengthen their and NATO's capabilities and developing the ability to manage efforts where NATO as a whole chooses not to engage. The United States welcomes the European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), intended to make Europe a stronger, more capable partner in deterring and managing crises affecting the security of the Transatlantic community. We believe it is essential that the EU develop capabilities that enable it to act when NATO as a whole is not engaged, in a manner that is fully coordinated, compatible and transparent with NATO, and to provide for the fullest possible participation of non-EU European Allies. We also agree that the Alliance will be able to meet the 21st century's new challenges most effectively by strengthening cooperation in Transatlantic defense trade and the removal of unnecessary governmental barriers and impediments to such trade.

We reaffirm our commitment to work with European Union and other partners to consolidate the peace and build lasting stability in Southeast Europe based on democratic governance, the rule of law, and increasing integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. We condemn extremists, such as those in Macedonia, who subvert the democratic process through the use of violence. Our two countries are committed to NATO-led operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, and will work with our allies to transfer responsibilities for public security from combat forces to specialized units and international police, and ultimately to local authorities.

We face a growing threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missiles for their delivery. We are engaged in a consultation process with all interested parties about this new threat. We agree on the need for a comprehensive security strategy that encompasses both offensive and defensive deterrent systems, continues nuclear arms reductions, and strengthens WMD and missile proliferation controls and counter-proliferation measures.

We renew our Joint Declaration commitment to combat terrorism wherever it is encountered; to cooperate closely in regions of the world where Spain and the United States share strong common interests, notably, to promote democracy and human rights in Latin America. We will continue our efforts in support of the peace process in Colombia. In this context, the July 2000 Madrid Conference on Colombia is an example of transatlantic cooperation that we seek to foster in the region. We will also cooperate to bring an end to the violence and find a lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

We will help the poorest countries benefit from the international trading system and technological development, to support access to information, develop economic opportunities, and foster democratic societies across the globe. Technological development will also help overcome hunger, poverty, and disease in the developing world. With our African partners, we will jointly commit to addressing conflict and infectious disease—especially HIV/AIDS—and to promoting economic growth and good governance. It is in all of our interests to create a more stable and peaceful world and to make available the benefits of globalization to all peoples.

In order to pursue our consultations, we look forward to meeting in the United States before the end of the year, in advance of Spain's assuming the Presidency of the European Union in the first semester of 2002.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to Property of the Russian Federation Relating to the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted From Nuclear Weapons

June 11, 2001

On June 21, 2000, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13159 (the "Order")

blocking property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereinafter come within the possession or control of U.S. persons that are directly related to the implementation of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation concerning the disposition of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and agreements (collectively, the "HEU Agreements"). The HEU Agreements allow for the downblending of highly enriched uranium derived from nuclear weapons to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial purposes. The Order invoked the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and declared a national emergency to deal with the threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation.

A major national security goal of the United States is to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is downblended to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern.

Pursuant to the HEU Agreements, weapons-grade uranium extracted from Russian nuclear weapons is converted to low enriched uranium for use as fuel in commercial nuclear reactors. The Order blocks and protects from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons.

The national emergency declared on June 21, 2000, must continue beyond June 21, 2001, to provide continued protection from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 11, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 13, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 14.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Russia

June 11, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 11, 2001,

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the National Endowment for Democracy

June 11, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 504(h) of Public Law 98–164, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4413(i)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the National Endowment for Democracy for fiscal year 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 11, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13.

Remarks at the Opening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

June 13, 2001

Mr. Secretary General, thank you very much. It's an honor for me to be here. It's an honor to say hello to folks who I've had the honor of meeting before, and it's a real pleasure to meet other leaders in the free world.

Our nations established NATO to provide security for the free peoples of Europe and North America, to build a grand alliance of freedom to defend values which were won at great cost. We've succeeded, in part.

The NATO Alliance deterred the Soviet Union. It provided the time and space for free peoples to defeat communism. And it brought the cold war to a bloodless end. Now, we have a great opportunity to build a Europe, whole, free, and at peace, with this grand alliance of liberty at its very core. That work has begun.

By bringing in new members, we extend the security and stability through central Europe. By establishing the Partnership for Peace, we reached out across central and eastern Europe and Eurasia. By our actions in the Balkans, we halted ethnic cleansing in the heart of Europe and halted a dictator in the process. Yet, there is more to do.

We must strengthen our Alliance, modernize our forces, and prepare for new threats. We must expand cooperation with our partners, including Russia and the Ukraine. And we must extend our hands and open our hearts to new members to build security for all of Europe.

Next year we meet in the ancient capital of a new democracy. Our ally Prague will host our next summit in November of 2002. In preparation for that meeting, we must affirm our enduring commitments by preparing for the challenges of our time.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. at NATO headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson in Brussels

June 13, 2001

Secretary General Lord Robertson. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming. The NATO heads of state and government have just completed our informal lunch, where we continued to discuss many of the things which were raised in our formal session during this morning.

It's very rare that the Prime Ministers, Presidents, and the Chancellor have an opportunity to discuss privately among themselves the broader issues before the Alliance and our long-term strategies, but that's what we've been able to do today. And I personally believe it was an exceptionally useful meeting.

I had a chance to speak with you earlier on, on the discussions in the formal session, and I've already issued a formal press release, and I have nothing further to add at this time. But let me take this opportunity, on his very first visit to the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to introduce the President of the United States, President George W. Bush.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much for your hospitality. I've got a statement to make, and we'll be glad to answer some questions.

Before I talk about the meeting, I do want to say a brief word on some important developments in the Middle East. I'm encouraged that both Israel and the Palestinian Authority have agreed to a cease-fire plan, and I'm proud of America's role in helping to achieve it.

Today, on my flight from Spain to here, I talked to CIA Director George Tenet, who has worked very hard to bring the parties together. He is cautiously optimistic about the agreement that's been signed.

Our country recognizes that an end to violence is a necessary first step toward implementing the Mitchell committee report and a resumption of real negotiations. All the parties must now take additional steps that will place them on the road to a just and lasting peace. All the parties must build trust by demonstrating good faith in words but, more importantly, in deeds. This process is difficult. But hopefully, it has now begun.

And as for the meeting today, I'm most pleased with the meeting. I did think we had a great discussion. We reaffirmed the deepest commitments of history's most successful alliance. We discussed new security challenges. We outlined the work ahead as we move towards next year's summit in Prague. It was a good start on a long and important agenda.

First, there was broad agreement that we must seek a new approach to deterrence in a world of changing threats, particularly the threat posed by the spread of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. I told the Allies I'm committed to working closely with them to address this common threat by developing a new framework for nuclear security. This framework must include greater nonproliferation and counter-proliferation efforts, decreased reliance on offensive weapons, and greater transparency so that responsible nations can have greater levels of confidence.

I also spoke of my commitment to fielding limited but effective missile defenses as soon as possible. I explained that the ABM Treaty embodied the cold war nuclear balance of terror between rival superpowers. But it no longer makes sense as a foundation for relations that should be based on mutual confidence, openness, and real opportunities for cooperation.

All this marks a major shift in thinking about some of the most critical issues of world security, and I was pleased by the open and constructive reactions. I'm encouraged that in today's meeting we saw a new receptivity towards missile defense as part of a new strategic framework to address the changing threats of our world.

As one of our close Allies noted, the world is changing around us, and NATO's great strength has been a willingness to adapt and move forward. Another noted, NATO is a defensive Alliance and, thus, an increasingly important role should be played by defensive systems to protect all our citizens from terrorist blackmail.

Secondly, we agreed that we must reach out to Russian leaders and to a new Russian generation with a message that Russia does have a future with Europe. The United States will seek to build this strategic framework with Russia. Now that Russia has recognized a weapons of mass destruction threat to Europe, future cooperative work on a new strategic framework could be a great task which brings NATO and Russia together.

Third, we agreed on the need to commit the resources that will allow NATO's force to do their jobs. The decline in defense spending amongst NATO nations must be reversed. And when we do spend, we must spend wisely. It shouldn't be a question of whether to buy American or buy European; it should be a question of how to buy transatlantic. North American and European companies should collaborate to produce the most advanced systems at the lowest costs.

We agreed that NATO and the European Union must work in common purpose. It is in NATO's interest for the European Union to develop a rapid reaction capability. A strong, capable European force integrated with NATO would give us more options for handling crises when NATO, as a whole, chooses not to engage.

NATO must be generous in the help it gives the EU. And similarly, the EU must welcome participation by NATO Allies who are not members of the EU. And we must not waste scarce resources, duplicating effort

or working at cross purposes. Our work together in the Balkans shows how much the 23 nations of NATO and the EU can achieve when we combine our efforts.

Our work together in the Balkans reminds me that I'm going to commit to the line that Colin Powell said: "We came in together, and we will leave together." It is the pledge of our Government, and it's a pledge that I will keep.

We agreed that we must face down extremists in Macedonia and elsewhere who seek to use violence to redraw borders or subvert the democratic process.

Concerning Bosnia and Kosovo, we agreed that this is a major effort, an effort that we will continue to work together on.

Fifth, and finally, we agreed that NATO must prepare for further enlargement of the Alliance. All aspiring members have work to do. Yet, if they continue to make the progress they are making, we will be able to launch the next round of enlargement when we meet in Prague.

We agreed that all European democracies that seek to join our ranks and meet our standards should have the opportunity to do so without red lines or outside vetoes. We must never lose sight of what NATO does and what it stands for, how it safeguards prosperity and protects democracy in an ever-widening Europe. Let us then be true to the great vision of our fathers and grandfathers, is what I said: the preservation of peace by democratic leadership, the defense of freedom through collective strength.

I'd be glad to answer some questions, starting with Jim Angle [Fox News].

National Missile Defense/ABM Treaty

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Your critics at home, sir, suggest that you are prepared to deploy a missile defense system that will not work. First, Mr. President, will you deploy defensive technologies that have not been successfully tested? And second, you suggested that the ABM Treaty may be a problem sooner rather than later because, as you put it, it prevents us from exploring the future. When does that become a problem, and what do you do about it?

President Bush. First, it's important to—for people who are following this issue to understand that we're not asking our Allies to sign on to a specific system. We're asking our Allies to think differently, and asking Russia to think differently, about the post-cold-war era.

The ABM Treaty is a product of the cold war era. It was a time when the United States and Russia were bitter enemies, and the whole concept of peace was based upon the capacity of each of us, each country, to blow each other up. The new threats are threats based upon uncertainty. The threats that somebody who hates freedom or hates America or hates our Allies or hates Europe will try to blow us up.

And the fundamental question is, will freedom-loving nations develop a system to enhance freedom to prevent that from happening? And I make the case, yes. But before we can lay out a specific case, Jim, it's necessary to set aside the ABM Treaty so we can fully explore all options available to the United States and our Allies and friends. The ABM Treaty prevents full exploration of opportunity.

And for those who suggest my administration will deploy a system that doesn't work are dead wrong. Of course, we're not going to deploy a system that doesn't work. What good will that do? We'll only deploy a system that does work in order to keep the peace. But we must have the flexibility and opportunity to explore all options.

I'm making good progress on this issue here in Europe. There's some nervousness, and I understand that. But it's beginning to be allayed when they hear the logic behind the rationale.

I look forward to my meeting with Mr. Putin. There's no question this is going to be an important meeting on Friday. And there's no question that this will be a topic—it won't be the only topic that we'll discuss. It will be—the topic of missile defense will be in a part of a larger framework about how the United States and Russia can cooperate, how we can find areas to grow our economies, and how we can work together to keep the peace.

Lord Robertson, you're supposed to call on somebody.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. Am I?

President Bush. You don't have to if you don't want to. [*Laughter*]

Secretary General Lord Robertson. You're very observant, but I'll——

Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, you stressed the continuing vitality and importance of NATO as a collection of freedom-loving democracies. Nowhere in Europe is democracy more threatened at the moment than in Macedonia. There is, I see—I note from today's meetings a growing sense of alarm at developments there on the ground. For many people, it seems an obvious question: Why is this huge, well-armed military alliance not willing to put even perhaps a small number of troops into Macedonia, if the Government there were to request it, to bring about some sort of stability after which the very significant political reforms that are acquired there can be enacted?

President Bush. The conversation I heard approached the subject from an opposite direction. Most people believe there's still a political solution available before troops are committed.

I want to remind you, KFOR does have troops on the border, and we must continue the presence on the border to prevent insurgence and arms from reaching the Albanian extremists. But the sentiment I heard here was that there is still a possibility for a political settlement, a good possibility, and that we must work to achieve that settlement. Lord Robertson can speak to that very clearly; he is on his way to Macedonia in short order.

Have you told them that?

Secretary General Lord Robertson. I did.

President Bush. Okay, good. Well, if you didn't, I just did. [*Laughter*]

Secretary General Lord Robertson. I told them before, but they may not have been listening. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Anyway, he's going. And—but the idea of committing troops within Macedonia was one that most nations were troubled over. They want to see if we cannot achieve a political settlement first.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. That is a good one behind the program of President Trajkovski that was signed up to by the National Unity Government yesterday. And there will be talks among all the political parties about the reform program at the week's end.

That is a big breakthrough, and I think that that is something we all want to put our support behind. We're not talking about other options. Bilaterally, countries have supported the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. On the border, as the President has said, there are large numbers of troops, including extra troops that have been sent down from the boundary between Kosovo and Serbia, who are policing aggressively that border and interdicted only the other night quite a number of those who seemed intent on mischief in that area.

What we need now is a continued ceasefire and a continuation of the existing ceasefire, a recognition by the armed insurgents that the reform process that they claim they are interested in can be achieved through democratic means, and an international community that stands full-square behind the territorial integrity of that country.

So we're not considering any other options at the moment than the bilateral support that has been given at present and by encouraging a political process, which is the only way to a sustainable peace in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

National Missile Defense

Q. Mr. President, are you prepared to say here and now, sir, that you will go ahead with a limited missile defense, with or without the agreement of NATO and the European Union? And are you prepared to unilaterally abandon the ABM Treaty, or is it crucial for you, sir, to have Russia's agreement on that point?

President Bush. John, I have made it clear to our friends and Allies that I think it's necessary to set aside the ABM Treaty, but I will do so in close consultation with not only members of NATO and EU countries who are not members of NATO but, as well, with the Russians.

I believe strongly it's necessary to move forward. I think it is necessary to do so in order to make the world more peaceful. I

can't imagine a world that continues to be locked into a cold war mentality when the cold war is over. Along these lines, I'll also assure our Allies and friends that we will move to reduce our offensive weapons to a level commensurate with keeping the peace but one that is below where our levels are now.

I mean, I think it's important to go through these committees and arms control agreements, and those are important stabilizers. But rather than wait for hours of endless negotiations in order to show the world that we're sincere about peace, on the one hand, we will consult on defensive weapons; on the other hand, we'll move by ourselves on offensive weapons.

It is the right signal to do; it is the right signal to send that the cold war must be abandoned forever. And I believe we're making progress. I don't think we're going to have to move, as they say, unilaterally. I think people are coming our way. But people know that I'm intent upon doing what I think is the right thing in order to make the world more peaceful.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. How would you—the questions all appear to be for you, Mr. President, anyway.

President Bush. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. Yes, you always get to ask a question.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. I appreciate it, sir.

Following up on your comment in the Middle East, I'm wondering whether or not, because of the negotiations your administration succeeded on with the cease-fire, if you or your administration is going to get more involved, even more involved in the Middle East. Specifically, do you plan to send the Secretary of State to the region in the near future? What would it take for you, yourself, to go to the region?

President Bush. First and foremost, we're very involved. After all, it was George Tenet of the CIA that has been working long hours to bring people to the table. But this is just the first step. It's one thing for folks to sign a piece of paper; it's another thing for the parties to act. And as you notice in my statement, I called upon both parties to act.

It is still a fragile situation there. As I understand, Mr. Burns is still coming to talk to Colin this evening. He's very much engaged in the process. And we'll decide whether or not the Secretary of State or myself will become more directly involved, based upon the positive steps toward peace that now must be taken.

It's wonderful news that we've signed the document. But the fundamental question is, will parties take steps to peace, concrete actions that will help build the confidence necessary so that peaceful-loving countries can say, the cycle of violence has been finally broken, and then there is the opportunity to have political discussion. But until the cycle of violence has been fully broken, as the Mitchell report calls for, that we will delay political discussions. It's important that these parties now take the document that's been signed and implement it with concrete actions.

Ed [Ed Chen, Los Angles Times].

Q. We're not——

President Bush. You only get one question at a press conference.

U.S. Approach to Allies

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. President, sir. There has been a lot of talk on this side of the Atlantic about a unilateralist approach out of Washington. I think in Washington, those of us who work there have heard that it's leadership—I wonder if you could differentiate the two for us.

President Bush. Well, I hope the notion of a unilateral approach died in some people's minds today here. Unilateralists don't come around the table to listen to others and to share opinion. Unilateralists don't ask opinions of world leaders.

I count on the advice of our friends and Allies. I'm willing to consult on issues. Sometimes we don't agree, and I readily concede that, but there's a lot more that we agree upon than we disagree about. And no, I think the people of NATO now understand they've got a strong, consistent, loyal Ally, one that supports the mission of NATO and one that understands not only the history of NATO but the importance for NATO as we go down the road.

That's why our Government believes in the expansion of NATO. We believe NATO is the core of a free and peaceful Europe. And as Lord Robertson will tell you, ever since he came to my office in Washington at the Oval Office, I have been a loyal supporter of NATO and its mission.

A unilateralist is one that doesn't understand the role of NATO and one that won't fully support NATO, like my Government is going to do.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. It's worth making the point, I think, that all of the heads of state and government today very much welcome the fact that the United States, and the President in particular, was willing to share the thinking process on these key issues before any decision was taken.

I would say that the statement that the President made, underlining what Secretary Powell and Secretary Rumsfeld have said about the Balkans, also was a clear signal of the inclusiveness that the American administration has in view for NATO.

"We went in together, we will come out together." There will be no unilateral decisions taken by this Ally or by any other Allies. We have common missions. And there was a warm welcome today for the fact that the thinking process on this whole new landscape of such urgency was to be the subject of detailed consultations, not just around this table today but in detail and among experts, as well. That was a very good signal, and it was widely welcomed.

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Troop Reductions in the Balkans

Q. You campaigned on a pledge to reduce the troop presence in the Balkans. Do you now see that as politically impossible to do at this point?

President Bush. Actually, the troop presence in the Balkans has been reduced since I have become the President. It's been reduced on a reasonable timetable, one set with the United States and in consultation with Allies. It's a timetable that was embraced by NATO.

I said today in my talk that it's important for our nations to work together to put civil institutions in place that ultimately can become the framework for the reduction and, ultimately, the removal of NATO troops. But we recognize it's going to take a while. And so, what I said was, "We came in together, and we'll leave together." And that's important for our Allies to hear.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. And in the meantime, we'll get the job done together.

Thank you very much. I think that's it; we need to go.

President Bush. See you next stop.

NOTE: The President's eighth news conference began at 3:35 p.m. at NATO headquarters. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Boris Trajkovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. President Bush also referred to KFOR, the NATO-led security force in Kosovo.

Exchange With Reporters in Brussels

June 13, 2001

President's Visit to Europe

Q. Sir, how would you sum up the trip so far?

The President. Great. Very happy with it and pleased with the progress made on key issues. Pleased that we had the opportunity to spend some quality time with fellow leaders. One thing is for certain, European leaders now know that our administration is committed to a strong NATO and a free Europe. And that was important for them to hear, and I'm real pleased.

Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

Q. I understand, sir, that Charles Norwood has signed on to the McCain-Kennedy bill.

The President. Yes. I haven't had a chance to talk, but I'm confident we'll get a bill that I can live with if we don't. I made a speech in Florida that laid out the principles. And if those principles are not met, I meant what I said—I said, I can't live with the bill. And so——

Q. Does that mean you'd veto it?

The President. Can't living with the bill means it won't become law. And I'm hopeful we can work out our differences. We're working hard to do so, and I believe we can. I believe we can have a good Patients' Bill

of Rights. I support a Patients' Bill of Rights. I just don't support one that will encourage lawsuits, that will hurt consumers, and hurt people trying to find quality health care.

Q. So your red line is the ability to sue in State court, sir?

The President. No, my red lines are what I laid out in the speech. And as you remember—I'm sure you remember the speech. [*Laughter*] I'll get you a copy of it. [*Laughter*]

Chocolate

Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe. We'll let the President and First Lady buy some chocolate now.

The President. I'm not having much of a selection here. I am willing to share the chocolate, however, with whoever—of the stories. [*Laughter*] So who would like some?

Q. Backpedaling already? [*Laughter*]

The President. That's right, changing positions. It didn't take me long. [*Laughter*] I want you to note this was made by the proprietor—the castle—here on location, who is right here. Here's the artist. It's amazing; he looks so skinny. Must not eat his own product, I guess. [*Laughter*]

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. All right, you all, we're going to step outside.

The President. I will fulfill my promise, for those of you who would like a piece of chocolate.

First Lady's Visit to Europe

Q. Are you enjoying your trip?

The First Lady. I'm enjoying my trip a lot. I've had a really great time. I've loved it. I've loved having an opportunity to meet my counterparts here, which I have. Today I had lunch with all the NATO—the spouses of NATO Ambassadors.

The President. The First Lady is holding a press conference, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. You're missing it.

The First Lady. And that was it. [*Laughter*]

The President. Just as she was getting to EU expansion. [*Laughter*] I told you to leave the missiles secret. [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. Ron, actually, I was talking about meeting my counterparts here in Europe.

The President. Here's what they want—an action shot. [*Laughter*] I like a man with a Houston Astros hat, though. I picked him out.

[*At this point, the President and First Lady continued on their way back to the motorcade.*]

Meeting With NATO Leaders

Q. Mr. President, you seemed pretty pumped up at the press conference. Did it go better than you expected, the meeting?

The President. I was very pleased. I was. I was—as you know, part of the kind of the code is not to name names. But the folks I quoted were true quotes, and I was very pleased with the reception.

Q. It sounds like your strongest support came from Eastern Europe or former Soviet bloc.

The President. As I said, I'm not going to break the code, and you're fishing for the code. But it was widespread support. It was not confined to one area of Europe. It was a good meeting, very positive meeting that gave us a chance to have a good exchange. I was very pleased with the reception and the willingness for countries to think differently and to listen to different points of view.

President's Visit to Europe

Q. How does it feel for you—we just asked the First Lady—but this is your first—I know you've been to Mexico and Canada, but this is——

The President. Well, this is a trip that was a very important trip because of the—the Alliance is very important. And as I said the other day, a prosperous and peaceful NATO and Europe—a prosperous Europe because of NATO is important for America. And there were some people—there was a lot of talk about unilateralism and the U.S. going it alone, and it was just very important for me to dispel those notions. And the leaders here now know that we are committed to NATO; we're committed to NATO enlargement. And tomorrow I'll have an opportunity to talk about the EU, and we'll have—after the—at the press conference you can ask me questions about how it goes there.

But there will be, you know, the tendency for, obviously, in your business to focus on where we differ. The truth of the matter is, the meeting today, the focus was on where we agree. And that was the very thing that encouraged me about it.

So I felt great walking into the press conference because I felt great after the meeting.

President's Upcoming Visit to Poland

Q. Sir, what's the big theme you're going to hit on Friday in Warsaw?

The President. Europe—whole, free, expanded.

Q. Bring up your father——

The President. No. Well, I mean, when they say, "President Bush," it will be brought up. But—[*laughter*].

Q. I'm just thinking about his Europe policy.

The President. No, that's right. No, it's a—kind of same values. The values haven't changed. The issues are different, but the goal of a free and united Europe is not. I'm looking forward to giving this speech because it will be given on the soil of a country that has really emerged as a result of its NATO membership and its adherence to free markets. And I'm not going to tell you any more about it because I want you to listen.

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. We've got to get in the vans.

The President. I can only have one press conference a day. It's unbelievable how accessible I am these days. [*Laughter*]

President's European Friends

Q. Every President has European friends. Who are your European friends?

The President. Tony Blair, clearly a friend. But by not naming somebody, they'll assume that they're not a friend. They're all friends, to begin with. Jose Maria Aznar and I get along great. We had a wonderful visit yesterday. He's a very interesting man. If there were, kind of, objective observers, they would have said the body language was very strong between us. Prime Minister Blair and I get along well.

I will get along with every leader. I haven't had a chance to nurture a relationship beyond some casual conversations with some of the leaders, but I suspect we'll have very close relations with all the leaders, but those two initially are people that I feel very comfortable in singling out. Havel is a very interesting guy whom I admire a lot. I've read some of his writings, and he's a legend in many ways in Eastern Europe. And I have a great relationship with him.

Q. Is he one of your strongest allies on missile defense?

The President. Well, as I said, there's kind of a code of silence. But I appreciate his friendship.

Okay, get out of here. [*Laughter*] We've got to pay for this.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:24 p.m. at Mary Chocolatier. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to the Plenary Session of the United States-European Union Summit in Göteborg, Sweden

June 14, 2001

U.S.-EU Summit

Q. Mr. President, can you share with us your message for the European leaders?

The President. See, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] asked you to ask that. [*Laughter*] I haven't made up my mind who I'm calling on at the press conference yet, so if you don't behave, you may not get called.

Q. And chances keep diminishing. Right, sir? [*Laughter*]

The President. Did you put him up to that, Ron?

Q. I'm not that smart, sir. [*Laughter*]

The President. Let me just say this. I'm honored to be the first United States President to come to Sweden, and I appreciate so very much the hospitality that we've received, and I'm so looking forward to these discussions. What the people of Sweden and Europe will realize is that mine is an administration that is deeply committed to a prosperous Europe and a whole Europe and a

free Europe. And we look forward to a constructive relationship.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:24 p.m. at Gunnebo Manor House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders in Göteborg, Sweden

June 14, 2001

Prime Minister Goran Persson. Mr. President, Mr. President; welcome to the press conference. All members of the media. We have had a very productive summit between the European Union and the United States. We have been discussing, as you realize, matters that is on our common agenda. First of all, world trade, the necessity to go ahead with a new round to liberalize trade to give a clear signal about the need to create growth in the world economy.

We realize the clear linkage between the last Uruguay Round and the consecutive years of good economic growth in the world economy. Now we are in a little bit more, if not stagnant phase, at least a phase with lower growth. We need a new impetus. We need a new stimulus to the economy. And the best thing to do is to go for a new round about how to liberalize trade.

We have discussed that—also some disputes and mechanism to solve disputes. This is the main message: Go along with the liberalization of trade to support and stimulate growth, the common responsibility for the European Union and the United States.

The second thing we have discussed was about how to find a way to cooperate—about to combat climate change, because you know that's not a secret. We don't agree upon how we regard the Kyoto Protocol—so to say we agree to disagree about substance, according to the Kyoto Protocol. The European Union will stick to the Kyoto Protocol and go for a ratification process. The U.S. has chosen another policy.

But we have the same targets, and we have to meet the same problems. Climate change is not isolated to Europe or to America. It's a global threat. So nevertheless, if you are in favor or against the Kyoto Protocol, you have to take action. So we agreed to disagree about substance, but agreed to go on with some type of procedure that can lead us back to a position that we can cooperate and try to support each other.

We will call for personal representatives to follow up our discussion. And that will mean that we send a signal that we go on ahead with the Kyoto Protocol, the American Government go on ahead with their policy, but we'll try to cooperate as much as possible and try to find a process for that. That was the second thing we discussed.

The third thing was about HIV/AIDS. There is a terrible threat for many millions, not least in Africa. A generation can be swept away, children without parents and children born with HIV. It's a tremendous threat, and something we just can't neglect. We have to take our part of the responsibility. The American President proposed a fund together with the U.N., and we discussed also how the European Union could support in that work. That was the third thing we discussed.

Then we also discussed, of course, the situation of the Balkans. We are close Allies. We cooperate, and we said that we came in together, and then the day come—we don't know when—we will go out together. That is important to say. And then, we'll do everything we can to support the governments around in the region and to stay as constructive, reliable partners for the good progress according democracy and economy. It's not easy, but our presence is necessary.

We discussed, also, the situation in the Middle East. And we have a joint statement, the first time the European Union and the U.S., how to support the road back for peace and reconciliation. And that is to say that we urge the partners to live up to the ceasefire, because without an ending of violence, there will be no possibilities to go on with the so-called Mitchell report that after the end of violence, we call for confidence-building measures, and then negotiations about peace and reconciliation. We stand together. We urge both partners to go for the ceasefire and stick to it.

As you can hear, this is an agenda covering different subjects. But it's also, of course, a way to express our common values, how to cooperate about the economy, how to take

responsibility for the conditions—living conditions for the next generation, how to cooperate for peace and reconciliation around the world, based on values and based on the idea that Europe and the United States have to take a global responsibility in a global partnership. That is the main content during our U.S.-EU Summit today.

I give the floor to the President of the United States.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Mr. President. I first want to start by thanking our Swedish hosts, particularly the King and the Prime Minister, for the generous hospitality shown to me and my wife and our delegation. Millions of Americans trace their heritage to Sweden, so it's a huge honor for me to be the first sitting President of the United States to come to this country to be with our friends.

We had great discussions over lunch and before lunch. I guess my summary is, is that friends are able to speak candidly and constructively. And our relationship with the United States—between the United States and Sweden and the United States and the European Union is strong, and it is healthy. Values and the goals we share are durable, and they're great goals.

We resolve to work closely together on issues that confront our nations. We share a strong interest in maintaining our economic ties. The EU and the United States have got the largest economic relationship in the world. Investment and annual trade come to approximately $1.5 trillion. And that's a relationship that is important to the working people of our respective countries.

Our trade relationship is strong. The recent resolution over the dispute on bananas proves that we can work to solve problems. And we'll continue to work closely with the EU in supporting a new round on global trade negotiations.

We share a commitment to building a Europe that is whole and free and at peace. We believe that we must continue to cooperate in southeast Europe. As I told the Prime Minister—same thing I said yesterday at NATO—we went into southeast Europe together, and we will leave together. That's a commitment of our Government. We must also work to build institutions necessary, so that at some point in time, we can take our troops out of southeast Europe. But until that happens, our Government is committed to working with NATO and the EU to bring peace and democracy and stability to that part of the world.

The EU and the United States also understand we must be partners in confronting environmental challenges. The United States is committed to addressing climate change. We had a constructive discussion on this topic over lunch, and we agreed to create new channels of cooperation on this important topic. As the Prime Minister said, we don't agree on the Kyoto treaty, but we do agree that climate change is a serious issue, and we must work together. We agree that climate change requires a global response and agree to intensify cooperation on science and on technology.

And finally, we share important challenges, as the Prime Minister mentioned: fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis in Africa; helping Africa lift itself out of poverty with trade and open markets; continuing efforts to ease tension and foster peace on the Korean Peninsula. We agree on the need for all parties to halt the violence in the Middle East.

These are great goals, and we share common purposes. And it has been my honor to represent our great Nation with the great nations of Europe in this fruitful and constructive dialog.

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Persson. Thank you.

President Prodi.

President Romano Prodi. This first summit has shown how solid is our partnership. More than solid, it is indispensable for U.S., for Europe, and for world peace. When we act together, we do enormous progress for peace. And we can—we have taken a few issues this morning in which our cooperation has done very concrete results.

Trade, we can launch a new global trade round in Qatar if we work together. We have today committed ourselves to this goal. We agreed on a common approach for an inclusive WTO round, and we shall also address the specific interest of developing countries and their legitimate concern expressed by civil society.

Some may think that we work—lose too much time working on trade disputes. But it is not true. Now the real disputes are very, very small amount. And this morning we worked to make this even smaller. We have really stated today that we want to talk rather than to litigate. And we shall do —this will be our route. We have had the recent agreement on bananas and the gluten. And we are going on in trying agreements, even in the hottest spots of the province of trade.

Of course, for the climate change, I don't repeat the difference we have, but we have decided to work together on research. And I think this is a real goal because, for the future, we can approach our position. Our objective and our duty remain the successful conclusion of the July conference in Bonn. And I was pleased to hear that the U.S. will participate in this conference. So the dialog goes on, even if there are big difference in this.

So we agreed also on the—to stop the spread of disease, notably in Africa. And we are trying to convince to have an agreement in the pricing system to make good medicine affordable for the poorest people in the world. But on this subject we had the very interesting exchange of view and very interesting approach.

I don't repeat the work we have done together in the Balkans. The problems remain, but the European Union is assuming the leading role in this common challenge in the Balkans. And the cooperation in the Middle East has had results, and we have also started the idea of building up some foundation for economic cooperation in the Middle East, because if we don't work also in the economic fields, we shall never have a stable peace.

Prime Minister Persson. Thank you, Romano. And you are——

President's Vision for Europe

Q. President Bush, about a decade ago, your father came to Europe, around the time that the Soviet Union was breaking up, and he said he had a broad vision for Europe and its future and its expansion. In your 5 months in office, have you formed your own vision for Europe, and would you like to share that with us?

President Bush. Tomorrow in Warsaw—I'll be glad to give you a little preview. I believe that we have an opportunity to form an alliance of peace, that Europe ought to include nations beyond the current scope of EU and NATO. I strongly believe in NATO expansion, and I believe that the EU ought to expand, as well.

I believe a Europe, whole and free, is going to be a Europe that trades actively with the United States and with the rest of the world. Tomorrow, Friday—I mean Saturday, I am going to be visiting with Mr. Putin. It's at a very important time for me to visit with Mr. Putin, to assure him a couple of things: One, Russia is not the enemy of the United States; two, the cold war is over and the mentality that used to grip our two nations during the cold war must end; three, we look forward to working with Europe. Europe ought not to fear—I mean, Russia ought not to fear a Europe; Russia ought to welcome an expanded Europe on her border.

And so, my vision of Europe is a larger vision: more countries, more free trade, and one in which welcomes Russia and the Ukraine, welcomes Russia and encourages Russia to make the right choices when it comes to the institutions necessary to be able to become a partner with Europe and the United States.

Climate Change

Q. A question for Mr. Bush, if I may. After the contacts you had and the talks you had today, are there areas where you would feel like deepening the cooperation with Europe? And at the same time, are there also areas where you feel that you think so differently that this is no longer possible?

And the second question, if I may, on Kyoto. If research that you carry on together should show that there is a possibility of adding something to the Protocol, would you be interested in that, or is that a finished question? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, I think a lot of people are surprised to hear that there is a spirit of cooperation on global warming and on climate change. I said loud and clear that our Nation is willing to lead on this issue, that—and I laid out the principles necessary for leadership: One, we must stabilize emissions;

two, results must be measured, and we've got to spend money and time on additional science, which we're willing to do and willing to cooperate with the E.U. on; that we must be flexible in our solution. I think it's important to understand that things and information changes, and therefore, any solution that we agree to must be flexible. Four, that we believe that our economies can grow and, at the same time, come up with climate change solutions; five, that we're willing to look at market-based solutions; and six, that the solution ought to be global. And so, to answer your question, there's a lot of ways for us to deepen discussions on this important issue.

I understand the concerns of people in Europe. The Prime Minister was most eloquent in his assessment and summary of the attitudes of people not only in Sweden but in Europe. People in our Nation care about global warming and greenhouse emissions, as well. We didn't feel like the Kyoto treaty was well balanced. It didn't include developing nations. The goals were not realistic. However, that doesn't mean we cannot continue to work together, and will work together, on reducing greenhouse gases.

I've laid out an energy plan that I shared with the Prime Minister and the President that not only addresses our Nation's energy needs, because we're—I've got an emphasis on conservation, as well as renewables and natural gas and nuclear power. The energy plan, if implemented, will help with the global climate.

Our Nation is making progress. There's more to do, and we can work more with Europe. So there's an area right there that if someone would have said, "Well, they don't have much to talk about"—we've got a lot to talk about, and I look forward to the discussions.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Thank you, sir. On the same topic——

President Bush. There's other people up here, you know?

Q. I actually have a question for two Presidents.

President Bush. That's good. [*Laughter*]

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. First to you. Not a single European Union nation has ratified the Kyoto treaty, which was signed when many of your counterparts were in office. Yet, you've been criticized by these same leaders for rejecting it. Why do you suppose their actions have not been as forceful as the rhetoric? And President Prodi, why haven't any EU nations ratified the treaty?

President Bush. I don't have much more to add to the subject. I think that's a good question for President Prodi. I believe people are genuine about the issue. I don't believe there's any politics, necessarily. I think people are generally concerned, and are trying to address the issue as best as they possibly can. And—but I would be interested in your answer.

President Prodi. There is no one single country who has declared not to ratify it. The ratification process will start soon, and it started already in some countries, it's going on, and there is no one message, until now, of refusal or delay of ratification.

Future U.S.-EU Relations

Q. Mr. President Bush, how do you really look upon a stronger, more united European Union with the ambition of being the number one economy in the world? Do you see this as a threat to the U.S.? And will this lead to that U.S. will decrease its engagement in Europe in the future?

President Bush. I appreciate good competition. I believe competition brings out the best in nations and people and entities. And our Nation welcomes good, healthy competition. Secondly, I don't view European Union and its consolidation as a zero-sum game for the United States. I believe the stronger Europe is, the better it is off for America. The more peaceful Europe is, the better it is for America.

I am concerned about isolationism and protectionism, not only amongst some voices in Europe but also in my own country. And I think that we've got to do everything we can to unite to promote free trade, not only free trade for the benefit of our own people but free trade for the benefit of developing nations, as well.

We spent a lot of time talking about Africa, as we should. Africa is a nation that suffers from incredible disease, and it suffers from poverty, as well. And my way of thinking is the only way for Africa to grow and to develop and to provide hope and opportunity for its citizens is for there to be trade between the United States and Africa, between the EU and Africa.

And so I view a strong EU as good for the world, and I welcome a strong—my trip here was to send that signal as loud as I can that we will remain engaged with the EU and with NATO, that we respect the EU and NATO, and we understand it's importance to the future of our country.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Vieques Island

Q. Mr. President, why did you decide to stop bombing exercises at Vieques Island? Were you swayed by the protests of the Puerto Rican people or were there political factors involved, such as the concerns of Puerto Rican—excuse me, Hispanic-Americans?

President Bush. He's referring to the fact that upon assuming office, I was presented, like I have been on other issues, with an agreement between Puerto Rico and the United States Government that we would conduct exercises off of the island of Vieques for the United States Navy. My attitude is that the Navy ought to find somewhere else to conduct its exercises—for a lot of reasons. One, there's been some harm done to people in the past. Secondly, these are our friends and neighbors, and they don't want us there.

And so I appreciate the fact that the Defense Department and the Navy responded and have made the statement loud and clear that, within a reasonable period of time, that the Navy will find another place to practice, and to be prepared to keep the peace. It's the right agreement. I applaud the Defense Department and the Navy for reaching that agreement.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, my question is on the Middle East. Mr. Bush, do you see Europe and the United States as equal and—fully equal partners and mediators in the Middle East conflict?

President Bush. I see Europe and the United States with the need to speak with one voice and one voice only, and that is implement Mitchell, starting with breaking the cycle of violence. The EU has had some constructive meetings in the Middle East, and we appreciate their efforts. The Prime Minister went to the Middle East. He shared with us his concerns and what he saw. But what we must do as friends and Allies is say only one thing and work toward only one goal right now, and that is to stop the cycle of violence. There should be no—understand, there should be no—political dialog isn't going to happen until the violence stops.

And all parties have got to understand that if there's a genuine desire for a more peaceful situation, the ability to discuss a wide range of issues, that they've got to break the cycle of violence. And we're committed to working together to do just that. We're committed to spending our capital and energies.

The Middle East is consuming a lot of time in my administration, as it should. It's a very important part of the world. I'm pleased to report yesterday in Brussels that the Tenet initiative was able to at least get signatures on a piece of paper. But signatures are just that until there's action, and there must be action. And that's the message that the EU leaders and my country are going to send to the parties involved.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's ninth news conference began at 4:27 p.m. at the Massan Convention Center. President Bush met with Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden in his capacity as President of the European Council and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. In his remarks, President Bush referred to King Carl Gustav of Sweden and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Prime Minister Goran referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact Finding Committee.

Göteborg Statement: Summit of the United States of America and the European Union

June 14, 2001

Today in Göteborg, we, the leaders of the United States and the European Union, reaffirm our historic partnership. Our relationship is founded on strong and enduring ties between our peoples and shared fundamental values, including respect for human rights and individual liberty, democratic government and economic freedoms.

What unites us far outweighs that which divides us. From this foundation, we are determined to forge a common and cooperative approach to the complex and changing global environment in which we live and the new challenges we face. Experience has taught us that, when the U.S. and EU work hand-in-hand, either bilaterally or multilaterally, we can be an engine for positive global change, nurturing the development of democratic regimes, opening trade and investment, working to reduce poverty, and protecting the environment.

Today's meeting takes place under conditions few of our ancestors could have imagined. The European-American bond of the last two generations has forged a great peace—rooted in democracy, free markets and human rights—that is our responsibility to preserve, deepen and extend. We renew our commitment to address in concert the most pressing bilateral, regional and global issues of the day.

Strengthening Our Transatlantic Bond

We are determined to strengthen our transatlantic bond. We agree that, for our partnership to be a stable platform for our common global agenda, we must address our differences honestly and seek, in good faith, constructive solutions. This we intend to do.

The U.S. and EU enjoy one of the deepest economic relationships in the world—the vast majority of trade and investment flows in an open, unfettered manner across the Atlantic. When this is not the case, we agree that consultation, rather than litigation, should be the preferred method of managing our disagreements. Moreover, we resolve to settle our trade disagreements more quickly and effectively. We are also determined to work together to explore ways to achieve this objective, including through mediation, and to redouble our efforts to find practical and mutually acceptable solutions to all outstanding trade disputes, in accordance with WTO rules. In this context, we welcome in particular the agreement to resolve the dispute on bananas. Furthermore, we reaffirm our determination to comply with recommendations of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body.

The EU is working to acquire a civilian and military crisis management capability, which will reinforce the Union's ability to contribute to international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and make the EU a stronger, more capable partner in deterring and managing crises, thereby also enhancing the security of the Transatlantic Community. The U.S. welcomes the efforts of the EU to strengthen its capabilities and to develop the ability to manage crises, including through military operations, where NATO as a whole is not engaged, and in a manner that is fully coordinated, where NATO interests are involved, and transparent with NATO, and that provides for the fullest possible participation of non-EU European allies. In particular, the commitments made by the EU Member States concerning military capabilities will, as they are implemented, strengthen both the EU and the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance.

One of the unique aspects of our relationship is the development of transatlantic civil society dialogues. We will continue to benefit from their advice and perspective as we confront the challenges of the future. We encourage efforts to intensify the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue between the European Parliament and the Congress of the United States, a dialogue which brings our peoples closer together.

Working to Promote Peace and Prosperity in Regions throughout the World

We remain committed to forging innovative solutions to resolve conflicts and will

continue to promote peace, stability, democracy and economic renewal throughout the world.

We are gravely concerned by the developments in the Middle East. We welcome and support the report by the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee. We urge both sides to implement the report's recommendations, in all aspects, including ending the violence, taking confidence-building measures and resuming negotiations. We welcome the constructive initiative taken by Egypt and Jordan to that end. We see no alternative to a negotiated solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. We will continue to cooperate closely to promote peace in the region.

In recent months, we have strengthened our already close collaboration to bring peace, stability, democracy and economic renewal to South East Europe. We welcome the positive developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, we call upon all partners to contribute actively to the full implementation of the Dayton agreement, which remains the key element in building a lasting peace. In Kosovo, we welcome the promulgation of the constitutional framework for provisional self-government as a major step in building a peaceful, multi-ethnic and democratic society. We urge the people of Kosovo to condemn the use of violence and isolate extremists. In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, we will continue to coordinate our efforts to promote a political solution to the current crisis. In this context, we support the political reform dialogue and look forward to a report in the coming days. In cooperation with NATO and OSCE, we have responded quickly and firmly to threats to peace in the region. Together, we are endeavoring to prevent extremism from undermining the democratic process and stress the need for political, not military, solutions.

We reaffirm our support for the Stability Pact for South East Europe. In order to encourage the countries of the region to promote democracy, the rule of law, protection of minorities, the inviolability of international borders and regional reconciliation and cooperation, we will continue to engage all States in the region through the Stability Pact and, in the case of the EU, also within the framework of the Stabilization and Association Process. Our objective will be to encourage political and economic reforms, among them those designed to enhance private sector investment in the region, in order to ensure long-term economic renewal. We urge all governments in the region to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia in bringing war criminals to justice.

We fully support President Kim Dae-Jung's policy for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula. We discussed the results of the EU high-level mission to the two Koreas and affirmed the importance of the DPRK leadership's adherence to its commitment to maintain the moratorium on missile tests and to continue the process initiated at the inter-Korean Summit We also discussed the U.S. decision to enter into a serious discussion with North Korea on a broad agenda, which was welcomed by the EU. We agree that the inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation, non-proliferation and human rights will remain issues of vital importance for further progress in developing our ties with the DPRK.

We recognize the progress made since 1991 and emphasize the importance to Europe, to the transatlantic community and the world of Russia's full transition into a democratic, free market state, enjoying constructive relations with its neighbors and close ties to the transatlantic community. We pledge to continue working together and with Russia towards that goal, and will pursue a dialogue with Russia that is constructive, cooperative and, where warranted, frank. We are concerned about recent adverse developments regarding media, which should remain independent and free of interference. We call upon the Russian Government to pursue actively a political settlement to the conflict in Chechnya.

The U.S. and EU strongly support an independent, sovereign Ukraine with close ties to the transatlantic community but are concerned about domestic developments affecting democratic and free market reforms. We support Ukraine's leaders in their pursuit of

reforms that secure Ukraine's future prosperity and urge them to continue to follow this path. We remind Ukraine of the need to send a strong signal to the international community by responding positively and transparently to concerns over human rights, independent media and free elections.

We will intensify our political dialogue on the Southern Caucasus, where enhanced stability is a common interest. In that regard, the U.S. and EU remain committed to strengthening Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and transition to democracy and free market economy. We urge all sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to continue their efforts to find a peaceful settlement based on mutual compromise.

Reaffirming Our Global Responsibilities and Commitments

We share a unique responsibility to confront issues of global concern and impact, and today we reiterated our commitment to address growing global challenges.

We are committed to launching an ambitious new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, and, in our high level discussions in recent weeks, have made progress towards this shared goal. We seek a round that will lead both to the further liberalization of world trade and to clarifying, strengthening and extending WTO rules, so as to promote economic growth and equip the trading system to meet the challenges of globalization. The new round must equally address the needs and priorities of developing countries, demonstrate that the trading system can respond to the concerns of civil society, and promote sustainable development. We will work closely together and with our partners in the coming weeks to secure consensus to launch a round based on this substantive and forward looking agenda.

We also welcome the steady progress made so far on WTO implementation and are ready to examine ways to make further progress in connection with the launch of a new round of trade negotiations. We will also reinforce and improve our provision of technical assistance to build capacity, including capacity to support negotiations, in developing countries, so as to aid both their implementation of WTO agreements and help them to integrate more fully into the trading system, including the dispute settlement mechanism. Finally, we will continue to make efforts to secure the early accession of candidate countries to the WTO, with particular attention to the specific situation of least developed countries. This will make the WTO a truly universal organization.

Recalling that the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO is a central element in providing security and predictability to the multilateral trading system, the U.S. and EU undertake to work constructively to improve that mechanism.

We agree on the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to confront the diseases HIV/Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis, particularly in Africa, emphasizing prevention in a continuum of treatment and care, and spurring research and development. We support the establishment of a global fund to fight these diseases. We are also working together to ensure the success of upcoming events, such as the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in promoting an effective global response to this scourge. We welcome the steps taken by the pharmaceutical industry to make drugs more affordable. In the context of the new global fund, we will work with the pharmaceutical industry and with affected countries to facilitate the broadest possible provision of drugs in an affordable and medically effective manner.

We celebrate the important contributions migrants have made to our countries. Respect for the individual right to seek asylum is also an essential democratic value of our societies. Therefore, we underline the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to asylum and migration based on a common commitment to human rights, existing international agreements, and support for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. We will focus on a broad range of issues related to asylum, illegal immigration and mass influxes of refugees and displaced persons.

We emphasize the need to take mutually reinforcing action in response to common problems in fighting international crime. We have, therefore, launched multi-annual cooperation in several areas, such as trafficking

in human beings, cybercrime and crime related to drugs.

We had an interesting and open dialogue here in Göteborg on climate change, which will continue. We recognize that climate change is a pressing issue that requires a global solution. The U.S. and the EU are both committed to providing strong leadership on climate change. Prompt, effective and sustainable action is needed, consistent with the ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. We are determined to meet our national commitments and our obligations under the UNFCCC through a variety of flexible means, drawing on the power of markets and technology. In this context, we agree on the importance of intensifying cooperation on climate-related science and research. We disagree on the Kyoto Protocol and its ratification, but we are determined to work together in all relevant fora to address climate change and will participate constructively in the resumed COP 6 in Bonn. Our efforts must ultimately result in an outcome that protects the environment and ensures economic growth compatible with our shared objective of sustainable development for present and future generations.

Looking to the Future

We have also taken a fresh look at the mechanisms of U.S.-EU cooperation in the context of the changing global environment. Whether working together to resolve disagreements, promote peace among our neighbors or combat threats to the broader world, we seek greater results. To focus our attention and efforts on elements in our common agenda where progress is both necessary and possible, we have selected the following strategic themes for cooperation over the next several years, keeping in mind the need for flexibility in responding to unforeseen events. Within these themes, we have identified immediate priorities on which we seek tangible progress before our next Summit.

Addressing security challenges: Preventing conflict and managing crises; fighting terrorism; promoting non-proliferation;

Promoting Growth and a Multilateral Trading System: Reaching agreement on the scope of the new round and working together to solicit support for the agreement in the run-up to the WTO Ministerial in Doha;

Fighting Crime: Cooperating in fighting trafficking in human beings, drugs and cybercrime;

Protecting the Environment: Promoting effective ways to address climate change;

Fighting against poverty in the developing countries: Combating the communicable diseases HIV/Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Promoting the Digital Economy and making its benefits available to all citizens will be an important strategic theme for our dialogue for the years to come.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Senate Passage of the Education Reform Legislation

June 14, 2001

I commend the Senate for passing an education reform bill that will significantly improve and strengthen our public schools. The reforms in this bill reflect the core principles of my education agenda: accountability, flexibility, local control, and more choices for parents. I congratulate Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Gregg, and all those Senators—Democratic, Republican, and independent—whose hard work helped to produce this bill.

We are close to a monumental achievement with bipartisan support. As a result of our efforts, we have wide agreement on the principles of education reform. I urge Congress to remain true to these principles during the upcoming conference committee.

Many also agree on the need to provide historic levels of funding to help States and local schools to implement these needed reforms. Additional spending on education surely is justified. But the increases must be carefully directed and effectively spent. In the past, increased spending and the creation of multiple new programs have not improved student achievement.

As a Nation, we made a promise 36 years ago that disadvantaged children would be well educated in our country. We have not yet fulfilled that promise. Now we must. If we are to do so, we must change our approach. I challenge the House and Senate conferees to keep this imperative for real change in mind as they begin their deliberations. Empowering parents and educators closest to the children, insisting on real accountability for results, streamlining and placing more focus on proven programs, and increasing resources in an intelligent and reasonable manner tied to the reforms all work. Adhering to these approaches can provide us an historic opportunity for our children and our country. Let's seize it.

Remarks on Departure From Göteborg and an Exchange With Reporters

June 15, 2001

The President. Good morning. Thank you all very much for coming. Laura and I have had a fantastic trip here to Sweden, and we want to thank all the folks at our Embassy for working hard to make our trip go so well. First, I want to make sure you meet your boss, and that's the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who's doing a fantastic job for America. I want to thank Ambassador Lyndon Olson and his wife, Kay, for their hospitality and their service to the United States of America. They have served our country with distinction and class, and we're very grateful. I want to thank Bruce Carter for his hard work to make sure our trip went so well. And I want to thank Gillian Milonovic for her work, as well. [*Applause*] Gillian has got a few supporters out there.

Before we come around and shake your hand and thank you, I do want to talk about a piece of good news that we got out of our United States Senate yesterday. Yesterday the Senate overwhelmingly voted for an education bill that I had submitted to the Congress. It is a piece of legislation that will reform public education in America. It is a meaningful, real reform.

I want to thank Senator Kennedy and Senator Gregg for their bipartisan cooperation. I urge the conferees from the House and the Senate to act quickly on this legislation so that America can say we put the reforms in place, and we can truly say that no child in our country will be left behind.

I'm sure you've read about the so-called divisiveness in Washington. In short order, we have passed meaningful tax reform, and we are now on our way to meaningful education reform. And I'm so proud of the accomplishments not only of the administration, but also of the United States Congress.

And I'm proud of your service to America, as well. You stand tall for a great country, and for that we are very grateful.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

Education Reform Legislation

Q. Mr. President, are you sorry you didn't get vouchers?

The President. I'm very pleased. It's a great piece of legislation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:48 a.m. at Landvetter Airport. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland in Warsaw, Poland

June 15, 2001

President Kwasniewski. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, once again, I'd like to extend my words of welcome to all those attending the press conference. And I wish to express my joy upon the occasion of the official visit of the President of the United States of America, George Walker Bush, Jr., in Poland.

We are very honored that the first visit of the newly elected President of the United States of America is taking place in Poland. We take it as a symbol but, at the same time, as the confirmation of friendly and allied relations that Poland and the United States have enjoyed for more than a 100 years and which have developed in the last decade very strongly, and that is a good reason for respect. I, once again, want to welcome Mr. President Bush here in Poland.

This transformation began in Poland over 12 years ago is successful. Also, thanks to our allies, to our friends, and also thanks to American politics—politicians, businessmen, all those who have supported us in this uneasy work. We remember the visit of George Bush, Sr., President of the United States in 1989, when Poland was just starting its transformation. We are happy, Mr. President, that we can demonstrate a better and changed democratic Poland to you—the Poland that is using its political opportunity.

During our talks, we discussed the international border, and I wish to accept the determination on the part of the United States towards the enlargement of NATO. We're happy to say that we have similar views over the political situation and political relations in central and eastern Europe. The United States has been very supportive of Poland's aspirations as a future member of the European Union.

We're very close, not only in the political sense, but in everyday cooperation we have been very close, as well. We have adopted the common resolution of the President of the Republic of Poland and the President of the United States of America. You've been distributed this important document because it refers to all important, most important issues and, at the same time, it has been written in a very legible and understandable language to everyone.

In our joint resolution, there is nothing that relates to diplomacy, but there is only the substance of our very close, friendly, and allied relations.

This is what I wanted to say by introduction and welcome you, Mr. President, once again.

President Bush. Thank you for the beautiful weather.

President Kwasniewski. We have special relations. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I'll try to highlight that in my speech this afternoon.

I'm the third President to come to your beautiful land since Poland regained freedom. Many more will follow, because the bond between our two countries is very strong, and that bond is formed of many things, starting with our love for freedom.

Over the last generation, the people of Poland have suffered greatly to win freedom. America stood with Poland in that struggle, and we stand with you today in facing the challenges of a new era of democracy and economic progress.

Our hopes for peace for Poland and all of Europe depend on NATO. Since joining the Alliance 2 years ago, Poland has contributed greatly to its success and serves as a fine example for all future members of NATO.

The President and I talked about how NATO must continue to enlarge, to increase Europe's security. We talked about the challenges and opportunity NATO faces in its relations with Russia and with neighbors in transition, like the Ukraine.

Today, U.S. and Polish soldiers serve side by side as part of the NATO contingent that seeks to bring peace and democracy to the Balkans. It's important that Poland's military remain well equipped. To that end, I'm pleased to announce the United States is making the necessary legislative preparations to transfer a second frigate to the Polish Navy.

The President and I also discussed Poland's move toward membership in the European Union. The EU is America's largest trading partner outside North America. Joining Poland's economy to that of the EU is in all our interests and will only strengthen America's ties with all our Atlantic partners.

The interests of America and Poland are clear, and they are the same: to continue building a more stable Europe, to strengthen the institutions of democracy, freedom, commerce, and mutual security, and to promote the prosperity that comes through investment and open trade.

Another topic we covered today was the common commitment of the United States and Poland to spreading prosperity and democracy in this part of the world. And I was pleased to inform the President that the Polish American Enterprise Fund will transfer $20 million to the new Polish-American Freedom Foundation. In this way, our countries can continue the joint work of promoting democracy and free markets and the rule of law throughout central and eastern Europe.

I look forward to my meeting, as well, with the Prime Minister. I look forward to conveying my respect to him for his role in helping bring Poland into NATO. Friendship and cooperation between our two countries is strong and is growing stronger. The Republic of Poland today is an equal partner in the work of building greater prosperity and security across Europe, and it's a huge honor for me to be here.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you, Mr. President. Now is time for questions.

NATO Expansion

Q. In accordance with the Brussels decision yesterday, in one year's time there will be further candidates in Europe to negotiate their membership. Will that one year be a sufficient period of time, and will one of the criteria be for NATO membership so that NATO could constitute a wholeness, a whole area, in political terms?

President Bush. If I understand the question correctly, it was about NATO expansion.

Q. Yes.

President Bush. My Government believes NATO should expand. We believe no one should be excluded because of history or location or geography. And we don't believe any nation should have a veto over who is accepted. We also believe a lot of progress has been made toward achieving the requirements necessary to be accepted into NATO and look forward to the Prague summit a year from this fall, to a positive statement of expansion. I think it will happen; to the extent, we will see. How many nations are accepted, we will see. But in my speech today I will say it's not a matter of whether NATO expands; it's a matter of when NATO expands. We strongly stand on the side of expansion of NATO.

Major Garrett [Cable News Network].

Russia

Q. President Kwasniewski, thank you for your hospitality. President Bush, there are fresh reports today about concerns of the U.S. Government of proliferation from the Russian Government, selling certain materials to nations such as Iran. And before we left on this trip, your National Security Adviser expressed some doubts about President Putin's commitment to democracy.

I'm curious, sir, what is your general assessment of Russia on these two vital questions, proliferation and its commitment to democracy?

Thank you, sir.

President Bush. As you know full well, I've got a meeting with President Putin tomorrow. And I am really looking forward to it, because it's an opportunity for me to say to President Putin, the United States is no longer your enemy.

I also will stress that my vision of Europe includes Russia and that Russia should not fear the expansion of freedom-loving people to her borders. Russia has got vast potential and great opportunity, particularly if she makes a commitment to democratic institutions and to the rule of law and embraces the open market.

I am concerned about some reports of the proliferation of weapons throughout—on Russia's southern border, for example, countries on her southern border, and I'll bring that subject up. I think it's important for Russia to hear that our Nation is concerned about the spreading of weapons of mass destruction. And I'll bring it up in the context of explaining why it is important for us think differently about missile defenses, to think differently about the cold war doctrine that is codified in the ABM Treaty of 1972.

The more capacity a nation has to develop a—a nation that can't stand America or our friends or Allies—to develop weapons of mass destruction, the more necessary it is for freedom-loving people to have the capacity to halt any political blackmail they may choose to inflict upon us. And so I will talk about democracy—democracy building. I'll talk about capital investment and the need for capital to have open markets and rule of law, transparency in economy, and I will also talk about security measures.

Visas for Polish Visitors to the U.S.

Q. This is a question to Mr. Bush—[*inaudible*]—to Poland, as a symbol of our openness and our sympathy for the U.S. Unfortunately, this gesture is not returned. I'd like to ask you, may Poles count on not needing American visas soon? Thank you.

President Bush. American visas?

Q. Yes. Yes, sir.

President Bush. In other words, whether or not someone going to America needs a visa?

Q. Yes, sir.

President Bush. We can discuss that issue at the State Department level. But Poles are welcome in America. We welcome you to come. There are, as you know—Chicago is a city with many, many people of Polish heritage. I would hope that it's easy to travel to our country.

David Gregory [NBC News].

Q. Mr. President, good afternoon.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. You look mighty sharp today, by the way.

Q. Well, thank you very much.

President Bush. Don't you think? [*Laughter*]

Russia

Q. I wonder if you would be specific, sir, about what incentives you're prepared to offer Russian President Putin to get both his blessing and perhaps his cooperation in missile defense. And additionally, as you just mentioned, you no longer consider Russia an adversary. Then what is it? What do you want Russia to become—an ally, a strategic partner, a strategic adversary, what?

President Bush. My hopes are the same as the President's hopes about Russia. We want Russia to be a partner and an ally—a partner in peace, a partner in democracy, a country that embraces freedom, a country that enhances the security of Europe.

The discussion tomorrow, David, is going to be a broad discussion. It won't focus just on defenses, security arrangements. It will focus on a frame of mind and an attitude. This is my first meeting with the President, and certainly won't be my last. The purpose of the meeting is to share a vision about Russia's role in the world and in Europe. It is to assure—it is to provide assurances to Russia that our country doesn't want to diminish the nation; we want to help elevate the nation.

We will have a long discussion about the role of capital in a society, that if Russia makes the right choices, she will attract a lot of capital, U.S. capital. Russia has got enormous resources and great potential. This is the first of what I hope are many meetings between Mr. Putin and me, and many discussions. And first and foremost is to develop a trust between us. He doesn't know me, and I don't know him very well. But at my press conference tomorrow, I am confident I will be able to say I've got a pretty good feel for the man, and he's got a good feel for me. And he'll see that I'm the President of a peace-loving nation, a nation that wants Russia to succeed and do well.

The definition of the relationship will evolve over time, but first and foremost, it's got to start with the simple word, "friend."

National Missile Defense

Q. The first question to President Kwasniewski, I am intrigued whether you used the opportunity during your talks with the President, and have you asked the question about the missile defense? Have you talked also about Brussels, and have you developed that subject, or have you rather concentrated on bilateral relations and—in connection between Russia and NATO and good relations between NATO and Russia—and of course, in future relations in the world?

President Kwasniewski. When it comes to the missile defense system, following the presentation of President Bush's opinion in Brussels, the case seems very clear. The United States wishes to build this system, not exclusively safeguarding its own interests but to reinforce a general world security. And the United States wants to do some more research and enter dialog with all partners, both in NATO as well as in—with Russia and other partners about that issue.

And I think this is a very rightful and a very appropriate position. And if we're going to work along these lines, it may turn out that the new security systems are not controversial at all and that they would not constitute any problems for us but would, rather, reinforce our feeling of security. It goes beyond any doubt that the cold war is over and that today we do not have such enemies that we used to have in the past and that it is possible to cooperate with every democratically organized state in the world.

We're convinced that if reaching these decisions could be—if these decisions could be

achieved through a dialog, and the search for opinions in the form of a dialog, then certainly we will achieve mutual understanding.

And this is how I understood President Bush's presentation in Brussels. And I think that President Bush's presentation actually took away all those fears that were connected with this position. I think this is a very reasonable, very appropriate attitude on the part of the United States of America. Star Wars was an idea that matched the ideological confrontation. Today we're talking about global security, and these are completely two different animals.

President Bush. I appreciate what the President said in the meeting that went on in Brussels, and he's right. There was receptivity to a new way of thinking about the ABM Treaty. And I was very pleased to see how forward-leaning many nations were during our discussion. There are a lot of leaders who understand that the old cold war mentality is not necessary anymore, that it's time to set a new strategic framework for the peace of Europe and peace for the world. I don't know what the press reports are like, but I can assure you, inside the meeting there was a receptivity that was very warm and for which I was very grateful, and the President just reflected that.

Secondly, Poland serves as an example of what's possible. One of the reasons I came here was to be with my friend. But I also came here to show nations that are hungry for democracy or striving for democracy or looking at democracy what's possible. And Poland serves as a bridge and an important example. If you believe in a Europe whole and free and secure, a good place to make that case is right here.

And so, you bet, we talked about Poland's important role, and it's an incredibly important role. We spent time talking about the Ukraine, as well. Poland has played, thanks to the President's leadership, a very important role in the Ukraine. The Ukraine is a country in transition. And Poland and the United States and other nations in Europe must work with the Ukraine to help Ukraine make the right decisions and right choices for the future, and those decisions are freedom and democracy and open markets, the very same values embraced by Ukraine's neighbor, Poland. I'm proud of the accomplishments of the President, and proud of the accomplishments of this great people.

Holly [Holly Rosenkrantz, Bloomberg News].

General Electric-Honeywell Merger/ National Missile Defense

Q. The Europeans have never rejected a merger between a U.S. and European company, but they're set to reject a deal between GE and Honeywell, the largest merger ever. In your talks this week, has your administration raised the issue? And if the deal is rejected, what would that do for U.S.-European relations?

And Mr. Kwasniewski, how deep is Poland's support for the President's missile defense deal, and do you have reservations about it?

Thank you.

President Kwasniewski. Well, I explained our position in last question. When we will discuss not about MD system in sense of American security and some technical concept, but we'll see it is necessary to create effective security system for new world, for global world after World War II and after cold war. So I think we can discuss many details, and we can support such concept.

I repeat again what President Bush said in Brussels. I understood American approach to this question as a very open, very full-of-wish of dialog. And—in speech and statement of President Bush in Brussels, it was a concept not for the United States; it was a concept for all of us, and a concept which is absolutely different than everything what we had during cold war. That is not the repetition of Star Wars again. That is a new idea how to create better system for security, which can be for disposal of all of us, of NATO countries and all countries, including Russia and then China.

So I think this approach is extremely interesting and is necessary to continue this dialog.

President Bush. We have brought up the proposed merger at the appropriate levels during this trip and before the trip. Our Government looked at the merger and approved it. The Canadian Government looked at the merger and approved it, and I am concerned

that the Europeans have rejected it. That's all I've got to say on it.

Thank you, all.

President Kwasniewski. We have—no questions more? You know, this is a souvenir for Poland. One question more, please.

President Bush. All you're trying to do is butter up to your press corps. [*Laughter*]

Q. A question to President Kwasniewski, would you be so kind as to mention what is included in the joint declaration we received in the English version? Do you know if there's any Polish joke?

President Kwasniewski. That is the main mistake of the politician to give chance for next question. [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much for your attention. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 10th news conference began at 12:40 p.m. in the Presidential Palace. President Kwasniewski spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek of Poland and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Aleksander Kwasniewski

June 15, 2001

President George W. Bush and President Aleksander Kwasniewski affirm the deep friendship that exists between the United States and Poland, based on our common commitment to democratic values and our common resolve to build a stronger Transatlantic alliance and a 21st century Europe whole, free, and at peace. For more than ten years Poland and the United States have worked together to advance and maintain democracy in Europe. This is made possible by the existence of an independent Poland, a vision for years nurtured by Poles who, among the first of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, initiated a successful march to freedom. The friendship of the two countries is deeply rooted in a common tradition of striving towards freedom, a goal fostered for generations by Americans of Polish descent who, while contributing to the success of the United States, never forgot the country of their ancestors.

We affirm that NATO will remain the essential foundation of Transatlantic security. We will work together and with our other NATO Allies to adapt NATO to new missions and new challenges, by strengthening its capabilities; admitting to our ranks European democracies prepared to assume the responsibilities of membership; and extending cooperation with Ukraine, Russia, and other members of the Partnership for Peace. Poland's entry into NATO in 1999 marked a milestone in its return to the Transatlantic community and increased Europe's security overall. NATO's continuing enlargement will allow new Allies to join with and make contributions to a more secure and undivided Europe and Euroatlantic area. We will work together to advance NATO's enlargement, upon meeting objective criteria by the candidate countries, at NATO's Prague Summit in November 2002. The future enlargement of NATO will significantly contribute to the security of the Euroatlantic community of nations.

Poland and the United States support efforts of NATO's European Union members and other EU nations to assume greater responsibility for crisis management by committing new resources to strengthen their and NATO's capabilities and developing the ability to manage efforts where NATO as a whole chooses not to engage, through the European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). The United States and Poland believe it is essential that the EU develop capabilities in a manner that is fully coordinated, compatible, and transparent with NATO, and to provide for the fullest possible participation of non-EU European Allies.

Poland's success in building democracy and market economy is relevant to the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe. Poland and the United States reaffirm their support for future Ukrainian integration into Western institutions as a solid base for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, free market economy and civil society. We pledge to work with our allies to this end, and call

on Ukraine's leadership to rebuild a consensus for the reforms needed to achieve this goal. We note with satisfaction the successful completion of United States programs assisting Poland's economic reforms, and agree to cooperate in supporting Poland's efforts to share the lessons of Poland's experience with neighbors seeking assistance.

We note with pride the achievements of the Polish American Enterprise Fund, one of the first initiatives launched in the new, free Poland by President George H.W. Bush, which achieved enormous success, and continues its efforts through its successor foundation, the Polish American Freedom Foundation (PAFF). We are gratified by the growing role of the PAFF and other civic organizations as a conduit for sharing Poland's free market, democratic experience in the region.

We are committed to strengthening mutual contacts by creating an environment conducive for investment and growth of trade. We are certain that young generations of Poles and Americans will continue to look for solutions to problems and challenges of the new millennium. This is another way in which Poland, the United States and their friends are working together to nurture democracy and prosperity.

We reaffirm our commitment to work with the European Union and other partners to consolidate peace and build lasting stability in Southeast Europe based on democratic governance, the rule of law, and increasing integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. We condemn extremists, such as those in Macedonia, who subvert the democratic process through the use of violence. Our two countries are committed to NATO-led operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, and will work with our allies with a view to transfer, step by step and as circumstances will permit, responsibilities for public security from combat forces to specialized units and international police, and ultimately to local authorities.

We will continue to combine our efforts in promoting observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe and beyond. We will continue to work together on new challenges to security, going beyond military threats, such as combating terrorism and organized crime. While noting the complex nature of the world's problems, we will undertake and support initiatives aimed towards such goals as balanced development, fighting drug trafficking and the spread of the HIV virus. We recognize the fundamental importance of human rights and their impact on international security, and shall continue to advocate worldwide respect for them.

We face a common threat from the growing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and increasingly sophisticated missiles for their delivery. We are engaged in a consultation process with all interested parties about this new threat. We agree on the need for a comprehensive security strategy that encompasses both offensive and defense deterrent systems, continues nuclear arms reductions, and strengthens WMD and missile proliferation controls and counterproliferation measures.

We reaffirm that Poland's transatlantic economic ties should facilitate its accession into the EU. Recognizing our common goal of open markets, we both support the launch of a new multilateral trade round this year. The United States welcomes Poland's candidate status in the European Union and recognizes that EU membership will provide the United States and Poland with new trade and investment opportunities.

We note with satisfaction the efforts by public and private institutions in our two countries to address the crimes and injustices of World War II and the Holocaust. We hope to see prompt implementation of the multilateral agreement on compensation for victims of slave and forced labor during the Second World War.

Recognizing the historic ties and democratic values that link our two peoples, we pledge to work together as friends and close allies in Europe and beyond to advance our common interests and values.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Address at Warsaw University
June 15, 2001

Thank you very much. Mr. President, thank you very much for your gracious hospitality that you and your wife have shown

Laura and me. Mr. Prime Minister, members of the government, distinguished members of the clergy, distinguished citizens, and this important friend of America, students, Mr. Rector, thank you very much for your warm greeting. It's a great honor for me to visit this great city, a city that breathes with confidence, creativity, and success of modern Poland.

Like all nations, Poland still faces challenges, but I am confident you'll meet them with the same optimistic spirit a visitor feels on Warsaw's streets and sees in the city's fast-changing skyline. We find evidence of this energy and enterprise surrounding us right now in this magnificent building. And you can hear it in the air. Today's own—Poland's orchestra called Golec's—[*laughter*]—is telling the world, "On that wheat field, I'm gonna build my San Francisco; over that molehill, I'm gonna build my bank." [*Laughter*] Americans recognize that kind of optimism and ambition because we share it.

We are linked to Poland by culture and heritage, kinship and common values. Polish glassmakers built and operated the New World's first factory in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608. Seeking the right to vote, those same Poles also staged the New World's first labor strike. They succeeded. [*Laughter*] It seems the Poles have been keeping the world honest for a long period of time.

Some of the most courageous moments of the 20th century took place in this nation. Here, in 1943, the world saw the heroic effort and revolt of the Warsaw Ghetto, a year later the 63 days of the Warsaw Uprising, and then the reduction of this city to rubble because it chose to resist evil. Here communism was humbled by the largest citizens' movement in history and by the iron purpose and moral vision of a single man, Pope John Paul II. Here Polish workers, led by an electrician from Gdansk, made the sparks that would electrify half a continent. Poland revealed to the world that its Soviet rulers, however brutal and powerful, were ultimately defenseless against determined men and women armed only with their conscience and their faith. Here you have proven that communism need not be followed by chaos, that great oppression can end in true reconciliation, and that the promise of freedom is stronger than the habit of fear. In all these events, we have seen the character of the Polish people and the hand of God in your history.

Modern Poland is just beginning to contribute to the wealth of Europe. Yet, for decades, you have contributed to Europe's soul and spiritual strength, and all who believe in the power of conscience and culture are in your debt.

Today I have come to the center of Europe to speak of the future of Europe. Some still call this "the East," but Warsaw is closer to Ireland than it is to the Urals. And it is time to put talk of East and West behind us.

Yalta did not ratify a natural divide; it divided a living civilization. The partition of Europe was not a fact of geography; it was an act of violence. And wise leaders for decades have found the hope of European peace in the hope of greater unity. In the same speech that described an Iron Curtain, Winston Churchill called for "a new unity in Europe from which no nation should be permanently outcast."

Consider how far we have come since that speech. Through trenches and shell-fire, through death camps and bombed-out cities, through gulags and food lines, men and women have dreamed of what my father called a Europe "whole and free." This free Europe is no longer a dream. It is the Europe that is rising around us. It is the work that you and I are called on to complete. We can build an open Europe, a Europe without Hitler and Stalin, without Brezhnev and Honecker and Ceauşescu and, yes, without Milosevic.

Our goal is to erase the false lines that have divided Europe for too long. The future of every European nation must be determined by the progress of internal reform, not the interests of outside powers. Every European nation that struggles toward democracy and free markets and a strong civic culture must be welcomed into Europe's home.

All of Europe's new democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between, should have the same chance for security and freedom—and the same chance to join the institutions of Europe—as Europe's old democracies have.

I believe in NATO membership for all of Europe's democracy that seek it and are

ready to share the responsibility that NATO brings. The question of when may still be up for debate within NATO; the question of whether should not be. As we plan to enlarge NATO, no nation should be used as a pawn in the agendas of others. We will not trade away the fate of free European peoples: No more Munichs; no more Yaltas. Let us tell all those who have struggled to build democracy and free markets what we have told the Poles, "From now on, what you build, you keep. No one can take away your freedom or your country."

Next year NATO's leaders will meet in Prague. The United States will be prepared to make concrete, historic decisions with its Allies to advance NATO enlargement. Poland and America share a vision. As we plan the Prague summit, we should not calculate how little we can get away with but how much we can do to advance the cause of freedom. The expansion of NATO has fulfilled NATO's promise, and that promise now leads eastward and southward, northward and onward.

I want to thank Poland for acting as a bridge to the new democracies of Europe and a champion of the interests and security of your neighbors, such as the Baltic States, Ukraine, Slovakia. You are making real the words, "For your freedom and ours."

All nations should understand that there is no conflict between membership in NATO and membership in the European Union. My Nation welcomes the consolidation of European unity and the stability it brings. We welcome a greater role for the EU in European security, properly integrated with NATO. We welcome the incentive for reform that the hope of EU membership creates. We welcome a Europe that is truly united, truly democratic, and truly diverse, a collection of peoples and nations bound together in purpose and respect and faithful to their own roots.

The most basic commitments of NATO and the European Union are similar: democracy, free markets, and common security. And all in Europe and America understand the central lesson of the century past: When Europe and America are divided, history tends to tragedy; when Europe and America are partners, no trouble or tyranny can stand against us.

Our vision of Europe must also include the Balkans. Unlike the people of Poland, many people and leaders in southeast Europe made the wrong choices in the last decade. There, communism fell, but dictators exploited a murderous nationalism to cling to power and to conquer new land. Twice NATO had to intervene militarily to stop the killing and defend the values that define a new Europe.

Today, instability remains, and there are still those who seek to undermine the fragile peace that holds. We condemn those, like the sponsors of violence in Macedonia, who seek to subvert democracy. But we've made progress. We see democratic change in Zagreb and Belgrade, moderate governments in Bosnia, multiethnic police in Kosovo, the end to violence in southern Serbia. For the first time in history, all governments in the region are democratic, committed to cooperating with one another, and predisposed to join Europe.

Across the region, nations are yearning to be a part of Europe. The burdens and benefits of satisfying that yearning will naturally fall most heavily on Europe, itself. That is why I welcome Europe's commitment to play a leading role in the stabilization of southeastern Europe. Countries other than the United States already provide over 80 percent of the NATO-led forces in the region. But I know that America's role is important, and we will meet our obligations. We went into the Balkans together, and we will come out together. And our goal must be to hasten the arrival of that day.

The Europe we are building must include Ukraine, a nation struggling with the trauma of transition. Some in Kiev speak of their country's European destiny. If this is their aspiration, we should reward it. We must extend our hand to Ukraine, as Poland has already done with such determination.

The Europe we are building must also be open to Russia. We have a stake in Russia's success, and we look for the day when Russia is fully reformed, fully democratic, and closely bound to the rest of Europe. Europe's great institutions, NATO and the European Union, can and should build partnerships

with Russia and with all the countries that have emerged from the wreckage of the former Soviet Union.

Tomorrow I will see President Putin and express my hopes for a Russia that is truly great, a greatness measured by the strength of its democracy, the good treatment of minorities, and the achievements of its people. I will express to President Putin that Russia is a part of Europe and, therefore, does not need a buffer zone of insecure states separating it from Europe. NATO, even as it grows, is no enemy of Russia. Poland is no enemy of Russia. America is no enemy of Russia.

We will seek a constructive relationship with Russia for the benefit of all our peoples. I will make the case, as I have to all the European leaders I have met on this trip, that the basis for our mutual security must move beyond cold war doctrines. Today, we face growing threats from weapons of mass destruction and missiles in the hands of states for whom terror and blackmail are a way of life. So we must have a broad strategy of active nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and a new concept of deterrence that includes defenses sufficient to protect our people, our forces, and our Allies, as well as reduced reliance on nuclear weapons.

And finally, I'll make clear to President Putin that the path to greater prosperity and greater security lies in greater freedom. The 20th century has taught us that only freedom gets the highest service from every citizen, citizens who can publish, citizens who can worship, citizens who can organize for themselves, without fear of intimidation and with the full protection of the law.

This, after all, is the true source of European unity. Ultimately, it's more than the unity of markets. It is more than the unity of interests. It is a unity of values.

Through a hard history with all its precedents of pain, Europe has come to believe in the dignity of every individual, in social freedom tempered by moral restraint, in economic liberty balanced with humane values. "The revolutions of 1989," said Pope John Paul II, "were made possible by the commitment of brave men and women inspired by a different, and ultimately more profound and powerful, vision, the vision of man as a creature of intelligence and free will, immersed in a mystery which transcends his own being and endowed with the ability to reflect and the ability to choose and thus capable of wisdom and virtue."

This belief successfully challenged communism. It challenges materialism in all its forms. Just as man cannot be reduced to a means of production, he must find goals greater than mere consumption. The European ideal is inconsistent with a life defined by gain and greed and the lonely pursuit of self. It calls for consideration and respect, compassion and forgiveness, the habits of character on which the exercise of freedom depends. And all these duties and all these rights are ultimately traced to a source of law and justice above our wills and beyond our politics, an author of dignity, who calls us to act worthy of our dignity.

This belief is more than a memory; it is a living faith. And it is the main reason Europe and America will never be separated. We are products of the same history, reaching from Jerusalem and Athens to Warsaw and Washington. We share more than an alliance; we share a civilization. Its values are universal, and they pervade our history and our partnership in a unique way. These transatlantic ties could not be severed by U-boats. They could not be cut by checkpoints and barbed wire. They were not ended by SS–20s and nuclear blackmail. And they certainly will not be broken by commercial quarrels and political debates. America will not permit it. Poland will not allow it.

This unity of values and aspiration calls us to new tasks. Those who have benefited and prospered most from the commitment to freedom and openness have an obligation to help others that are seeking their way along that path. That is why our transatlantic community must have priorities beyond the consolidation of European peace.

We must bring peace and health to Africa, a neighbor to Europe, a heritage to many Americans, a continent in crisis, and a place of enormous potential. We must work together to shut down the arms trafficking that fuels Africa's wars, fight the spread of AIDS that may make 40 million children into orphans, and help all of Africa share in the trade and promise of the modern world.

We must work toward a world that trades in freedom, a world where prosperity is available to all through the power of markets, a world where open trade spurs the process of economic and legal reform, a world of cooperation to enhance prosperity, protect the environment, and lift the quality of life for all.

We must confront the shared security threats of regimes that thrive by creating instability, that are ambitious for weapons of mass destruction, and are dangerously unpredictable. In Europe, you're closer to these challenges than the United States. You see the lightning well before we hear the thunder. Only together, however, can we confront the emerging threats of a changing world.

Fifty years ago all Europe looked to the United States for help. Ten years ago Poland did, as well. Now we and others can only go forward together. The question no longer is, what others can do for Poland but what America and Poland and all of Europe can do for the rest of the world.

In the early 1940s, Winston Churchill saw beyond a World War and a cold war to a greater project: "Let the great cities of Warsaw and Prague and Vienna banish despair even in the midst of their agony," he said. "Their liberation is sure. The day will come when the joy bells will ring again throughout Europe and when victorious nations, masters not only of their foes but of themselves, will plan and build in justice, in tradition, and in freedom a house of many mansions where there will be room for all." To his contemporaries who lived in a Europe of division and violence, this vision must have seemed unimaginable. Yet, our fathers, yours and mine, struggled and sacrificed to make this vision real. Now it is within our grasp.

Today, a new generation makes a new commitment, a Europe and an America bound in a great alliance of liberty, history's greatest united force for peace and progress and human dignity. The bells of victory have rung. The Iron Curtain is no more. Now we plan and build a house of freedom, whose doors are open to all of Europe's peoples and whose windows look out to global challenges beyond. Our progress is great; our goals are large; and our differences, in comparison, are small. And America, in calm and in crisis, will honor this vision and the values we share.

Poland, in so many ways, is a symbol of renewal and common purpose. More than half a century ago, from this spot, all one could see was a desert of ruins. Hardly did a single unbroken brick touch another. This city had been razed by the Nazis and betrayed by the Soviets. Its people were mostly displaced. Not far from here is the only monument which survived. It is the figure of Christ falling under the cross and struggling to rise. Under him are written the words, *"Sursum corda"*, "Lift up your hearts." From the determination in Polish hearts, Warsaw did rise again, brick by brick. Poland has regained its rightful place at the heart of a new Europe and is helping other nations to find their own.

"Lift up your hearts" is the story of Poland. "Lift up your hearts" is the story of a new Europe. And together, let us raise this hope of freedom for all who seek it in our world.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:45 p.m. in the library. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek of Poland; Jolanta Kwasniewski, wife of President Kwasniewski; Piotr Wegielski, rector, Warsaw University; Lech Walesa, former President of Poland and Solidarity movement leader; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Proclamation 7451—Father's Day, 2001

June 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans celebrate Father's Day as a unique time to reflect on the importance of fathers and to honor their vital role in the lives of children. For those who have been blessed with our own families, this day also provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to being the best possible fathers for our children.

Father's Day was originally the idea of Sonora Dodd, who wanted to honor her father, Civil War veteran Henry Jackson Smart.

As Sonora's sole surviving parent following the death of her mother, Mr. Smart made great sacrifices for his daughter and raised her with courage, selflessness, and abiding love. To enable all Americans to participate in paying special tribute to their fathers, President Calvin Coolidge first recognized Father's Day in 1924.

During childhood, boys and girls look to their fathers for a sense of security, warmth, attention, patience, and understanding. As young people mature, their fathers contribute to their spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and social well-being. In reaching adulthood, men and women alike are enriched immeasurably by the wisdom of their fathers as they pursue careers, start families, and take active roles in the community.

For boys and girls raised without a father in the home, the challenges can be great. Seventy-five percent of American children raised in a one-parent household will experience poverty before they turn 11 years old, compared to only 20 percent of children in families with two parents. Children in homes where the father is absent are more likely to be suspended from school or to drop out, be treated for an emotional or behavioral problem, become suicidal as adolescents, or become victims of child abuse or neglect.

As a society, we must support fathers in fulfilling their responsibilities to their families, which may include not only biological or adopted children, but also stepchildren or foster children. Fathers must be prepared to nurture and care for their sons and daughters, and to do so in the context of a strong and committed marriage. To promote responsible fatherhood, my Administration has proposed providing financial support to community and faith-based organizations that help fathers and to programs that strengthen marriage and promote successful parenting. We also propose funding to support the expansion of ongoing State and local fatherhood initiatives and helping community groups that try to provide young men with role models.

Our society must strive to produce a generation of men who are ready to become the best possible fathers. Let us set a good example for America's sons by valuing the responsibility and importance of fatherhood. Let us also honor and be thankful for the caring, decent, and hardworking fathers who make such a tremendous difference in the lives of their children and families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 17, 2001, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express love and respect for their fathers, as well as appreciation for the vital contributions of fathers to families and to society. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 19.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Kwasniewski in Warsaw

June 15, 2001

Mr. President, and Madam Kwasniewski, Mr. Prime Minister and Madam Buzek, distinguished guests, many of whom sacrificed for freedom. Laura and I are grateful for this great day—it's been a great day in Poland—and for this good company. You've made us feel most welcome.

I bring with me the affectionate greetings of the American people. Poland has a special place in our hearts, not just in places like Pana Maria, Texas, or Warsaw, Alabama, or Pulaski, Tennessee. Americans understand that we owe a lot to Poland. It has even been claimed that the old Polish game—an old Polish game was the earliest inspiration for baseball. [*Laughter*] If that's true, I owe more than most. [*Laughter*]

Today, our friendship is based upon a shared heritage and a hope for the future. When my father came to Warsaw in 1989, he declared that the cold war that began in Poland could end in Poland. Poles won their freedom with courage and determination. Americans from President Reagan to President Bush to President Clinton walked alongside you. Hope became reality. And Poland knows that when that happened, the world turned right side up.

Poland became a mature democracy. Long a friend to America, we now proudly call you Ally. Yours is a moving story, and only you will ever know how difficult it was to write.

Mr. President, the United States greatly admires the leadership you have demonstrated these past 6 years. You understand that building a better future sometimes entails coming to grips with the past, even if that past is uncomfortable to some. America understands the value of reconciliation, of overcoming old divisions. History looks well upon such leadership.

Mr. Prime Minister, the United States is deeply appreciative of your service to your country and to the cause of freedom. You understand that building a better future requires hard choices. The reformer is rarely rewarded and often criticized but then moves ahead with reform, nonetheless. History is kind to this type of leader, as well.

This week I've spoken to many leaders from across Europe about the challenges of unity and open commerce and peace. I am here today because America is convinced that we can meet those challenges in partnership with a strong and free Poland. We know we can count on Poland to remain true to its best traditions of tolerance, compromise, and determination that have brought you so far and so fast.

We know we can count on Poland to keep reaching out to its neighbors, showing them the way and helping them help themselves. We know we can count on Poland to continue its reforms. And Poland can count on America. We are in Europe to stay, because we know the danger of retreating behind the false security of an ocean.

Together, our countries know what faith, commitment, and integrity can build. Our partnership is going to last a long time, always mindful of where we have been; always moving forward to build the future we know we want, the future we know we can achieve.

My toast is for a free Poland, its leadership, and the courageous souls who made it happen.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Jolanta Kwasniewski, wife of President Aleksander Kwasniewski, and Ludgarda Buzek, wife of Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 9

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Allison beginning on June 5 and continuing.

June 10

In the morning, the President traveled from Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a White House reception for the Ford's Theatre gala on the State Floor at the White House.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Ford's Theatre gala at Ford's Theatre.

June 11

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore in the Oval Office.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Madrid, Spain, arriving the following morning.

The President announced his intention to nominate Franklin L. Lavin to be Ambassador to Singapore.

The President announced his intention to nominate Aubrey Hooks to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area stuck by Tropical Storm Allison beginning on June 5 and continuing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to Washington, DC, on September 10.

June 12

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with King Juan Carlos I, Queen Sofia, and Crown Prince Felipe at Zarzuela Palace.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Quintos de Mora, Spain, where he met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain at his private residence. Later, the President returned to Madrid.

June 13

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Brussels, Belgium. While en route aboard Air Force One, the President had a telephone conversation with Central Intelligence Agency Director George J. Tenet, congratulating him on his efforts concerning the Middle East cease-fire.

In the afternoon, the President met with U.S. diplomats, military personnel, and their families at the Brussels American School. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush met with King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium at the Royal Palace of Laeken.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel R. Levinson to be Inspector General for the General Services Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Lester Henshaw to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Young to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition.

June 14

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Göteborg, Sweden.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush met with King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia, and Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden at the Residence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jackson McDonald to be Ambassador to Gambia.

June 15

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Warsaw, Poland.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Jerzy Burek of Poland at the Palace on the Water in Lazienki Park. Later, he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph Gerard Sullivan to be Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The President announced his intention to nominate John W. Keys to be Commissioner of Reclamation at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jose A. Fourquet to be U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission on Ocean Policy: Robert Ballard, James D. Watkins, Paul L. Kelly, Ted A. Beattie, Lawrence Dickerson, Marc J. Hershman, Ed Rasmuson, Christopher Koch, Paul G. Gaffney, Andrew A. Rosenberg, James M. Coleman, Paul A. Sandifer, William D. Ruckelshaus, Ann D'Amato, Frank Muller-Karger, and Lilliam Barrone.

The President announced his intention to designate J. Timothy O'Neill as Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following 23 individuals as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships: Brad Freeman, James E. Bostic, Jr., Paul W. Brooks, Gilberto Cardenas, Martha Chayet, Ben Crenshaw, Robert M. Duncan, Clayton Fong, Valde Garcia, Phillip J. Montante, Jr., Patrick F. Noonan, Alan Novak, Paul Simon, Rosemarie Avila, Fred Carter, Olden Lee, William McGurn, Marcia Jackson, Angela Antonelli, Bruno V. Manno, Jimmy Gurule,

Manuel Lujen Jr., and Lawrence Richard Bearden.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Genoa, Italy, to attend the G–7/8 Summit on July 20–22.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 12

Dionel M. Aviles,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice Deborah P. Christie, resigned.

Reginald Jude Brown,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Patrick T. Henry.

Stephen A. Cambone,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, vice James M. Bodner.

Douglas Alan Hartwick,
of Washington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

John Lester Henshaw,
of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Charles N. Jeffress.

Aubrey Hooks,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Asa Hutchinson,
of Arkansas, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, vice Donnie R. Marshall, resigned.

Daniel R. Levinson,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration, vice William R. Barton, resigned.

Donald J. McConnell,
of Ohio, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Eritrea.

Michael Montelongo,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Robert F. Hale.

Alberto Jose Mora,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, vice Stephen W. Preston.

Laurie Rich,
of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Department of Education, vice G. Mario Moreno, resigned.

Kirk Van Tine,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, vice Nancy E. McFadden.

Michael W. Wynne,
of Florida, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, vice David R. Oliver.

John J. Young, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice Herbert Lee Buchanan III.

James W. Ziglar,
of Mississippi, to be Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, vice Doris Meissner, resigned.

Submitted June 14

Vincent Martin Battle,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lebanon.

Richard J. Egan,
of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland.

Clark Kent Ervin,
of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of State, vice Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers, resigned.

Russell F. Freeman,
of North Dakota, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

John W. Keys III,
of Utah, to be Commissioner of Reclamation, vice Eluid Levi Martinez, resigned.

Daniel C. Kurtzer,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Israel.

Frances P. Maniella,
of Florida, to be Director of the National Park Service, vice Robert G. Stanton, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 9

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released June 11

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Prime Minister Goh of Singapore

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Howard of Australia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Released June 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick on the European Union-U.S. Summit

Released June 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Cooperation in Northern Europe

Fact sheet: U.S. and EU Assistance to Southeast Europe

Fact sheet: The European Union

Fact sheet: Transatlantic Business Dialogue

Fact sheet: Defense Trade Security Initiative Extended to Sweden

Released June 15

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's visit to Poland

Transcript of a press briefing by Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige and Domestic Policy Adviser Margaret LaMontagne on education reform legislation

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's support for the transfer of a second Perry-class frigate to the Government of Poland

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing an additional $20 million transfer from the Polish American Enterprise Fund to the Polish-American Freedom Foundation

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. and Poland Sign Open Skies Agreement

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Genoa, Italy

Fact sheet: Poland: Second Frigate

Fact sheet: Polish American Freedom Foundation

Fact sheet: Poland: Open Skies

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 16, 2001

The First Lady. Good morning. This weekend millions of Americans will celebrate Father's Day. On this day sons and daughters pause to reflect on all the ways in which our fathers and grandfathers contribute to our lives, with ball games and Band-Aids, advice and sacrifice, patience and strength. Words fall short when we attempt to describe the full extent of our love and appreciation for them, when we try to express our gratitude for everything they do for us.

The fortunate among us know that we can always rely on a dad or a granddad. Sadly, there are those whose lives aren't touched by the loving hand of a father. I hope they, too, find a way to observe this day with a caring role model or other family members.

I am blessed to have many fond memories of my father. I remember fun trips together when I was a child, bumping along the dusty roads of west Texas in our car, heading for El Paso, where my grandmother lived.

My dad once said that when my mother brought him home to meet her parents for the first time, my grandmother was laying brick when they arrived. My dad thought he had married into a family whose women could do anything, and he made me believe that I could be anything.

Whether our fathers live one room away, a plane flight away, or years away in the twilight of our memories, we remember them as we commemorate Father's Day. It's a day to acknowledge all the spoken words and unspoken kindnesses that fathers and grandfathers have shown us through the years.

So thank you for your strength, your love, and your support for your children. Happy Father's Day to all of you. And I want to wish a happy Father's Day to the father of my children. Happy Father's Day, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you, Laura.

Many Americans believe that their father is the finest man they have ever known. That's certainly true in my case. My dad provided me with life's greatest gift, unconditional love. And he still makes sure all his children know how much he loves us.

Fathers are so important in the lives of children: They provide love and encouragement; they are the object of a young child's admiration; and they provide their sons and daughters with an example of what it means to be a good man. When fathers are absent, children are often lost to a world of hopelessness and hardship. Our laws should promote responsible fatherhood.

And so our administration strongly supports community-based fatherhood programs. We are taking steps to make adoption more affordable. And for innocent children who are born into fractured families, we provide support for mentoring programs.

Ultimately, fatherhood is a deeply personal calling. Our own children are given to our care, and they depend on our love. Every parent knows that raising a child is among the most hopeful and affirming experiences a human being will ever know.

So many of my generation had the same experience I did. When we held our children for the first time, we found ourselves. We found a world of duty and love that changed our lives. And since that day, "Dad" has been the most important title I have ever held or will ever hold.

Laura and I wish all the fathers listening a happy Father's Day. So many of you provide to your children daily care and guidance, nurture and protection, discipline and love, and it's making a world of difference. On behalf of them, we want to express our appreciation.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:30 p.m. on June 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the

Press Secretary on June 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia in Kranj, Slovenia

June 16, 2001

The President. [*Inaudible*]—the Prime Minister came to Austin to visit me when I was the Governor of Texas, along with then-Ambassador, now the Foreign Minister. We had a wonderful visit then, and I'm looking forward to a great exchange now. We had a good visit in the car coming here. And I'm so grateful for his hospitality to this most spectacular and beautiful country. It's really beautiful.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at Brdo Castle. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Dimitrij Rupel of Slovenia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Kranj

June 16, 2001

Q. Mr. President, any thoughts about this first meeting?

President Putin. First impression? It was a good first impression.

President Bush. I rest my case. [*Laughter*] We're going to have a very good meeting, and I've been looking forward to this for a long period of time. We find we have a lot in common, and I'm so honored the President came here. I know it's inconvenient to travel such a long distance, Mr. President——

President Putin. We know about the very latest statements of President Bush in Warsaw, and that's a very good foundation for us to proceed.

President Bush. Thank you, all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:45 p.m. at Brdo Castle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Putin in Kranj

June 16, 2001

President Bush. Good afternoon. President Putin and I have just concluded 2 hours of straightforward and productive meetings. We had a good discussion of our views of Russian-American relations and of the changing world at the beginnings of this new century. Our countries have common interests, and we share great responsibilities.

My meeting with President Putin today is an important step in building a constructive, respectful relationship with Russia, a relationship that has the potential to benefit not only our two countries but also the world. Russia is an important country with vast potential. When Russia and the United States work together in a constructive way, we can make the world a safer and more prosperous place.

I enjoyed the opportunity to meet President Putin in person for the first time. I am convinced that he and I can build a relationship of mutual respect and candor. And I'm convinced that it's important for the world that we do so.

More than a decade after the cold war ended, it is time to move beyond suspicion and toward straight talk, beyond mutually assured destruction and toward mutually earned respect. As we work together to address the world as it is, not as it used to be, it is important that we not only talk differently; we also must act differently.

We have great opportunities to cooperate on economic, commercial, regional, and security issues. President Putin and I have agreed to launch an extensive dialog about a wide range of issues that we can constructively address together.

We also discussed the importance of sound investment climate to improve Russia's future economic prosperity. I was so impressed that he was able to simplify his tax code in Russia with a flat tax. I'm not so sure I'll have the same success with our Congress.

We must continue a dialog, so I'm prepared to send both Secretary O'Neill and Secretary Evans to Moscow soon to further our discussions. I want to encourage Russian

and American businesses to become more involved in our discussions, so that together, we can foster meaningful investments. President Putin agrees with this approach.

And we've agreed to launch regular detailed and serious consultations on the nature of our security relationship. I said to President Putin that we need a new approach for a new era, an approach that protects both our peoples and strengthens deterrence by exploring and developing our new attitudes toward defenses and missile defenses. I've directed Secretary of State Powell and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to work with their Russian counterparts, to begin discussing a new security framework. I have invited President Putin to Washington this fall. He accepted. He invited me to Russia, and I accepted. And I look forward to the visit.

We also agreed to continue our cooperation and work toward common solutions on important regional issues, from the Balkans to Nagorno-Karabakh to Afghanistan. And we discussed our common interest in developing the energy resources of the Caspian Basin in a way that benefits all the countries of the region.

Respectful relations require honesty. And we did discuss areas where my country has differences with Russia, over Chechnya and over media relations. I also expressed my hope that Russia will develop constructive relations with its neighbors, like Georgia, that are trying to find their own way in a challenging but hopeful world.

This was a very good meeting. And I look forward to my next meeting with President Putin in July. I very much enjoyed our time together. He's an honest, straightforward man who loves his country. He loves his family. We share a lot of values. I view him as a remarkable leader. I believe his leadership will serve Russia well. Russia and America have the opportunity to accomplish much together; we should seize it. And today we have begun.

And finally, I'm especially pleased we're able to have this meeting in Slovenia, one of the success stories of southeast Europe. In my meetings today with the President and the Prime Minister, I reaffirmed America's support for Slovenia's integration with Europe and the Euro-Atlantic community. I especially thank the people of Slovenia, and I want to thank the leadership for such warm hospitality and congratulate the people on the 10th anniversary of its independence on June the 25th.

I only regret not staying long enough to see Lake Bled or to climb Mount Triglav. Who knows, maybe I'll have the opportunity down the road.

Mr. President.

President Putin. First of all, I wanted to confirm everything that's been said by President Bush when he characterized our meeting. I could even add that I was counting on an open, frank dialog, confidential dialog. But in this regard, as they say in cases like this, reality was a lot bigger than expectations, because this was not only a confidential discussion but extremely and all the way to more than what you could expect from frankness, because President Bush, as a person who has studied history, proposed a very global, wide-scale approach and view to history. And it was very interesting and positive.

We sat, talked about the past, about the present, about the future of our countries and about the development of the situation in the world for many years into the future. This was really a very interesting discussion. I think that we found a good basis to start building on our cooperation. We're counting on a pragmatic relationship between Russia and the United States.

We compared our approaches in key areas. And once again, we established our common ground. I want to return now to what the President said very recently, that Russia and the United States are not enemies; they do not threaten each other; and they could be fully good allies. And taking into account the fact that the United States and the Russian Federation, as no one else, as no other country of the world, have accumulated huge amounts of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, we bear a special responsibility for maintaining the common peace and security in the world, for building a new architecture of security in the world.

All of this presupposes a very close cooperation for strengthening security in the 21st century. And saying this, any unilateral actions can only make more complicated various problems and issues.

One of the central topics of our discussion was the strengthening of strategic stability. We exchanged our views on our approaches. It was very important for me to hear how and what the President of the United States thinks and to hear directly from him.

In turn, naturally, I expressed the approaches of Russia in this sphere. The differences in approaches do exist, and naturally, in one short moment, it's impossible to overcome all of them. But I am convinced that ahead of us we have a constructive dialog and the will to talk about these topics, to discuss, to hear, to listen—to listen and to hear each other. And to my mind, this is very important.

The President and I have agreed that we're going to tell our Ministers of Defense, Secretaries of Defense, Foreign Ministers, to continue in this vein, to continue this discussion without any pauses.

Of course, we discussed some very difficult regional issues, the Near East and Afghanistan and the Balkans. I have to say that this discussion showed that the differences in our approaches in the very fundamental areas are much less than that which unites us. The differences in our positions, positions of the two countries, really are not of a fundamental nature, a global nature, something which cannot be solved—not at all. I think that it would be very incorrect for us to start forcing out issues and arguments and not take into account the very fundamental, main concepts and issues in our relationships, which are the basis and the whole foundation of the relationship between the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

The President and I are united in saying that the economic ties between our two countries do not correspond to the potential of our two countries. The Government of the Russian Federation, businessmen of both countries, and the U.S. administration, of course, can do a lot more to support the effectiveness of our economic ties. And the President expressed that we need an additional impulse from our businessmen, that we will do everything possible to receive a very high-level business delegation of the United States to Russia, moreover, especially if it is headed by one of the senior officials of the U.S. administration.

Here there are a lot of very specific issues. We talked about energy resources; we talked about using the Caspian Basin. You know, very soon the new pipeline system is going to go into effect, which is going to be transporting energy resources from the Caspian region through *novie russkies*. And this is a joint project of two companies, Russian and American companies. I'm sure that this will not be the last such project.

I want to stress here that the issues that were discussed at Ljubljana are going to be the subject of our continuing dialog. And we really, in fact, did agree that we're going to talk in Genoa; we're going to talk in Shanghai at the APEC Conference. And I'm very grateful to the President of the United States for inviting me to the United States. I would do it with great pleasure, especially because he invited to have me over at his ranch. And I'm going to receive him in my own home, not just in Russia but in my own home.

And the last, in the last few months, and at the very threshold of our meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the fact that U.S.-Russian relations are overburdened by problems and issues that are somehow reaching a critical stage. I think the very nature and the result of our discussion today between myself and the President of the United States will put an end to all of these rumors. We see very clearly a very positive prospect of our relationship in the future. And we are all geared up to work in the future constructively, pragmatically, and to establish very good, predictable relationship.

And of course, I cannot but say the very highest about the hospitality of our hosts, who provided us with all the conditions necessary for holding this very good meeting—good, moral atmosphere.

Thank you. Thank you ever so much.

Moderator. Dear colleagues, we have said that we're going to give the first opportunity to ask a question to journalists from Slovenia, please.

[*At this point, a question was asked, and an English translation was not provided.*]

President Bush. I don't think the interpreter could have done it in English, but anyway, go ahead.

NATO Enlargement

Q. On the next summit in Prague, where, according to Lord Robertson, enlargement will happen, and what is the Russian position on enlargement?

President Bush. I went to my first NATO summit, and there appears to be a uniform desire to expand NATO. This is certainly the position of my country. But as I reminded the leaders today, that there is a process, and the countries must work toward that process. I am impressed by the progress being made in this country, and we will take that under consideration when we meet in Prague a year from this fall.

The Balkans

Q. A question for you, Mr. Putin. You're leaving from Slovenia, straight to Belgrade. Do you have any concrete solutions for the Balkan crisis?

President Putin. As I understand you, what you have in mind is the situation in the region.

Yes, it's working. It's working. It's good to have dealings with effective people that make things work.

As I understand it, what you have in mind is the overall situation in the Balkans, right? Macedonia, Kosovo, et cetera, right? Well, we do have our own idea, vision of what's happening here and how we should act.

Today we did discuss with the President of the United States, Mr. Bush. The most important things that we have to really pay attention to is to put an effective block, an end to any kind of extremism and feelings of intolerance—religious intolerance. People who are trying to solve, no matter how complex an issue of national or ethnic or religious conflict—weapons simply are not those kinds of things which can solve these problems.

In some of the countries of the former Soviet Union, for instance—you probably know, we talk about this very often—in the Baltic States, for instance, we feel that human rights are damaged, especially of the ethnic Russian populations. In Latvia, for instance, 40 percent of the population is Russian-speaking, a huge number of non-citizens—in other words, people who can't even get citizenship. We don't send weapons there. We don't support those people. We don't call it terrorism. We don't try to get people to rise up on the basis of national or ethnic origin or religious feelings. We don't encourage people to take up arms to fight against that.

I stress against, and I insist that people who try to do this do not deserve the support of the international community. But on the contrary, the international community must say once and for all, everybody who does this will receive due answer. These things can only be solved through negotiations. This is a very difficult process. It requires patience, but there is no other way.

National Missile Defense/Nuclear Proliferation

Q. A question to both of you, if I may. President Putin, President Bush has said that he's going to go forward with his missile defense plans basically with or without your blessing. Are you unyielding in your opposition to his missile defense plan? Is there anything you can do to stop it?

And to President Bush, did President Putin ease your concern at all about the spread of nuclear technologies by Russia, and is this a man that Americans can trust?

President Bush. Yes. Do you want to go first?

President Putin. Now, as far as the issue of antimissile defense, the official position of the Russian Government is known. I don't think we need to spend time to, yet again, declare it. We proceed from the idea that the 1972 ABM Treaty is the cornerstone of the modern architecture of international security. We proceed from the premise that there are elements which unite us with our partners in the United States.

When we hear about things like concerns of the future and about threats from the future, we do agree that together, we have to sit down and have a good think about this. But we proceed from the idea that these concerns and threats are different kinds of things. Threats have to be defined. We have to look at where they come from and then make some decisions as to how we have to counter them.

We feel that we can do it best together. Based upon today's dialog, I've come to the conclusion, and the impression, that we might have a very constructive development

here in this arena; at least the President of the United States listened carefully. He listens to our arguments very carefully. But I think the specialists, as I have said before, have to sit down, have contact to identify the overall platform that we're going to work from, and try to find a way together to solve these problems.

Now, as far as the issues of proliferation and nonproliferation, I have to say that in our opinion, this is a topic that's very, very closely tied to the ABM Treaty, because many other things are hooked onto this same string, and many threshold states, when it comes to the destruction of a previous accord, can only be happy and say, "Look, fantastic. Yesterday, we were threshold. Nobody agreed—nobody took any account of us—now, today, recognize us." This is a problem we're going to have to really think very hard about.

Can we trust Russia? I'm not going to answer to that. I could ask the very same question.

President Bush. I found him to be very straightforward and trustworthy. We had a very good dialog. I was able to get a sense of his soul, a man deeply committed to his country and the best interests of his country. And I appreciated so very much the frank dialog.

There was no kind of diplomatic chitchat, trying to throw each other off balance. There was a straightforward dialog. And that's the beginning of a very constructive relationship. I wouldn't have invited him to my ranch if I didn't trust him. [*Laughter*]

Secondly, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to talk about a new relationship, and we will continue these dialogs. The basis for my discussion began with this simple premise, that Russia and the United States must establish a new relationship beyond that of the old cold war mentality. The cold war said loud and clear that we're opponents and that we bring the peace through the ability for each of us to destroy each other.

Friends don't destroy each other. People who cooperate do not have a basis of peace on destruction. Our nations are confronted with new threats in the 21st century: Terror in the hands of what we call rogue nations is a threat. I expressed my concern, and so did the President, very openly, about nations on his border and nations that can't stand America's freedoms developing the capacity to hold each of us hostage. And he agreed.

I brought up concerns about Iran. And I'm hesitant to put words in the President's mouth, but he said he's concerned, as well—I think that accurately categorizes your position—and we'll work together to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. And I believe as we go down the road that we'll be able to develop a constructive relationship as to how to use our technologies and research and willingness to keep the peace, in a way that makes the world more peaceful.

I was so pleased that we were able to begin constructive, real dialog between our Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Mr. Andrei Ivanov. These will be fruitful discussions, and I believe what people will see is a strategy, a joint strategy. The President's a history major, and so am I. And we remember the old history. It's time to write new history in a positive and constructive way.

NATO Expansion

Q. This is a question to both Presidents, if you allow. Mr. Bush, you partially answered—you talked about issues of strategic security; you talked about the future. In this connection, could you tell us anything about what you talked about in the expansion of NATO? Thank you.

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]—to expand, so long as nations met their obligations and fulfilled their—met what's called the MAP process. I said yesterday in Poland, I felt like a secure border for Russia, a border with safe and friendly nations, is positive. And I expressed my government's position very plainly. And the President, of course, had a reaction, which I'm sure he'll give you right now.

I thought he was going to give it to you right now. [*Laughter*]

President Putin. Yes, I'm going to lay it out for you. I'm going to lay it out for you. Look, I'm going to read to you something which was recently declassified. Speaking for myself—look this was printed a while back, but there's a document—attached addendum documents which were secret. Copy declassified; it was top secret. Look, here it is. This is a note of the Soviet Government from

1954, sent to the countries of NATO. Here's what it says: "The leadership, holding to its inalienable policy and taking into account all the tensions, this Soviet Government announces its intention to enter into discussions with NATO countries about its participation in NATO, with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

And this was the answer—look, here's the answer: The Soviet Government proposed—they were talking about the widening of the NATO pact and what they're going to do about bringing the Soviet Union in. "There is no need to stress the completely unrealistic nature of such a proposal from the Soviet Union." That's the answer that NATO gave.

So what we're talking about here, you remember about a year ago, I think, somebody asked a question about, "What's your attitude? Is it possible that Russia is going to join in NATO or not?" I said, "Why not?" And right away, Mrs. Albright, former Secretary of State—she was some place on a trip to Europe—she said, "Look, we're not talking about this right now."

Look, you understand that our attitude toward NATO was not one toward an enemy organization; of course not. And I'm very grateful to the President of the United States that finally, from the territory of the United States, these words were heard. This is very important for us. We value this. When a President of a great power says that he wants to see Russia as a partner, and maybe even as an ally, this is worth so much to us.

But if that's the case, then, look, we ask ourselves a question: Look, this is a military organization. Yes, it's military. They don't want us there; they don't want us there. It's moving toward our border. Yes, it's moving toward our border. Why?

So this is the foundation of all our concerns, not just to bring it in or not bring it in, or accept NATO or not accept NATO. Look, the positive feeling that we now have developed today with President Bush, this could be a separate subject of discussion. Because you know Russia is cooperating with NATO, we have an agreement; we have association; we have various accords and treaties; and there's no need to fire up this whole situation.

National Missile Defense

Q. Mr. President, did you offer President Putin any inducements in this conversation to ease his opposition to a U.S. missile defense plan?

And President Putin, to follow up on your comments just now, does the simple fact of President Bush saying that Russia is not an enemy actually change your strategic or military planning?

President Bush. I offered something, logic and a hopeful tomorrow. I offered the opportunity, which the President is going to seize, for us, as leaders of great powers, to work together.

We have a unique opportunity to address the true threats of the 21st century together. We have a great moment during our tenures to cast aside the suspicions and doubts that used to plague our nations. And I'm committed to do so.

I said in Poland, and I'll say it again, Russia is not the enemy of the United States. As a matter of fact, after our meeting today, I'm convinced it can be a strong partner and friend, more so than people could imagine.

The leader of Russia is working hard on behalf of his people to promote prosperity and peace. And I believe our nations can work together to achieve prosperity and peace, not only within our respective countries but around the world. I believe that.

And so we didn't have a bargaining session. We had a session of two men who have come to office for the right purpose, not only to represent our countries but given our standing, our respective standings, to work together to deal with the threats of the 21st century. A threat of the 21st century is energy. A threat of the 21st century is poverty. A threat of the 21st century is the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

And as the President said to me clearly, he said that, "You're not the only nation that cares about weapons of mass destruction; we care." And we have an opportunity to do that. We have an opportunity to reject extremists that could threaten our respective nations and respect our—and threaten our alliances. And we will do so. We will do so.

And today has been a very constructive day. Everybody is trying to read body language. Mark me down as very pleased with

the progress and the frank discussion. We will meet again in July, then later in the fall. Then we'll have the great Crawford, Texas, summit. And I believe that people who watch carefully our relationship will see that it grows and emerges. It starts with trust. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] asked a great question: Can I trust him? And I can. And from that basis we can begin a very fruitful relationship.

Q. So there were no specific—that you offered in this meeting, just logic?

President Bush. We did not—well, first of all, our relationship is larger than just security relationships. It's bigger than figuring out how to deal with the ABM Treaty; it's much bigger than that. It deals with two leaders who share values.

The President told me something very interesting. He said, "I read where you named your daughters after your mother and your mother-in-law." And I said, "Yes, I'm a great diplomat, aren't I?" [*Laughter*] And he said, "I did the same thing." [*Laughter*] I said, "Mr. President, you're a fine diplomat, as well." We share our love for our families. We've got common interests. And from that basis we will seize the moment to make a difference in the world. That's why he ran for the Presidency, and it's why I ran for the Presidency.

This is not a bargaining session. The President didn't say, "You know, if you do this, I'll do that." It's bigger than that. It's a bigger relationship than that, and it's important to understand that.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Question on whether the simple fact of President Bush saying that you are no longer—the United States is not your enemy actually changes your military thinking or your strategic thinking and planning?

President Putin. This is not a question; I think this has become an interview. [*Laughter*] But look, nonetheless, I'll respond. It's not by accident that I said that's it's important for us. And it seems to me that if you start with a mutual understanding that we are partners, that's the way we're going to move to try to solve this very important issue.

Look, we didn't just sit down and say that our specialists are going to meet, and they're going to have an exchange of views. But we agreed that they're going to discuss very specific questions which cause concern to both sides, very specific items. I'm not prepared right now to get into this publicly, but we're talking about specifics.

Moreover, I have to say that between Russia and the United States, we have two protocols that we signed on nonstrategic ABM systems in New York, and I think it was in Helsinki. And this, too, is a subject of very special review. I think the specialists should define all these things. Again, I define—I repeat—define the threats and those things which just stand in the way; to look at the power that both countries have to neutralize these threats. I think we can work out a common approach.

Russia-U.S. Economic Ties

Q. To both Presidents, if you allow. Getting back to trade and economic issues, ties between our two countries, how soon do you think we can expect a delegation of American businessmen to Moscow? And do you have any plans on creating an intergovernmental commission of various agencies, which could stimulate economic ties between the United States and Russia? Thank you.

President Bush. I'll talk to the Secretary of Commerce as soon as I get back and tell him of our agreement and get him moving. Sometimes I worry a little bit about commissions. If commissions exist just to exist, then I don't think it's fruitful. If commissions exist in order to stimulate action, then perhaps.

Let me say one other area where the United States is in agreement with Russia. We think Russia ought to be admitted into the World Trade Organization. And we'll work toward that end. The Russian President has expressed a desire to join the WTO, and I think it makes sense. I think that will help a lot. And there's a lot of areas in our business relationships.

I reminded the President that oftentimes, people speak in terms of—they say Russia is a country of great resources, only referring to the energy resources, the mining resources, the timber resources. That's true. But Russia has got a resource that's invaluable in this new era, and that's brainpower.

Russia's got great mathematicians and engineers who can just as easily participate in the high-tech world as American engineers and American mathematicians. And that's an area of great interest to me, and it's an area of great interest to the President. It's an area where we can begin a fruitful dialog.

The deployment of capital is something that's very important to Russia; it's important to our businessmen. The President understands it's important to have rule of law, a reasonable tax system, transparency in the economy. And he's working toward that, and I am grateful. Our businessmen and our Secretary of Commerce will hear that when they travel to Russia.

President Putin. You know, I agree with the President in that to overload our relationship by a variety of bureaucratic structures and organizations—that's not always justified. The most important thing is to create favorable conditions for effective work by the business community. We know the plans of President Bush with respect to his taxation policy and with respect to other measures which he is planning, with respect to the economy of the United States.

From our part, we still have to do so much that would make Russia attractive for foreign investors. Although among international investors, the Americans are in first place. Naturally, first and foremost, we have to take care of the issues of the energy problem in the world at large. American business is showing a great interest in this sphere.

But we also know that President Bush has plans in the atomic energy field. Here, too, we think we've got a couple of things we could talk about. We have a very fruitful area of cooperation we could work in. We have a number of various structures that are working very appropriately now in reprocessing uranium. We've got pretty good cooperation in space now. It seems to me that to a significant extent, that which exists now, it is functioning very successfully now, the space station, the International Space Station and the participation of the United States and Russia. We have so many other areas we'd like to work in. But when the businessmen come—that depends, of course, on the U.S. side—but we'll receive them at any time that's appropriate to them.

NOTE: The President's 11th news conference began at 5:30 p.m. at Brdo Castle. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to his mother, Barbara Bush, mother-in-law, Jenna Welch, and his daughters, Jenna and Barbara P.; Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov; and President Milan Kucan and Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia. The President also referred to MAP process, NATO's Membership Action Plan process. President Putin referred to former Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright. A reporter referred to NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and an Exchange With Reporters

June 18, 2001

The President. Good morning. The Secretary and I were following up on our recent trip to Europe. I had some conversations today with the President of Spain, the Prime Minister of Britain, the President of Poland, to brief them on my conversations with President Putin.

The conversation with President Putin was positive. It indicated to me that we can have a very frank and honest relationship, that there are areas where we can work together. And I shared with those three leaders the summary of my discussions with him.

They were most pleased that the conversation went well. They were pleased to hear that the United States welcomes Russia to look westward and will help Russia do so. And they were pleased to hear we're going to send some delegations over to Russia to have economic dialog.

So the Secretary is here today, where we can follow up and put an action plan in place to take advantage of the cooperation that I'm confident can exist.

Senior Adviser on Strategic Initiatives Karl Rove

Q. Mr. President, I was wondering what your level of confidence is, sir, in one of your senior political advisers, Mr. Rove? It seems that some Republicans have voiced displeasure about some of the issues and decisions he was involved in recently—Vieques

among them—as well as the calls for investigation of him, sir, in the House. I'm just wondering what your level of confidence is.

The President. My level of confidence with Karl Rove has never been higher. He's a man of—he gives me sound advice. He adheres to the ethical rules of our Government, and he's doing a great job on behalf of the American people.

Situation in Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, President Putin is now warning that the situation in Macedonia shows signs of becoming another, sort of, Kosovo, and in particular, he's called for closing the border between Kosovo and Macedonia, Albania and Macedonia. Are those steps that you would support? And what do you think can be done to avoid having the, sort of, U.S.-Russian tensions that occurred during the Kosovo crisis?

The President. Well, we strongly believe we need to shut off the border between Kosovo and Macedonia. As a matter of fact, our troops that participate in KFOR are doing just that.

President Putin also believes that we ought to all work together to achieve a political solution. And the Secretary of State—he'll be glad to comment on that—has worked very closely with Mr. Trajkovski, as well as the legitimate Albanians, those who aren't extremists, those who want the Government to work. We are—as you know, there was a meeting over the weekend, right before the weekend, where democratically-elected officials in Macedonia met to determine how best to fashion a constitution that meets minority needs. We strongly support that process.

I believe we can work with the Russians. We share the same interests, which is a stable Macedonia. Our Governments understand that a Macedonia that is fractured, where extremists are able to make headway is a—it will create instability in the region.

U.S.S. Cole Investigation

Q. Mr. President, can you comment, sir, on reports out of Yemen that the FBI investigators that are looking into the bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole* are leaving the area?

The President. I'm not in a position to make comments on that right now. Once we finish our full investigation, our Government will be willing to discuss that.

Q. Are you pleased with the pace of the investigation, sir?

The President. I'd rather not comment about ongoing investigations, particularly in regards to the security of the country.

Energy Price Controls

Q. With the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission meeting on the California power crisis—price crisis today, are you still as firmly opposed, as you've said in the past, to mandatory, strict price controls?

The President. I am, because price controls do not create additional supply, nor do they reduce demand. I think price controls would not benefit the California consumer. It wouldn't help solve the problem. I'm interested in seeing what FERC comes up with. They're not talking about firm price controls. They're talking about a mechanism to—as I understand it—a mechanism to mitigate any severe price spike that may occur, which is completely different from price controls.

Q. Do you like that idea?

The President. I want to see what they have to say. I haven't had a chance to fully look at what their proposal is. As you know, it's an independent organization. And although I've had the opportunity of naming two members, I believe, to the FERC, they are independent. They know full well my administration's belief that price controls will not solve the problem. And a lot of folks in California understand that, as well.

Again, I repeat, price controls do not increase supply nor reduce demand, and that's precisely what is needed in the State of California.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Aleksander Kwasnieski of Poland; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Boris Trajkovski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Agricultural Leaders

June 18, 2001

Well, thank you very much. It's nice to be home. [*Laughter*] And welcome to the people's home. As I'm sure you can imagine, it is an unimaginable honor to live here, and it was an unimaginable honor to represent our Nation overseas.

We had a really good trip, and I'm sure Ambassador Zoellick will brief you on the trip after I say a few words. But let me just say to you that—well, first, let me thank Ann Veneman for the job she's doing. I knew when I picked her, I picked a really smart, capable leader. And she has fulfilled all expectations. She's going to do a great job as representing an incredibly important part of our Nation's economy and our Nation's culture. So, Madam Secretary, thank you very much for your leadership. Zoellick, thank you, sir, for your leadership, as well.

I told people when I—that should I become the President, we would never use agriculture as a throwaway, as just a bargaining tool. And when I interviewed my friend Bob Zoellick, who I've known for a while, I said, "I want you to understand, the cornerstone of good trade policy is good ag policy. And we're not going to leave our farmers and ranchers behind when it comes to international agreements."

And I think you're going to find when he talks to you and when you question him, he's going to hold true to that philosophy. And I'm proud of his work. He's tough and he's steady, and I've got a pretty good look at who he's negotiating against—[*laughter*]—but he's going to do a fine job for all of America, including the agricultural sector.

I'm honored that Members of the United States Senate are here, and Members of the House of Representatives are here. Mr. Chairman—well, Mr. Ex-Chairman. [*Laughter*] Thank you all for coming. [*Laughter*]

We're going to discuss here an incredibly important issue, and that is, how do we make sure American agriculture thrives and survives and grows stronger over time? It starts with understanding a couple of things. One, that we needed tax relief so that those farmers and ranchers who are actually in the black can keep more of what they make. And thanks to Members here, we got good tax relief.

And by the way, we also eliminated the death tax, which is incredibly important to American agriculture. And I want to thank you all on the stage here for—as well as your Members, for working hard to make the case that getting rid of the death tax is only fair, and that for those who worry about urban sprawl and issues such as that, that getting rid of the death tax is going to allow the family farm or the family ranch to pass from one generation to the next. And so it's a good piece of legislation, and many of you all helped make the case. And for that, all of us are grateful.

I also said in the campaign I'd work for value-added processing, that I wanted to make sure that the products we grew at home here had received enhanced value because of U.S. processing. And part of our energy plan, as you learned recently, includes ethanol. And that's an important part of an agriculture and an energy and an environmental mix that I think is best for the United States of America.

And finally, trade. And it's incredibly important for our Americans to understand how important trade is. The agricultural sector understands that. Twenty-five percent of farm receipts are generated by exports. One-quarter of all the revenues coming into the farm economy are generated as a result of a farmer in America or a rancher in America selling that product overseas. And that's as it should be. Our farmers and ranchers are the most efficient producers in the world. This is an area where our country has a competitive advantage. We're really good at it. And the job of this administration must be to open up more markets for ag products.

I used to tell people in the course of the campaign, I want America to feed the world. I want our great Nation that's a land of great, efficient producers to make sure people don't go hungry. And it starts with having an administration committed to knocking down barriers to trade, and we are.

And you're about to hear from the Trade Representative, Ambassador Zoellick, who will describe to you a couple of things: one, that we want a new round of WTO discussions started with ag at its core, and it will

be. I know there are some concerns about NAFTA in the country, but if people look at the statistics, farm exports to Mexico have doubled, nearly doubled, since NAFTA. That's important. I do believe we ought to expand the free trade of the Americas. I want this whole hemisphere trading in freedom, and I think it makes sense for our farmers and ranchers to do so.

In order for me to be as effective as I can be—and by the way, we understand this, too, and this is important for people to understand that our farmers face incredible barriers to trade. And let me just give you a few statistics. The EU's tariffs for over-quota beef is between 91 percent and 177 percent. Japan's tariff for over-quota wheat is between 242 percent and 256 percent. Canada's tariff on over-quota butter is between 299 percent and 314 percent. Not only do America's farmers and ranchers face overt tariffs, there's hidden barriers, as well, such as unscientific thought about the products we grow. One of the things Ambassador Zoellick and I talked about is making decisions based upon sound science, and not using science as a—or false science as a way to block entry for U.S. products.

And Zoellick also came back with some pretty good news from China. I don't know if you have all been following his negotiations there, but we're beginning to get our bilateral agreement with China made. And he can give you the details. But the agreement with China will end export subsidies and, we anticipate, boost U.S. agricultural exports to China by $2 billion a year. He sat down and rolled up his sleeves and kept in mind what I asked him to do. And he delivered a good agreement.

But there's more to do, and he told the Chinese that our bilateral agreements—that compliance, an early test of their willing to trade, will depend upon bilateral agreements on citrus and wheat, meat. And so we're just making—we're beginning to open up that big market. And I think the Ambassador deserves a lot of credit. But don't give him any until he describes exactly what he did to you. [*Laughter*]

But what I really want to do is to urge you all to help us get a trade promotion authority bill out of the Congress. I realized how important that was when I went overseas. I realized how important it was when I was at the Summit of the Americas. We've got countries in our hemisphere saying, "Will you trade with us?" And I say,"You bet." It's a free-trading administration, so long as everything is level and fair. And they say,"But how can we know you can trade with us when we negotiate a deal and you don't have the authority to strike it without having to submit the bills to every single amendment there could be up on the Hill?"

You see, they recognize that other Presidents used to have trade promotion authority. And now I don't. And we're missing some great opportunities, not only in our hemisphere but around the world. These are opportunities for people who earn a living the hard way. These are hard—these are opportunities for hard-working ranchers and farmers. These are opportunities for working people.

I believe the more we trade overseas, the more prosperity there is at home. And I urge the Congress—and I know the Members here understand this—to pass trade promotion authority so this administration can open up markets all around the world. This is an important piece of legislation. This legislation is one of my top priorities because it's—a top priority of mine is the health of the agriculture sector in America.

You know, my wife just took off for Crawford, Texas, today. When we go there, people are wondering whether or not they can make a living off the land. And they're more likely to be able to do so with more markets open.

And I mean a trade promotion authority bill, too, that's not laden down with all kinds of excuses not to trade. I want a bill that doesn't have these codicils on it that frighten people from trading with us. I like to remind people that if you're a poor nation, it's going to be hard to treat your people well. And if you're a poor nation, it's going to be hard to have good environmental policy. And trade is the best way to eliminate poverty. Therefore, our trade agreements ought to be free from codicils which prevent us from freely trading.

And so I want to thank you for coming to the White House to give me an opportunity to urge you to work with these five Senators and three Congressmen, to work hard to get this trade promotion authority moving.

The power to be—well, most of the power that be—sits right here. And these Members can use your help, as can we. This call to arms for trade promotion authority is not a hollow call. This is important. It's not only important for this President; it's important for future Presidents, because the world is a fantastic opportunity for us. And it's an opportunity we have got to seize if we expect to have prosperity in one of the most vital sectors in our Nation, and that's prosperity on our farms and ranches, a place not only where people will hopefully be able to make a good living, but a place where people nurture the great values of America: faith and family.

It's my honor to be here, to have you here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate so very much your giving us a chance to call you into action. I'm honored to be up here with your leaders, and I do want to thank the Members of the Senate and the House for being here, as well.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Haiti

June 18, 2001

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 559(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000, I hereby transmit to you the final semiannual report concerning the status of Haiti's progress.

The report contains eight subsections that provide information required by section 559(b) of the Act. These subsections address:

- Governmental Institutions Envisioned in the 1987 Haitian Constitution;
- Privatization of Haiti's Major Public Entities;
- Efforts to Re-sign the Lapsed Bilateral Repatriation Agreement, and Cooperation in Halting Illegal Migration;
- Investigation and Prosecution of Extrajudicial and Political Killings, and Cooperation with the United States in Such Investigations;
- Removal and Maintenance of Separation of Human Rights Violators from Haitian Public Security Entities or Units;
- Ratification of the 1997 Maritime Counter-Narcotics Agreement;
- Development of Haiti's Domestic Capacity to Conduct Free, Fair, Democratic, and Administratively Sound Elections; and
- Demonstrated Commitment of Haiti's Minister of Justice to the Professionalism of the Judiciary, and Progress Toward Judicial Branch Independence.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Executive Order 13217—Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals With Disabilities

June 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to place qualified individuals with disabilities in community settings whenever appropriate, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.* This order is issued consistent with the following findings and principles:

(a) The United States is committed to community-based alternatives for individuals with disabilities and recognizes that such

services advance the best interests of Americans.

(b) The United States seeks to ensure that America's community-based programs effectively foster independence and participation in the community for Americans with disabilities.

(c) Unjustified isolation or segregation of qualified individuals with disabilities through institutionalization is a form of disability-based discrimination prohibited by Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et. seq.* States must avoid disability-based discrimination unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity provided by the State.

(d) In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) (the "*Olmstead* decision"), the Supreme Court construed Title II of the ADA to require States to place qualified individuals with mental disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions, whenever treatment professionals determine that such placement is appropriate, the affected persons do not oppose such placement, and the State can reasonably accommodate the placement, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with disabilities.

(e) The Federal Government must assist States and localities to implement swiftly the *Olmstead* decision, so as to help ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to live close to their families and friends, to live more independently, to engage in productive employment, and to participate in community life.

Sec. 2. *Swift Implementation of the Olmstead Decision: Agency Responsibilities.* (a) The Attorney General, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development, and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration shall work cooperatively to ensure that the *Olmstead* decision is implemented in a timely manner. Specifically, the designated agencies should work with States to help them assess their compliance with the *Olmstead* decision and the ADA in providing services to qualified individuals with disabilities in community-based settings, as long as such services are appropriate to the needs of those individuals. These agencies should provide technical guidance and work cooperatively with States to achieve the goals of Title II of the ADA, particularly where States have chosen to develop comprehensive, effectively working plans to provide services to qualified individuals with disabilities in the most integrated settings. These agencies should also ensure that existing Federal resources are used in the most effective manner to support the goals of the ADA. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall take the lead in coordinating these efforts.

(b) The Attorney General, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development, and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration shall evaluate the policies, programs, statutes, and regulations of their respective agencies to determine whether any should be revised or modified to improve the availability of community-based services for qualified individuals with disabilities. The review shall focus on identifying affected populations, improving the flow of information about supports in the community, and removing barriers that impede opportunities for community placement. The review should ensure the involvement of consumers, advocacy organizations, providers, and relevant agency representatives. Each agency head should report to the President, through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with the results of their evaluation within 120 days.

(c) The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall fully enforce Title II of the ADA, including investigating and resolving complaints filed on behalf of individuals who allege that they have been the victims of unjustified institutionalization. Whenever possible, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services should work cooperatively with States to resolve these complaints, and should use alternative dispute resolution to bring these complaints to a quick and constructive resolution.

(d) The agency actions directed by this order shall be done consistent with this Administration's budget.

Sec. 3. *Judicial Review.* Nothing in this order shall affect any otherwise available judicial review of agency action. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 21.

Remarks to Employees of the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program Technology Evaluation Center in Arlington, Virginia

June 19, 2001

Thank you all. Thanks. Be seated. Please be seated. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your hospitality and your leadership. Senator Jeffords, Congressmen Green, Horn, and Langevin, thank you all for coming. It's good to see you all. These four Members of the United States Congress have had a piece—a hand in the strategy that I'm about to talk about, and I thank them for their leadership.

Dinah, thank you very much. It's always a joy to be around somebody who loves what she's doing—an enthusiastic soul, and someone who is making people's lives better. And I really appreciate you having me here. I want to thank David Shu for his work, and I want to thank Rhett Dawson, as well, who is the president of the Information Technology and Industry Council.

My fellow Americans, when the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed in 1990, our Nation made a promise, we will no longer underestimate the abilities of Americans with disabilities. We will treat Americans with disabilities as people to be respected, rather than problems to be confronted.

Our Nation has made progress in both attitude and law. Navigating through buildings and buses is far easier than it was just a decade ago. Now, the growth of new technologies creates new hopes and new obstacles.

The Internet brings a world of information into a computer screen, which has enriched the lives of many with disabilities. Yet, technology creates challenges of its own. The brilliant graphics that add life to many Web pages can make it difficult for a visually impaired person to get the information he or she needs from a Web site. Video technology is turning many computers into television sets. Yet, without closed captioning, many see a picture and no words. And complex keyboard commands make it difficult for a person with impaired motor skills to tap a computer's full potential. As a result, computer usage and Internet access for people with disabilities is half that of people without disabilities.

Researchers here at the Department of Defense and at other agencies throughout the Federal Government and in the private sector are developing solutions to these problems. I have just had the opportunity to tour the Department's assistive technology center, and I saw technologies that are helping people with disabilities enjoy the full range of opportunities made possible by the technology boom.

Software allows hearing-impaired people to communicate with their co-workers by computer. Screen reading technology makes it possible for the visually impaired to access information on a monitor. And voice recognition software unlocks new computing possibilities for people with impaired dexterity.

The technologies on display here have helped more than 20,000 Defense Department employees enjoy greater access to communications and computing equipment. And they will help countless individuals in the public and private sectors become fully integrated into the workplace. I'm committed to bringing that technology to users as quickly as possible. And I'm committed to ensuring that Government Web sites become compatible with this evolving technology. And that

is why I'm pleased to announce that when Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, authored by Jim Jeffords, becomes effective for all Federal agencies next Monday, there will be more opportunities for people of all abilities to access Government information. Section 508 requires Federal agencies to make sure that the electronic and information technology they use is accessible for people with disabilities.

Increasingly, Americans use information technology to interact with their Government. They rely on thousands of Government Web pages to download forms, learn about Federal programs, find out where to turn for Government assistance, and communicate with elected officials, such as the President. And because of Section 508, Government Web sites will be more accessible for millions of Americans who have disabilities.

Section 508 will also make the Federal Government a better employer, as roughly 120,000 Federal employees with disabilities will have greater access to the tools they need to better perform their jobs. This is one example of the successful public-private partnerships that are removing barriers to full community participation by Americans with disabilities. I thank the leaders from the technology industry who are with us today for your innovation and your ongoing cooperation.

Full implementation of Section 508 is a key element of an agenda I announced a year ago and began implementing in February. It is called the New Freedom Initiative, and its goal is to prepare—is to help Americans with disabilities realize their potential and to achieve their dreams.

We've asked Congress to increase funding to bring assistive technologies to market more quickly, to help make them more affordable for the people who need them, and to speed research in developing new technologies. We have sought to make it easier for Americans with disabilities to enter the workforce by finding new ways to get people to their jobs or relying on new technologies to help people work from their home.

We recognize that small businesses and community groups like churches, synagogues, mosques, and civic organizations may have trouble finding the resources to fully comply with the ADA. So we've asked Congress to support efforts to help them make their facilities more accessible. And we understand that new policies will mean little if we don't fully enforce the ADA. So my administration is doing just that.

While these Federal efforts are crucial to guaranteeing full accessibility for Americans with disabilities, we must also help them connect with their local communities. So I've signed an Executive order requiring full implementation of the Supreme Court's 1999 *Olmstead* decision. *Olmstead* and the ADA rightly mandate that individuals with disabilities who can receive support and treatment in a community setting should be given a reasonable opportunity to live close to their families and friends when appropriate.

My Executive order directs key Federal agencies, like the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Justice and the Social Security Administration to work with States to implement the *Olmstead* decision and the ADA. It directs those Agencies to explore how we can increase community-based services for people with disabilities, and it directs Attorney General Ashcroft and Secretary Thompson to fully enforce Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and ensure that no one is unjustly institutionalized.

Secretary Thompson has also made seed money available to help every State develop a plan for implementing *Olmstead.* The Olmstead Executive order will increase freedom for people with disabilities. It is compassionate. It is needed. And it is now the Federal official policy of my administration. Americans must have the opportunity to live independently, work productively, and participate fully in community life.

Many Americans achieve this independence through homeownership; but too often, the high cost of therapeutic care and assistive equipment and technologies make the goal of homeownership unattainable for people with disabilities. That's why I'm optimistic about a pilot program led through the Congress by Representative Mark Green, and soon to be implemented by Secretary Mel Martinez at HUD, that will allow many people with disabilities to buy their own homes.

By making the Section 8, low income rental assistance program, more flexible, the Federal Government can make homeownership a reality for more Americans.

The new Section 8 HUD pilot program, the Olmstead Executive order, and the full implementation of Section 508 will help eliminate the barriers that many Americans with disabilities face. The proposals I sent to Congress will build on our society's commitment to welcome all Americans as friends and neighbors. When governments, business, and individuals work together to build a welcoming society, Americans of every ability will benefit.

Thank you for what you're doing here at the Department of Defense. Thank you for your compassion. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:19 a.m. in the auditorium at the Pentagon. In his remarks, he referred to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Dinah Cohen, director, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program.

Remarks at the Summit on the 21st Century Workforce

June 20, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you very much. Please be seated. Madam Secretary, thank you very much, and I appreciate so very much your service to the country. I made a good pick when I convinced Elaine to join my Cabinet; she's doing a terrific job. I think Rod Paige is here, too, the Secretary of Education. If he's not—he is here. Hey, Mr. Secretary. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Members of Congress, thank you all so very much for being here. I spend a lot of quality time with Members of Congress these days. [*Laughter*] I think we're making pretty good progress, and I appreciate you all for coming.

I want to thank the business and labor leaders who are here. And I want to thank you all for taking an interest in the American workforce.

As Elaine mentioned, I just came back from Europe and had a fascinating experience. It's such an honor to represent our great Nation around the world. We've spent a lot of time talking about industry and trade and commerce; after all, we trade over a trillion dollars a year between Europe and the United States. And I reminded people a solid truth, that the strength of our economy depends upon the people who go to work every day—that there is a lot of fiscal matters that we'll take up and monetary matters, but the truth of the matter is, the great strength of the American economy is our workforce, the hard men and women who work every single day to make a living. And that is your concern today, and I commend you all very much for giving this conference your time and your interest and your talent.

Our responsibilities are clear: We should try to make it easier for people to find good jobs by giving them the education and training they need to succeed; second, we should help them keep good jobs and encourage employers to do more for their workers; and third, we owe them a chance to build a nest egg that will help them maintain a high standard of living in their retirement years.

As you well know, a successful working life usually begins with a good education. This has always been true. But it's even more true as our economy changes. We live in a time of incredible opportunities to succeed, and every child growing up in America, regardless of background or accent, deserves an equal chance to take advantage of these opportunities. Five months after the day that I was inaugurated, I am pleased to say that we are nearing historic reforms in public education. This is a victory for every child and for every family in America.

Last week education reform passed the Senate by a vote of 91 to 8. When these reforms become law, schools will have more freedom from needless meddling by Washington. There will be fewer mandates and regulations for schools to meet, more freedom and more flexibility, as schools live up to high standards they will now be required to meet.

You see, I believe every child can learn. I believe we've got to start with the mindset that every child in America can learn. And we need to raise the bar and trust local people to meet the standards and—the high standards. Every public school, starting next

year, as well, will be held accountable for its performance.

It's not enough to promise and proclaim high standards. The American people expect results. Families and parents want results. And the law will soon require such results with testing every child for every grade, three-through-eight, in reading and math.

The critics say, "Why?" The answer is, because we want to know. And we want to know early, before it's too late. This business about passing children through grades because of age has got the end. This society must ask the question, "What do you know?"

I'm grateful for the hard work in Capitol Hill by both Republicans and Democrats on this measure. We've worked together from the start to what I hope is the finish soon. Congress needs to finish this work. The conference needs to come together. The House conferees and the Senate conferees need to meet, reconcile their differences, and get the bill to my desk before public education starts next fall. It's time to act, and it's time to act with meaningful, real reforms.

All of us recognize that education spending should be increased—I realize that; the Senate realizes that; the House recognizes that—but only where we're certain that the money will be well spent. Additional resources must be tied to demonstrated progress and results. As Congress writes the final bill, I trust that members of both parties will stay true to that principle. We must not repeat the mistakes of years past, confusing spending money with progress. We must keep the focus on reform and results. It's the least we owe the workforce of tomorrow, the very least—which is a good, sound education.

But at every turn, Federal policy must keep pace with changes of our workforce. This morning I took one step, with an Executive order formally establishing an Office of the 21st Century Workforce within the Department of Labor. This office will be charged with identifying new challenges and new opportunities for American workers.

My Executive order also creates a Presidential council to advise on labor issues and especially on those issues affecting the lives of workers and their families. Every working person is entitled to expect fair treatment from the employers they work for. Wherever possible, we should find ways to remove conflicts between home and work. For example, more workers should be able to take advantage of comp time. Federal workers already enjoy this privilege, and private sector employees deserve the same. Many hard-working people would prefer to be able to choose a few extra days at home instead of a few extra dollars on payday. We've got to trust the workers of America to make the decisions that's best for their families.

Until fairly recently, many Americans have never known paydays at all nor the other rewards that work brings. They have been denied jobs on account of a disability, and one of the great advances in our time is that persons with disabilities have been more welcomed in the workplace. But there's still more to do.

We must speed up the day when the last barrier has been removed to full and independent lives for every American, with or without disability. I've sent to Congress a set of proposals called the New Freedom Initiative. It's an important step to ensuring that all Americans with disabilities can participate more fully in the life of their communities and of our country. We'll help our fellow Americans gain greater access to assistive technology. We'll also help them gain access to public transportation and to the workplace, itself, in keeping with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I've also asked Congress to create a fund to help people with disabilities to buy the equipment they need to telecommute. We'll provide tax incentives to encourage employers to provide such equipment. And we'll protect home offices from needless OSHA regulations.

Tens of millions of Americans today work out of their homes. For most, it's a convenience; for workers with disabilities, it is a revolution. And we want as many Americans as possible to share in this revolution of independence.

An urgent issue for many workers today is quality health care. Like education reform, this issue is reaching an hour of decision, and before this year is out, I want to sign into law a Patients' Bill of Rights. And let me be specific again about the type of bill I'd like to sign. It must cover everyone, all patients

and all private health care plans. The standards should be strong enough to protect everyone, yet flexible enough to preserve the good work that has been done in many States. It must guarantee all patients important rights: the right to get emergency treatment at the nearest emergency room; the right to see a specialist when they need one; a woman should be able to visit her gynecologist, and parents, their children's pediatrician, without going through a gatekeeper.

In any bill that receives my signature, patients will have the right to a fair and immediate review when medical care is denied. If a health care plan denies care, you should be able to appeal immediately to an independent, impartial review panel of medical doctors. And if they say you need the care, your health care plan must provide it, period.

It's important for Americans to know, with that kind of strong, independent review process, most disagreements will not wind up in court. The law should allow the review process to work, not short-circuit it by inviting unnecessary lawsuits.

I believe that an HMO that wrongly denies coverage to a patient should be held liable in court. But we must keep our eye on the purpose. We want to give patients the care they need when they need it. The idea is to serve more patients, not to create more lawsuits in America. We can provide meaningful remedies to patients without driving up the cost of health care or forcing employers to drop coverage.

Measured against this criterion I've described, there are some good bills and some bad bills. And I want to thank Senators John Breaux, Democrat; Senator Bill Frist, Republican; Senator Jim Jeffords, independent—[*laughter*]—for working hard to come up with a reasonable solution to this very important problem.

Finally, the end of a working life should not be the beginning of worry and hardship. The tax reform package I signed into law 2 weeks ago will help in several ways. For starters, it leaves more money in every working person's pocket. We remembered whose money it was we're spending up here; it's the working people's money. And it gives workers the chance to put more of their own money into an IRA or a 401(k) plan.

The tax bill also eased the IRS limits on pension benefits that you're allowed to receive. We heard from many unions and employers about the need for these changes, and we listened. This will help our workers prepare for later years, sending less money to Washington and putting more money in their own savings accounts.

And I've also established a bipartisan commission to save and strengthen Social Security. With this help and with the support of Congress—we need to get beyond the years of delay and finger-pointing and quarreling about this incredibly important issue. The days of shifting blame must end in order to save this important system.

To those who are retired and near retired, a promise made will be a promise kept by this Government. But to the younger workers who wonder whether or not there is going to be a Social Security system around, you have an administration and a vehicle now that's willing to think differently, to trust you with your own money, to say it's your money to begin with, so that you can build your own nest egg that you can pass from one generation to the next. It's time.

One of the great virtues of the country is the value we place on hard work—it really makes America unique, in a different place—and the respect we have for those who work hard. Mine is an administration that understands the important resource of the men and women of America, the hard-working people who make this country grow. And ours is an administration that will always value hard work and trust the individual and understand the limitations of Government.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you. It is a huge honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it's a huge honor to be the President of a nation full of decent, hard-working, caring, and compassionate people. I thank you for the privilege. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the MCI Center. In his remarks, he referred to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Executive Order 13218—21st Century Workforce Initiative

June 20, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to promote the study and the development of strategies to address the needs of the 21st century workforce, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of the Office of the 21st Century Workforce.* (a) The Secretary of Labor is hereby directed to establish within the Department of Labor the Office of the 21st Century Workforce. The Office shall provide a focal point for the identification and study of issues relating to the workforce of the United States and the development of strategies for effectively addressing such issues.

(b) The Office of the 21st Century Workforce shall gather and disseminate information relating to workforce issues by conducting summits, conferences, field hearings, meetings, and other appropriate forums designed to encourage the participation of organizations and individuals interested in such issues, including business and labor organizations, academicians, employers, employees, and public officials at the local, State, and Federal levels.

(c) Among the issues to be addressed by the Office of the 21st Century Workforce shall be the identification of the ways in which the Department of Labor may streamline and update the information and services made available to the workforce by the Department; eliminate duplicative or overlapping rules and regulations; and eliminate statutory and regulatory barriers to assisting the workforce in successfully adapting to the challenges of the 21st century.

Sec. 2. *Establishment of the Council on the 21st Century Workforce.*

(a) *Establishment and Composition of the Council.*

(i) There is hereby established the "President's Council on the 21st Century Workforce" (Council).

(ii) The Council shall be composed of not more than 13 members who shall be appointed by the President. The membership shall include individuals who represent the views of business and labor organizations, Federal, State, and local governments, academicians and educators, and such other associations and entities as the President determines are appropriate. In addition, the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall serve as ex officio members representing the views of the Federal Government. The Secretary of Labor shall be the Chairperson of the Council.

(b) *Functions of the Council.* The Council shall provide information and advice to the President through the Secretary of Labor, the Office of the 21st Century Workforce within the Department of Labor, and other appropriate Federal officials relating to issues affecting the 21st century workforce. These activities shall include:

(i) assessing the effects of rapid technological changes, demographic trends, globalization, changes in work processes, and the need for new and enhanced skills for workers, employers, and other related sectors of society;

(ii) examining current and alternative approaches to assisting workers and employers in adjusting to and benefitting from such changes, including opportunities for workplace education, retraining, access to assistive technologies and workplace supports, and skills upgrading;

(iii) identifying impediments to the adjustment to such changes by workers and employers and recommending approaches and policies that could remove those impediments;

(iv) assisting the Office of the 21st Century Workforce in reviewing programs carried out by the Department of Labor and identifying changes to such programs that would stream line and update their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the workforce; and

(v) analyzing such additional issues relating to the workforce and making such reports as the President or the Secretary of Labor may request.

(c) *Administration of the Council.*

(i) The Council shall meet on the call of the Chairperson, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson. The Chairperson may form subcommittees or working groups within the Council to address particular matters.

(ii) The Council may from time to time prescribe such procedures and policies relating to the activities of the Council as are not inconsistent with law or with the provisions of this order.

(iii) Each member of the Council who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Federal service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(iv) The Department of Labor shall make available appropriate funding and administrative support to assist the Council in carrying out the functions under this section, including necessary office space, equipment, supplies, staff, and services. The Secretary of Labor shall perform the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, with respect to the Council in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(v) The heads of executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Council with such information as it may require for purposes of carrying out the functions described in this section.

(d) *Termination of the Council.* The Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order unless extended by the President prior to such date.

Sec. 3. *Effect on Prior Orders.*

(a) *Amendments to Executive Order 13111 of January 12, 1999.* In order to ensure the coordination and nonduplication of advice and information regarding 21st century workforce issues, section 6 of Executive Order 13111, relating to the functions of the Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. *Functions of the Advisory Committee.* The Committee shall provide the President, through the Secretary of Labor (who shall ensure the coordination of the activities of the Committee with the activities undertaken pursuant to sections 1 and 2 of the Executive Order on the 21st Century Workforce Initiative), an independent assessment of:

(1) progress made by the Federal Government in its use and integration of technology in adult training programs, particularly in addressing the problems of adult illiteracy;

(2) how Federal Government programs, initiatives, and policies can encourage or accelerate training technology to provide more accessible, more timely, and more cost-effective training opportunities for all Americans;

(3) mechanisms for the Federal Government to widely deploy and utilize technology-mediated instruction so all Americans may take advantage of opportunities provided by learning technology;

(4) the appropriate Federal Government role in research and development for learning technologies and their applications in order to develop high-quality training and education opportunities for all Americans; and

(5) such other issues regarding emerging technologies in government training as specified by the Secretary of Labor."

(b) *Revocation of Executive Order 13174.* Executive Order 13174 of October 27, 2000, relating to the establishment of the Commission on Workers, Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 22.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Representative-Elect J. Randy Forbes

June 20, 2001

The President. It is my honor to welcome the newest Member of the United States Congress to the Oval Office. Randy Forbes ran a great race. He won a race a lot of folks didn't think he could win. And he did it because he talked about issues that mattered to the people of Virginia: tax relief, Social Security reform, strong national defense.

We all knew he was a good candidate. We didn't realize how good until the results came in last night. So it's an honor for the Vice President and me, the chairman of the party, Congressman Davis, to welcome you both to the Oval Office and congratulate you and look forward to working with you.

Representative Forbes. Well, thank you, Mr. President. And it's an exciting victory for us, and we couldn't have done it without the help from you, Mr. President, and the Vice President, and also the great chairman of our party and chairman of the congressional committee. They all just put so many resources together and made this victory possible.

The President. Congratulations.

Representative Forbes. Thank you.

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, chairman, Republican National Committee.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Easter Seals Representatives and an Exchange With Reporters

June 20, 2001

The President. It's an honor for me to welcome the representatives from the Easter Seals here, two courageous Americans who are compassionate to give back to their country, and it's an honor to have you all in the Oval Office.

Thanks for coming.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Have you talked to Arafat yet?

The President. I talked to Chairman Arafat today.

Q. What can you tell us about that conversation?

The President. I told him—I talked to him about—I talked to Prime Minister Sharon, Mubarak, as well as Mr. Arafat. And I said we're making some progress and that they all must continue to work toward breaking the cycle of violence.

I do feel like it's the appropriate time for Colin Powell to go to the Mideast—and he's headed there next week—and that the parties must continue to work in an all-out effort to bring peace. And people can find excuses or rationale not to continue to work to break the cycle of violence. I urged them just to not think that way, to believe in the possible. And we're making enough progress for me to feel comfortable about asking the Secretary of State to go.

We have another mission from our Government to remain involved in the process. We look forward to the implementation of Mitchell. But it's hard—we cannot start Mitchell, the Mitchell plan, until the cycle of violence has been crushed and broken. And we believe we are making enough progress with that to send the Secretary of State.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Business Roundtable

June 20, 2001

Thank you very much. Well, welcome to the White House. [*Laughter*] The Vice President and I are honored to be with you today. As I understand it, I'm to speak; the Vice President is to speak; Colin Powell is to speak; and Zoellick is to speak. And so I thank you all for your interest.

Since I'm not going to be here to introduce the Vice President, Dick Cheney is a fabulous partner. Many of you know him; he brings a lot of good judgment and a steady hand. And my administration is going to be successful because of the players in it, and he's going to be one of the key players. And I'm really honored that he's here and honored that he's the Vice President.

Zoellick is doing a pretty good job, too. [*Laughter*] I know because I got to see him in action in Europe. I had an interesting experience in Europe. First of all, it's a huge honor to represent America overseas. And it was an important trip because it gave me a chance to reinforce my administration's commitment to the European alliances—to NATO, to the expansion of NATO, to working with the European Union, and the expansion of the European Union.

There were some doubts in Europe as to whether or not ours would be a nation that would be internationalists with an American flavor, and they found out that we are. And I come home feeling upbeat about the relationships that I made and about the messages I was able to deliver.

And secondly, I had a very good visit with Mr. Putin. I wasn't sure what to make of the man. I always was withholding judgment until I had a chance to meet him. But I found him to be a forward-thinking person and someone with whom our Nation should and will work to bring security to that part of the world and to bring prosperity, hopefully through trade, to the Russian people.

One of the things he asked is that I assemble a delegation, headed by somebody close to me. So I picked Don Evans, who is not only my close friend but Secretary of Commerce, to travel to Russia with some entrepreneurs and some American business people. And we will do that this summer. I believe he's interested in having a good relationship, and I know I am. And that's a pretty good start.

But one of the things that—I got to see Bob Zoellick in action on was our discussions about trade with the Europeans. I was able to make a firm commitment to our European partners that we want trade. We want open markets. We want to do everything in our power to make trade easier, not harder. I also reminded them that it's important for our economy to grow. If you want to trade with the United States, it's important to have a trading partner whose economy is vital and strong, where capital is flowing freely.

That's why I assured them that we were on the right track when it came to balancing our environmental needs and economic growth and assured them that we share the same goal of reducing CO_2, but we will do so in a way that doesn't damage our economy, that we believe that you can have economic vitality and good stewardship of our resources.

And we also—I reminded them that one of the things our Nation needed to do was to develop a sound energy plan. It comes as a surprise to some that ours is the first administration who's willing to develop an energy plan and not only willing to develop one but to defend it, an energy plan that Dick will describe in detail, that's based upon sound conservation, more supply, and the ability to get supply to consumers.

We had a great discussion, and what I'd like to do before I talk about asking your help on a key legislative matter when it comes to trade, is I'd like to thank you first for helping on tax relief. Our economy is sputtering. Many of you know that firsthand. And I believe that the best we can do in Government, at least in our part of Government, is to provide fiscal stimulus.

And the package that we have done is a good package. It's one that will not only put money in the hands of American consumers; it is one also that brings some certainty into the Tax Code. In other words, it's certain that tax relief is going to happen, and hopefully, that will stimulate confidence in the entrepreneurial sector.

Secondly, a lot of folks don't understand this, but there's a lot of small businesses that will benefit from the reduction of all rates, not just a few but all rates. Many of the small-business owners and the entrepreneurs in our respective States pay tax rates at the personal level, not the corporate level. They're sole proprietors; they're mom-and-pops that pay personal income taxes. And when you drop that top rate like we did, it's going to stimulate economic growth and the flow of capital throughout our economy, which is

going to be important to recovery. And so I want to thank you for the tax relief package. It was necessary. It was important. And it was timely.

And secondly, I want to thank you for your help on an education plan. It passed the House. The bill passed the Senate 91 to 8, and it's now headed to conference. And I hope that the leadership will move that bill to get it to my desk so that public school districts can plan for the reforms inherent in the package. It's important to get that bill signed as soon as possible so that these school districts that are beginning to wonder what Federal dollars mean in the coming school year will have time to plan. They don't need to play politics with the school bill. This bill rises above partisan politics. It's important to get it going.

The inherent reforms in the bill are these. One, we set high standards and high expectations. It's—the philosophy is fairly simple. It says, every child can learn. Secondly, we believe in local control of schools. We spend Federal money without a lot of strings. There's a lot more flexibility now at the local level.

It recognizes—this bill recognizes that one size does not fit all when it comes to educating children. The issues in Texas, in south Texas, are different from the issues in Vermont or Connecticut. And the issues in south Texas are different from the issues in north Texas. There needs to be flexibility when it comes to developing the tactics necessary to make sure every child learns.

But the cornerstone of reform in this bill says this: It says, if you receive Federal money, you must measure. This is a major overhaul of the education philosophy. It says, in return for Federal help, you, the school districts, and the States must develop strong accountability measures so that we know—we know—whether children are learning. It's a paradigm shift—to use a fancy word.

All of a sudden, we're beginning to ask the question, "Do you know what you're supposed to know?" At present or in the recent past, a question was asked, "How old are you? Well, if you're six, we'll just move you here, and if you're 10, you're supposed to be here, and if you're 14, you're here." It was a process-driven world that shuffled many kids through our system without asking the question, "What do you know?" And without saying, "If you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do early, before it's too late." This is a great piece of legislation, and many of you helped work on it, and I want to thank you for that very much.

I gave a speech at Notre Dame, where I talked about the next step of welfare reform. I said that—I began with Lyndon Johnson's speech at the University of Texas in the midsixties, where he declared a War on Poverty. I then said that there was some unintended consequences of that War on Poverty. Many people became dependent upon Government. While it helped some and there are some fine programs that came out of it, many folks became dependent upon Government, and many in our society became dependent on Government to provide compassion. In other words, people looked and said, "Well, don't worry. The Federal Government will solve the woes of our citizenry. We don't have to do anything as citizens."

I then said that the reforms signed by President Clinton and passed by a Republican Senate and House on welfare reform address one-half of the equation. It reduced dependency upon Government. It's now time to address the compassionate side of effective welfare reform.

And one of the statistics I noted in my speech was how abysmal corporate giving is to religious organizations whose sole intent is to help people, people who have heard the call, "What can I do to help a neighbor in need?"—people who live by the golden rule. And yet there are many charters of corporate America that refuse—or not refuse, just can't give and don't want to give—to organizations whose intent it is to exist in neighborhood after neighborhood to solve people's lives by helping their souls. And one of my calls to corporate America is, please address the issue of funding faith-based and community-based groups, whose soul purpose it is to make somebody's life better.

One of the big initiatives I'm confident we're going to get through the Congress is one that says, we understand there are thousands of children who could easily be left behind in America, particularly those whose

parents may be in prison or a parent is in prison. And what I want to do—and we put money in the budget—is I want mentoring programs all across the country to address, specifically, the needs of these children. I want there to be some citizen who puts his arm around a child and says, "Somebody loves you here in America. Somebody cares for you. Somebody feels your hurt and your pain." And you all can help those programs, and I urge you to do so.

Many of you give to great causes, but please don't forget the faith-based organizations that exist for the sole purpose of loving a neighbor, just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And I want to ask your help, too, on trade. I don't think Americans—some Americans—really understand the benefit of trade, fully understand that trade helps people who want to find work, that open trade is vital to—for economic growth. It's essential that we send the message out that trade is good for the working men and women of America.

I've seen it in my own State. Texas is a great beneficiary of NAFTA, and so is Mexico, which is the most fantastic news of all. We want our partners to succeed. If Mexico is our friend, which I believe she is, we want Mexico to be prosperous. We also want Mexico to be prosperous because we want our people to be able to find work at home.

People are coming to America because they want to feed their families. Family values does not stop at the Rio Bravo, and America has got to understand that. But America has also got to understand the hope of free trade, not only with Mexico and Canada but in our hemisphere. And that's why we're—that's why the first meeting I had was the Summit of the Americas, to talk about the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

My belief is that when you have a secure neighborhood and a prosperous neighborhood, America is better off. And so the first summit I had with foreign leaders with—34 democratically elected leaders showed up in Quebec City, and the cornerstone of those discussions was open markets and free trade.

We're going to have another global—another round of global trade talks that Ambassador Zoellick is leading from my administration. And we urge the European Union to cooperate with us to begin those talks. But in order for me to be effective on trade, I need trade promotion authority. I need the ability to speak with a single voice for our country. I need to have the capacity as an administration to negotiate free trade agreements without the fear of them being undermined. Otherwise, our trading partners are going to be confused and concerned about an honest and open dialog.

And yet, the President doesn't have trade promotion authority. And so I'm asking you to help; join us; get this bill passed through the Congress. And we should not let legitimate environmental labor concerns undermine the capacity for the President to make good free trade agreements.

I explained to the critics in Congress: There are some who are legitimately concerned about the environment and labor. But I remind them that if you believe in trade, you believe that prosperity will spread; if you believe in trading with a country, it will help that country grow economically. And a country that is more prosperous is one more likely to be able to take care of their environment, and one more prosperous is one more likely to take care of their workforce. And if you believe in improving the environment and helping the labor conditions in countries, don't wall off those countries. Don't create—don't enhance poverty by refusing to allow there to be trade.

Now, there are some who want to put codicils on the trade protection authority for one reason: They don't like free trade. They're protectionists, and they're isolationists. And we must reject that kind of thought here in America. Free trade is good for America. It's good for our trading partners. It will help alleviate poverty. And as importantly, it will help democracy spread her wings. Because when you introduce the disciplines and freedoms of a free market and an open market, it's amazing what happens in totalitarian countries. They taste freedom in the economy, and they begin to ask for freedom with religion and freedom with speech and freedom to express themselves in the ballot box.

Now, our Nation is better off as a free trading country, and I am here to ask for your help. It's important. It's a priority of my administration, and we're going to dedicate the

time and energy and effort to see if we can't get a good bill through the United States Congress.

You might be able to tell, I'm kind of enthusiastic about my work. [*Laughter*] You would be, too, if you got to see what I see. See, I get to see an America from a different perspective. I get to see an America that is—loves her Government; sometimes they like the President. [*Laughter*] But they care about the country. This is a fantastic land. It is a land of decent and caring and honorable citizens who really want the best for their families and for their neighbors and for their country.

It is a huge honor to be the President of this great land. We've got some great causes ahead of us: peace and prosperity. But there is the mission also of lifting this country's spirit. And I'm dedicated to doing that. I want to call upon the best of America and American citizens. And I'm enthusiastic about that calling, because I truly believe it will leave this land a better place.

Thank you all for being here, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

June 20, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1 through May 31, 2001. The previous submission covered events during the period February 1 through March 31, 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 21.

Remarks at Oak Mountain State Park in Birmingham, Alabama

June 21, 2001

Thank you all very much. Please, be seated. Senator, thank you very much. It's an honor to be traveling back to Alabama today with Jeff Sessions. I'm going to spend a little time this evening touting his cause. But I will tell you, he's been a loyal friend, a strong supporter of Alabama, and a great United States Senator.

It's an honor to be with members of the Alabama congressional delegation here. We've got six of them that flew down today. These men are honest, decent, hard-working people—had five Republicans, one Democrat, all who worked together for doing what's right for Alabama. And I appreciate so very much these fine gentlemen for traveling with me today, and I'm proud to call you friends.

It's an honor to be here with the Lieutenant Governor and the attorney general of the State of Alabama. I want to thank Don Cooley and Jimmy Shivers for giving me a brief tour of this important part of the world. I want to thank the YMCA and the counselors at the YMCA and the young men and women who are teaching children right from wrong, teaching children that in life, somebody does care for them. No better spot to be learning compassion and love than in the outdoors, and it's an honor to be here.

It's good to see my friend Ray Scott. Make sure you behave yourself, Ray. [*Laughter*] I've been knowing him a long time, and I appreciate the members of the bass clubs from around Alabama for being here to work with the kids, to teach them how to fish, and to teach them to appreciate the wonders of nature.

I'm impressed by the fact that 600,000 people come to this park every year. It means it's just not a park for the few; it's a park for the many. And people come here for all

kinds of reasons. They come here to hike. They come here to spend some time with their families. They come here to fish. I wish I was coming here to fish a little more often, Ray. [*Laughter*]

This is a State park, maintained almost entirely by State money, operated by the people who are closest to the people, who understand the local wishes and the local needs. And you seem to be doing a pretty darn good job. It's a beautiful spot.

Thirty-six years ago the Federal Government undertook to assist parks just like this one. Congress created a program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Half the money was supposed to be paid to the States, to conserve and maintain their natural resources. Oak Mountain received some of that money in 1983—some of the money in 1983.

But for a long period of time, the Federal Government has been falling short on its commitment to this fund, and many States have been denied money that was promised the citizens. And that's not fair, and under the budget I have submitted to the United States Congress, that practice will stop.

In outlining my budget priorities this year, I proposed fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund; $900 million will fully fund the fund. It's the highest request in the fund's history, and half of the money will go to the States, just like the authors of the law intended.

And why is that important? Why is that important? Well, one, it's a high environmental priority for me. Two, I don't believe all knowledge and wisdom resides in Washington, DC. I believe the good people of Alabama care a lot about the resources in Alabama. I know the fishermen care about clean water. I know the people who hike the trails want to have good hiking trails. I know people who picnic in the park want clean parks. And so that's why, under my vision, the amount of money that Alabama will receive to help in conservation programs would increase by 387 percent. It makes sense. It's good public policy.

I believe Federal money is most useful when it comes without strings, when it comes without dictates. And so I believe we need to give States new flexibility on how to manage their conservation and resources. You could use the money to buy parkland; you can use it to protect endangered species; you can use it to try to get rid of the hydrilla that clog some of our lakes.

You could have a generation of environmental programs working with landowners to protect wildlife or to protect endangered species. You know, it's interesting, the money it costs to buy a single acre of parkland, a State could encourage environmental protection over many, many acres of land by working with private property owners. There is a lot States can do with the money. And it's important for the Federal Government to understand that.

I believe trusting local people to make local decisions is the right public policy. And that's what this plan does, and that's what we do with other areas in the Federal Government, as well. One of the key components of tax relief—and I'm proud of the fact that all members of the congressional delegation and two United States Senators are all members of the congressional delegation here present; and the two United States Senators—supported tax relief. Do you know why it's important? Because it trusts people with their own money. It says that we trust the people.

As you can see, I've asked for funding an important priority, the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But another important priority was to say we trust the people of Alabama and Texas and States all across the country to spend the money as they see fit. And so for the first time in a generation, we've got historic, across-the-board tax relief, because we understand how hard the people of Alabama and the people of America are working and because we trust the people to make the right decisions for their families, the right decisions on what to do with money.

The Federal Government has set budget priorities. But with money left over, we trust the people, and it's the right thing to do. And I'm honored that you guys voted with me on this tax bill, and so will the people of Alabama.

And we're making progress in education, too. I believe we can get a good education bill finally out of the Congress. It passed the House, and it passed the Senate, and now

they're going to work out their differences. And they're going to put a bill up on my desk soon, I hope, which will be historic reform. The cornerstone of the bill says we're setting high standards, but we have more flexibility for local folks. One size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children in America.

We have as a cornerstone accountability. We say, "If you receive Federal money, show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract." Instead of a system that says, "Oh, how old are you? If you're 10, we'll put you here, and if you're 12, we'll put you here." We're beginning to change the way of thinking, so we ask the question, "Before we put you anywhere, we want to know what you know. And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll correct it early, before it's too late."

This is a good piece of legislation. I can't wait to sign it, and I hope the members of the conference committee do not hold it up for political reasons. They need to get it to my desk so that the public schools in Alabama and all across the country can start planning for their fall year.

I believe it's so important for us to set priorities at the Federal level, and I have set priorities. Education is a priority. Improving the military is a priority of mine. One of the priorities in our budget is to make sure the folks who wear the uniform get paid better, and I believe Congress will enact that, that folks get housed better, and we're making good progress of housing our troops, although we've got a lot of work to do.

It's also important to have a Commander in Chief who sets a clear mission for the military, and that's to be prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

So today I've discussed some priorities of mine. And thankfully we worked together, both Members of the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to support a budget that has $661 billion of what they call discretionary spending.

I understand the pressures in Congress. It's one thing to set a budget, but then people start spending. And my call to the Congress is: Stick to the budget. My call to the Congress is: We worked hard to get a good budget, and it's important for people not to overspend that budget.

I talked to Sonny Callahan of the great State of Alabama about that subject, and he understands. He's got a tough job. He hears all kinds of requests on the Appropriations Committee. He's one of the leaders on the Appropriations Committee. But Sonny and the other Members came in the office the other day and said, "Mr. President, we're going to work to stick to the budget." That's what we told the people we would do, and that's what I expect Congress to do. And if they try to bust the budget, there's a remedy. If they get over the budget, there's a simple remedy, and that's to put the veto pen on it and send it back to the Congress until we get the budget right.

We're also making progress in changing the tone in Washington. And I think that's really important. I think it's important for folks, no matter what your political party is—Republican, Democrat, none of the above—to look at Washington and be proud of what you see.

I think it's incredibly important for those of us in positions of responsibility to conduct our debates in a way that elevates politics, that elevates public service, that sends a clear signal to the people of America that serving your country is a noble calling. And we are making some progress.

Oh, occasionally there is a shrill voice out there or two. Sometimes they say things about the President that my mother doesn't like to read about. [*Laughter*] But it takes a lot of work. You can't change a culture overnight.

But I am here to report to the good people of Alabama, we are making progress. The rhetoric is slowly but surely changing. The debates are becoming more honest. The philosophical differences are less bitter. And I believe we're getting a spirit of accomplishment in Washington, DC, that slowly but surely, people are beginning to realize we need to be judged upon the results, not upon what we say on TV, that we're a results-oriented country, and it's important for us to be judged based upon results. And slowly but surely, people are beginning to realize that they have a President who set a pretty clear

and simple agenda, profound agenda and is willing to share results and credit for results when they happen.

I am proud that this Democrat Member from Alabama voted for tax relief. He deserves just as much credit as the two men sitting next to him as a Republican. You see, party is important. But it's not nearly as important as doing what's right for the American people. It's not nearly as important as setting the right example for the children of America, as well.

Well, things are getting pretty good up there in Washington, and I'm honored to be your President. I tell you, one of the things I was sharing with the Members here coming down that I'm so proud of, and it happened here again, and it's going to happen all across the country every time I travel, is, one, the number of people who come out just to wave. People of the country respect the Presidency. Sometimes they like the President, but they respect the Presidency, and for that I am grateful. It reminds me of the huge responsibility I have, a responsibility that I'll take seriously and a responsibility that I hold dear to my heart, and that is to call upon the best of America.

And this is an appropriate setting for me to speak briefly about that. The best of America happens when some neighbor says, "What can I do to help a neighbor in need?" The best in America happens when people hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. The best of America occurs when people walk up and say, "Mr. President, I'm praying for you." The best of this country happens when decent citizens work hard to make their neighborhoods and communities a better place for every citizen, regardless of accent, background, religion, or color.

And the good news about being the President is that I am fortunate enough to be the President of a country full of people just like that, full of the best of the country.

So it's my honor to talk about kind of what's going on in the Nation's Capital, a little bit about the budget, talk about some of our successes, to outline a very important conservation and environmental policy that will make a huge difference all across the country.

But also it's my opportunity to thank the good people of Alabama for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Steve Windom, Attorney General Bill Pryor, and Director of Parks Don Cooley of Alabama; James Shivers, superintendent, Oak Mountain State Park; and Ray Scott, founder, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

Statement on the Announcement of Criminal Indictments for the Khobar Towers Bombing

June 21, 2001

On June 25, 1996, a massive truck bomb exploded outside the Khobar Towers apartment complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 American servicemen and injuring 372 other Americans and Saudis. For the last 5 years, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have conducted an intensive investigation of this deplorable act of terrorism.

Today the Department of Justice announced criminal indictments of 14 people, 13 Saudis and one Lebanese, for conspiring and carrying out the bombing of Khobar Towers. The Department's investigation into this matter will continue and additional charges are possible.

I applaud the work of the Department of Justice and the FBI who have spent countless hours pursuing this case. And I want to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their assistance in this investigation. Finally, and most important, to the families of those who were killed and to those who were injured, I want to extend my personal sympathy and to assure you that your Government will not forget your loss and will continue working, based on the evidence, to make sure that justice is done.

Videotaped Remarks in a Tribute to Tommy G. Thompson

June 21, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. I'm honored to join so many good friends. And I'm pleased to help pay tribute to a great Governor, a great Cabinet Secretary, and a good man, my friend Tommy Thompson.

Tonight we salute Tommy Thompson for his 14 years as Wisconsin's Governor. For almost a decade and a half, Tommy was a pioneer. From school choice to health care, Tommy was always on the cutting edge, looking for new ideas even while holding to timeless principles.

Perhaps his greatest legacies were in changing the way the government treats the poor and empowering thousands of people by replacing their welfare checks with paychecks. Not long ago, welfare reform was just a dream. Today, thanks in large part to Tommy Thompson, welfare reform is the law.

Tommy Thompson is one of the finest public servants in America. His commitment is matched by his courage, and his diligence is equaled by his devotion. These days, Tommy is bringing his commonsense leadership and results-oriented approach to the Department of Health and Human Services. He is leading the way as our administration works to promote the health and welfare of all Americans through greater research, new technologies, and sound science. I'm honored to have this good man as a part of my team.

So Tommy, thanks for who you are and what you do. You have made a difference in the lives of so many people in Wisconsin, just as you are now making a difference in the lives of so many Americans.

Thank you very much, and God bless.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 4:30 p.m. on June 19 in the Library at the White House for a tribute to Tommy Thompson at the Metropolitan Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce in Milwaukee, WI, on June 21. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 21. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senator Jeff Sessions in Birmingham

June 21, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you, all. Be seated. Jeff said, "Why don't you come over to Birmingham and have dinner with a couple of my buddies." [*Laughter*] I said, "Okay." I'm glad I came. Thank you for that warm welcome, and thank you for giving me the chance to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

First, I'm here to urge the people of Alabama to send this good man, Jeff Sessions, back to the United States Senate. He's doing a great job. He's a solid citizen who brings integrity to the office. Plus, he's got a friend in the White House. [*Laughter*] He married well, too. [*Laughter*] It's good to be here with Mary.

I'm so sorry that my wife isn't here. I can't tell you how proud I am of Laura. She's made a big difference already in the White House. She has trained one small puppy. [*Laughter*] She keeps her husband in line. And she brings a lot of class to the Office of the First Lady, and I'm proud of her.

After I speak, I'm heading to our ranch in central Texas, where I will spend some quality time with Laura. And frankly, I'm honored to be here. I'm looking forward to sharing some wisdom—but I can't wait to get back home. [*Laughter*] Washington, DC, is a great place to work, but Texas is a great place to relax.

I'm honored to be here, as well, with the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alabama, Steve Windom; the attorney general, Bill Pryor. I'm so pleased that my friend Bill Cabaniss is here. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who have traveled here with me today: the Congressman from this district, Spencer Bachus; Robert Aderholt; Terry Everett; Congressman Bob Riley; and Sonny Callahan. This is a fine delegation from Alabama who are conservative and compassionate, and I'm proud to call them friends, and you ought to be proud to call them Members of the United States Congress.

I want to thank—I don't know if Red Blount is here or not, but I spent a little time in Alabama in 1972 working for Red Blount's

senatorial campaign. It's a pretty good lesson of Alabama politics. But I've made a lot of friends in this State from those days, friends that I'll never forget. And I thank you for your friendship, and I thank you for giving me a pretty good lesson on southern politics. It paid off in the year 2000. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Mary Connors—Marty Connors, the chairman of the party, Edgar Welden and Bettye Fine Collins for their leadership for the Republican effort. Thank you all very much.

One reason I'm so nice to the Alabama delegation is because they've been steady in their votes for reform. We're making some pretty good progress in Washington, DC, about defusing the old way of doing business. The old way was, you didn't worry about results; you just worried about how loud you yelled at somebody or how you pointed your finger.

I came up to the Nation's Capital intent upon changing the tone in Washington, DC, of setting an agenda that's positive and hopeful for every American, and to working with Congress to get things done. And I'm proud to report, we are getting things done on behalf of the American people.

I was honored the other day to sign the first broad tax relief in a generation. And I want to thank the members of the Alabama congressional delegation and the two United States Senators for voting with us, to say that the American people ought to be trusted with their own money.

This was an important issue for America, because it set the stage for a new way of thinking about the budget. It said that we can meet our obligations by growing the budget at a reasonable rate. But it also recognized that the surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money, and we ought to trust the people with their own money. So we cut rates on everybody who pays taxes.

The old way in Washington was to have what they call targeted tax cuts. That meant that folks in Washington, DC, got to say, this side of the room got tax relief, and this side didn't. But we didn't think that was fair, and we didn't think that was right. We felt that if you're going to give tax relief, everybody who paid taxes ought to get tax relief. So we reduced the rates on every taxpayer in the United States of America, and we're going to start sending out checks this July to the taxpayers of America.

We also recognize that the marriage penalty sent the wrong signals, and we mitigated the marriage penalty. And we also understood that the death tax was onerous on small businesses and ranchers and farmers in Alabama and all across the State—all across the country—so we eliminated the death tax.

And this tax relief came at the right time. Our economy is kind of sputtering a little bit. And it's important to send money back to the people so they can spend it and they can invest it to make sure our economy gets second wind. No, I was proud to do something that President John Kennedy was able to do and President Ronald Reagan was able to do, and that's to listen to the American people and to sign broad, meaningful, real tax relief. And I want to thank you, Jeff, for your support.

We're also making progress on an incredibly important issue, and that's education. I believe in short order I'm going to have the opportunity to sign one of the most far-reaching education reform bills in our Nation's history. The bill passed the House; it passed the Senate 91 to 8. It's now going to conference. And I urge the conferees not to play politics with public education in America. Get that bill out and get it to my desk so I can sign it, so that the public schools all across America can plan for next fall when they open their doors for America's children.

The education bill is important because it embodies certain principles. One principle is that it's important to set high standards, to believe that every child, regardless of background, birth, or accent can learn in America.

Secondly, it says that we must trust local people to run the schools all across America. One size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children in America.

And thirdly, it says that if you receive Federal help—you, the State of Alabama or the State of Texas or any other State or jurisdiction must measure in return for Federal dollars—you must measure so that we as a society know whether children are being left behind.

The old, tired way of public education used to ask the question, "How old are you? And if you're 10, we'll put you in this grade, and if you're 12, we'll put you here, and if you're 14, you go there." And guess what happened? Children would simply get shuffled through the system. Children would get moved on, regardless if they knew what they were supposed to know. And that's fundamentally wrong in America. And that's not right. And when I sign that bill, we're going to start asking this question, "What do you know? And if you do not know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do early, before it's too late." There are no second-rate children in America, and there are no second-rate dreams.

Dick Cheney and I—and, by the way, the Vice President is doing a fabulous job. We said we would boost the morale of the United States military. It started with treating people better who wear the uniform. That means better pay and better housing, and the budget I submitted does just that. But it also means having a Commander in Chief who sets a clear mission for the military. The mission of the military is to be prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place. Our military must be properly trained and ready to go so that the Commander in Chief, if he needs to call upon them, can do to keep the peace. Things are getting better in the military, and throughout my tenure in Washington, we will rebuild the military so that we are more likely to keep the peace.

But it also requires thinking differently as we head into the 21st century. The old way of thinking about military strategy must be addressed. Our troops need to be lighter, harder to find, more lethal when they act. And we must be prepared to deal with the true threats of the 21st century.

I had the honor of meeting with the President of Russia in Slovenia last weekend. I told him, I said, "It's time for new leadership to cast aside the old way of thinking about Russia and America." I told him, I said, "Russia is no longer our Nation's enemy. And therefore, we should not allow a treaty, signed when Russia and America were the enemy, to determine how our two nations can best come together to keep the peace."

The ABM Treaty codified a day when we were hostile to each other. It's time to come together and to think about a new security arrangement that addresses the threats of the 21st century. And the threats of the 21st century will be terrorist in nature, terror when it comes to weaponry. What we must do—freedom-loving people must be willing to think differently and develop antiballistic missile systems that will say to rogue nations and leaders who cannot stand America, or what we stand for: You will not blackmail us, nor will you blackmail our allies. It's time for new leadership when it comes to how the military thinks about keeping the peace.

Earlier this year, I put together a Commission to think differently about how our retirement systems must work. I'm deeply concerned about Social Security. I'm not concerned about those who receive Social Security today or those who are near retirement, because the Congress and the White House has taken the sacred pledge that we will not touch the Social Security, that Social Security will be spent on only one thing, Social Security.

But I'm concerned about younger workers. I worry that the Social Security System will not fulfill the promise of people who are coming up in our society. This issue requires new thinking, a new way of looking at the problem. I put together a Commission of both Republicans and Democrats charged with making sure there's a Social Security system in the future.

And a key component of that thinking says that we, as a nation, must trust younger workers to manage their own money, if they so choose, in the private markets, to take advantage of the compounding rate of return, to make sure that not only is there a Social Security system available, that workers from all walks of life have got an asset that they can call their own to pass from one generation to the next. Ownership of assets is an incredible part of holding out hope and promise for the American Dream for every citizen. It's time to think differently in Washington, DC, about the crucial issues.

Just before we came, I had the honor of meeting many religious leaders from around the State of Alabama. I did so because I wanted to share my vision of how best to

make sure the welfare system fulfills its promise. At Notre Dame a while ago, I gave a speech that talked about how our Nation can be a more compassionate country. I talked about the fact that Lyndon Johnson, at the University of Texas, gave a speech that declared a war on poverty. I mentioned the fact that that war, noble in effort, created some consequences that our society has had to deal with. On the one hand, the welfare system that he envisioned created dependency upon Government, and on the other hand, the welfare system that he envisioned created a Government that crowded out people's aspirations to help a neighbor. People across America said, "Why should I be a compassionate neighbor? The Federal Government will solve the problem. Why should I care? The Government will take care." And what we ended up with is dependency upon Government on the one hand and complacency on the other.

In that speech, I said in 1996 the United States Congress in a bipartisan fashion passed a bill signed by my predecessor that addressed one-half of the equation. The bill and the law reduced dependency upon Government. It said that you must work, and as a result, thousands of people are now gainfully employed in America, are less dependent upon our Government. But it did not address the second half of the equation, how best to capture the great compassion of America.

I believe our Government ought to be a partner with faith-based and community-based programs. I believe it is essential we pass laws in the United States Congress that expand charitable choice, that we clearly say in America the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of loving citizens. The great strength of America is in our churches and synagogues and mosques. And we must welcome faith-based programs that have got the capacity to change lives by changing hearts into the very fabric of our society.

I know I can count on Senator Sessions when the bill comes before the United States Senate. And I feel strongly I can count on the members of the congressional delegation, who have traveled with me from Washington, DC. This is an important initiative. It is an initiative that addresses our Nation's culture. It is an issue that helps us realize the full potential of America. It is an issue that recognizes that Government can hand out money, but what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

It is an incredibly important issue, because our great Nation must make this dedicated promise: No person will be left behind in America, that every American counts regardless of their status, but we recognize that some hurt, some lack hope.

So what I hope to do in the faith-based initiative is to call upon mentors all across the country. There is nothing more meaningful and important than, say, for a child whose parent may be in prison, to have an arm of an adult or a loving soul say, "I love you, brother." America means as much for you as it does for me and my children.

A faith-based initiative understands that in order to solve the problems of those hooked on alcohol and drugs, that sometimes the only way is to call upon a higher being. The faith-based initiative recognizes the power of faith and hope in America. And I urge Congress not to get stuck on the process but to focus on results so that we can change America in an incredibly positive, hopeful, and optimistic way.

That's really the job of the President. The job of the President is to lift the Nation's spirit.

On my wall in the Oval Office is a picture of Abraham Lincoln. I hang that portrait because it reminds me my job is to unify our Nation. I recognize we will have differences when it comes to tax policy and education policy. But the job of the President is obviously to stand on principle and to fight for legislative matters that I think are important. But it's also to unite America, to unite the country around the fantastic values that make us unique, the values of freedom: freedom to speak your mind, freedom to worship where you want, freedom of the press to occasionally say something that I don't agree with—[*laughter*]—freedom—freedom to express yourself at the ballot box, freedom to be anything you dream to be in America, regardless of your birth or where you're from. Those values set us aside as a nation. They are incredibly important values.

But uniting the Nation understands and—begins with the understanding of responsibility of the offices we hold. I admire Jeff Sessions because he understands. He has the responsibility not only to represent the great State of Alabama, but he has the responsibility to uphold the honor and dignity of the office to which he has been elected. And he will not let the people of Alabama down.

I love traveling outside of Washington. Listen, I like my job, and the public housing is pretty darn good there. [*Laughter*] But I love to come out to the countryside. I can't thank the people of Alabama enough for lining the roads.

We went to an initiative today in one of the parks outside of Birmingham, where I was able to say that this administration, for the first time, is going to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, so that the people of Alabama will be able to make the conservation decisions necessary for the great State of Alabama.

But as we traveled the road, hundreds of people lined the road to wave and to hold up signs encouraging the President. It reminds me of what I said earlier, and I truly believe. I am blessed to be the President of a nation full of decent and loving and caring and compassionate people, people who respect their country, respect the office of the Presidency—sometimes like the President, sometimes not—but respect the office of the President, who care deeply about the future, who love their families, who worship in houses of worship, and are proud to call themselves American.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to have recently traveled overseas and to stand proudly for a country that represents the best of mankind, that holds up the best for every single citizen. I'm so honored to be here to represent and to urge you to support my friend. And I am honored to tell you, I love being your President, and thank you for the opportunity.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:40 p.m. at the Jefferson Convention Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Sessions, wife of Senator Sessions; William Cabaniss, finance chair, Alabama Bush 2000 campaign; Winton M. "Red" Blount, founder, Blount International, Inc.; Marty Connors, chairman, Alabama Republican Party; Edgar Welden and Bettye Fine Collins, national committee persons, Alabama Republican Executive Committee; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 16

In the morning, the President participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Home Army Memorial in Warsaw, Poland. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kranj, Slovenia.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

June 18

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph E. Schmitz to be Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey William Runge to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The President announced the designation of Warren L. Miller as Chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Allison on June 11–15.

June 19

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, where he toured the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program Technology Evaluation Center. Later, he, returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Johnny Young to be Ambassador to Slovenia.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Danilovich to be Ambassador to Costa Rica.

The President announced his intention to nominate Martin J. Silverstein to be Ambassador to Uruguay.

The White House announced that the President announced the appointment of Stephen E. Biegun as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

June 20

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations from the Oval Office with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Later, in a ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Josefina Pitra Diakite of Angola, Lalit Mansingh of India, Ignacio Arcaya of Venezuela, Girma Asmeron Tesfai of Eritrea, Ahmad Tariq Karim of Bangladesh, Fatos Tarifa of Albania, Sorin Ducaru of Romania, Linn Myaing of Burma, and Shavkat Khamrakulov of Uzbekistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hilton Lewis Root to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher William Dell to be Ambassador to Angola.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael L. Dominguez to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nelson F. Gibbs to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations and Environment.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude B. Hutchinson, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Management.

June 21

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Birmingham, AL, where he toured a YMCA Day Camp. In the evening, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter Russell Chaveas to be Ambassador to Sierra Leone.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hilda Gay Legg to be Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service in the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Edward Rey to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Victory to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Pasternack to be Assistant Secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joanne M. Wilson to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marianne Lamont Horinko to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for the Office of Solid Waste.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr., to be Inspector General at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Minoru Fawn Liu to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public and Indian Housing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Emily Stover DeRocco to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Allison on June 6–13.

June 22

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward William Gnehm, Jr., to be Ambassador to Jordan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry C. Napper to be Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frank Huddle, Jr., to be Ambassador to Tajikistan.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Allison on June 15–17.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 18

Samuel W. Bodman,
of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, vice Robert L. Mallett, resigned.

Michael J. Garcia,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice F. Amanda DeBusk, resigned.

Joseph E. Schmitz,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, vice Eleanor Hill.

Terry L. Wooten,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina (new position).

Submitted June 19

Laurie Smith Camp,
of Nebraska, to be U.S District Judge for the District of Nebraska, vice William G. Cambridge, retired.

Paul G. Cassell,
of Utah, to be U.S District Judge for the District of Utah, vice David Sam, retired.

Sharee M. Freeman,
of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, for a term of 4 years, vice Rose Ochi, term expired.

Michael E. Guest,
of South Carolina, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

James R. Moseley,
of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, vice Richard E. Rominger, resigned.

Michael Parker,
of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Joseph W. Westphal.

Submitted June 20

John D. Bates,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Stanley S. Harris, retired.

Reggie B. Walton,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Stanley Sporkin, retired.

Submitted June 21

Harris L. Hartz,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Bobby Ray Baldock, retired.

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.,
of Utah, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Susan G. Esserman, resigned.

Hilda Gay Legg,
of Kentucky, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, vice Christopher A. McLean, resigned.

Michael Minoru Fawn Liu,
of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Harold Lucas, resigned.

Robert Pasternack,
of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, vice Judith Heumann, resigned.

Mark Edward Rey,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, vice James R. Lyons.

Mary Ellen Coster Williams,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Sarah L. Wilson.

Joanne M. Wilson,
of Louisiana, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education, vice Frederic K. Schroeder, resigned.

Submitted June 22

Peter R. Chaveas,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Richard R. Clifton,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Cynthia Holcomb Hall, retired.

Richard Henry Jones,
of Nebraska, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Carolyn B. Kuhl,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice James R. Browning, retired.

Nancy J. Powell,
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meeting with President Putin of Russia

Released June 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of Florida

Released June 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Stephen E. Biegun as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council

Announcement: President Bush Appoints his First Class of White House Fellows

Released June 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released June 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of Mississippi

Released June 22

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S.-Poland Comprehensive Trade Package

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 23, 2001

Good morning. Here in Washington, we are nearing some important decisions on the health of Americans. Congress will soon vote on a Patients' Bill of Rights to help patients get the treatment they deserve without delay or legal haggling. I want that bill to be strong and effective. A woman should be able to visit her gynecologist, and parents, their children's pediatrician, without going through a gatekeeper. A person should be able to see a specialist when he or she needs one and to get emergency treatment at the nearest emergency room.

If an HMO denies the treatment you need, then you should have the right to an immediate, impartial appeal to a panel of doctors. If the panel rules in your favor, you should receive your treatment, period. If the HMO ignores the findings, you should be able to go to court. The system should not favor HMOs, and it should not favor trial lawyers; it should favor patients with quick action to make sure they get the treatment they need.

Today I want to address another kind of protection that is needed in these times of accelerating medical progress. Just a few months ago scientists completed the mapping of the human genome. With this information comes enormous possibilities for doing good. Through a better understanding of the genetic codes, scientists might one day be able to cure and prevent countless diseases.

As with any other power, however, this knowledge of the code of life has the potential to be abused. Employers could be tempted to deny a job based on a person's genetic profile. Insurance companies might use that information to deny an application for coverage or charge excessive premiums.

Genetic discrimination is unfair to workers and their families. It is unjustified, among other reasons, because it involves little more than medical speculation. A genetic predisposition toward cancer or heart disease does not mean the condition will develop. To deny employment or insurance to a healthy person based only on a predisposition violates our country's belief in equal treatment and individual merit.

In the past, other forms of discrimination have been used to withhold rights and opportunities that belong to all Americans. Just as we have addressed discrimination based on race, gender, and age, we must now prevent discrimination based on genetic information. My administration is working now to shape the legislation that will make genetic discrimination illegal.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress to pass a law that is fair, reasonable, and consistent with existing discrimination statutes. We will all gain much from the continuing advances of genetic science. But those advances should never come at the cost of basic fairness and equality under law.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on June 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Remarks to the United States Conference of Mayors in Detroit, Michigan

June 25, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. Thanks. Please be seated. Well, Victor, thank you very much. I appreciate your kind remarks.

Before I begin, I'd like to introduce the First Lady. She and I are coming up from

Crawford, Texas, on our way back to the Nation's Capital, and we're so honored that you all would welcome us here: Laura Bush.

Traveling with me, as well, is the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, the FEMA Director, Joe Allbaugh. I hope you don't have to call him. [*Laughter*] But if you do, I can assure you, he'll be responsive.

I'm honored to be here with my friend the Governor of Michigan and Michelle Engler. I appreciate, Brent, so much, seeing you again, and I thank all the mayors for your hospitality.

Traveling with me, as well, are members of the United States congressional delegation: Tony Hall, J.C. Watts, Joe Knollenberg, Jim Ramstad, and right here from her own district, Carolyn Kilpatrick. I also had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with the newest mayor on the block, Mayor Jim Hahn of Los Angeles.

It's good to see the mayors from the great State of Texas. I see the mayor from Fort Worth and the mayor from Dallas. I suspect the mayor from Houston is somewhere around here—oh, there he is. Hi, Lee. Thank you all very much. There's another mayor—thank you, Mayor. I remember you. I hope you remember me. [*Laughter*] It's good to see you all.

I also want to thank the mayor of Detroit for his hospitality. I'm reminded of what President Kennedy said about Columbus, Ohio. He said, "There's no city in America where I get a warmer welcome and receive less votes." [*Laughter*] I think because of that, the mayor likes me—and in spite of that, I like the mayor. [*Laughter*]

Detroit was the site of this organization's birth, 69 years ago, when Mayor Frank Murphy and 29 of his colleagues met here in this city. In that year, in 1932, one-third of Americans were unemployed; foodlines stretched for blocks; nearly 40 percent of America's banks had failed. Today, the story is very different. American cities are once again a magnet for ambition and culture and enterprise. The welfare rolls are down. In some places, crime rates have fallen to what they were in the mid-1960s. Problems that once seemed hopeless have yielded to reform and good sense. And the mayors of America deserve much of the credit.

Yet, as we all know, tremendous challenges still remain. Too many children, through no fault of their own, are in families without fathers and neighborhoods without opportunity. Too many young people drop out of school, drop out of the labor force, and end up in prisons. Too many men and women wander alone in the twilight of addiction, illiteracy, and mental illness.

These problems seem immune to our affluence. We're not in a post-poverty America. The challenges we face are different than they were in the 1930s, and we must recognize new challenges demand new approaches. I realize that many of you are doing an outstanding job of dealing with these problems, and that the burden cannot fall upon you, alone. The Federal Government should take your side. The cities and communities of America need to be empowered, not regimented. And this is my firm commitment to you, the mayors.

The agenda is long and very important. Equal opportunity is an empty hope without good schools. So the education reform legislation passed by both the House and the Senate spreads power to local communities and, for the first time, demands results in return. It's time to act when we find that children who graduate from high school have only an eighth grade education. He's been betrayed by the adult world, and we must end that betrayal by having high expectations, strong accountability systems, and the resources necessary to make sure that not one child gets left behind in America.

In the aftermath of successful welfare reform, we must turn to the problems of the working poor, especially the newly working poor. We're encouraging homeownership by providing tax credits to investors to redevelop and build new single-family homes. We're facilitating homeownership for low income families by allowing them to consolidate a year's worth of Section 8 assistance for a downpayment on a home.

We believe owning something is a part of the American future. We want all people, regardless of background, to be able to claim a home of their own in America. I can't think of anything better to help revitalize the neighborhoods in America's cities.

We must actively work to fill the gaps in the health care system for the working poor. That's why the budget I've sent up to Congress provides resources to expand significantly the number of community health centers to make sure that all folks have got an opportunity for good primary care, and proposes a new tax credit for those who have difficulty affording health insurance.

I'm convinced that we can make progress on the important issues. Today I want to focus on one in particular: supporting the good works of charities and neighborhood healers, empowering communities to meet their own needs and to care for their own members.

In every city, there are people who mentor and tutor, who give shelter to battered women and children, who teach biological fathers to be real and caring fathers, who help young people find jobs and avoid violence, who confront—who comfort the aged and help the dying, who picket crackhouses, who walk into gunfire to end gang wars. These good people don't lack compassion. They certainly don't lack courage. They don't lack commitment and spiritual strength. But often they lack resources. And I believe government, where it can, should stand side by side and to help them.

This belief isn't owned by Republicans or Democrats. It doesn't fit into neat, ideological categories. It demands an active government to support the good works of others, an active government to spread resources and authority beyond government entirely.

In articulating his philosophy of how to aid American cities, Robert Kennedy said, "There must be an overriding theme and goal: the involvement of the community, of those who have the greatest stake in the quality of the services they receive." He spoke about putting community at the center of all our policy. He said, "Government back to the people of the neighborhood." I agree. In the 21st century, we should bring government back to the people who have a powerful sense of mission and idealism, back to people who know the needs of neighbors, back to people committed to rebuilding their communities from the inside out.

These committed men and women take the side of hope and compassion. And we must take their side. We must help those in need, and we must encourage people to be good citizens, instead of bystanders. So I'm pleased that more than 150 mayors' offices across the country are launching their own efforts to encourage faith and community initiatives in partnership with the White House.

I'm honored the U.S. Conference of Mayors has strongly endorsed my administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. I'm extremely proud to announce that Rosa Parks, a monumental figure in the civil rights movement, has endorsed the initiative. These are unprecedented votes of confidence. They're important steps in our efforts to bring healing and hope to those in need.

I'm excited about this approach, yet, I'm under no illusions. I know government cannot be replaced by charities. The best mentoring program will never be a substitute for Medicaid for poor children. The best effort to renovate housing will never be a substitute for fair housing laws. Charities and community groups cannot do everything. But we strongly believe they can do more. We must find creative ways to expand their size and increase their number. And now is the time to start.

I proposed a new initiative to mentor the children of prisoners, so they are not further punished for the sins of their parents. I have proposed expanding Federally funded afterschool programs, so that faith-based and community-based programs can access that money. I proposed a Responsible Fatherhood Initiative, aiding community groups that seek to strengthen the role of fathers in the lives of families.

And soon, the United States House of Representatives will act on H.R. 7, the "Community Solutions Act," sponsored by Republican J.C. Watts and Democrat Tony Hall. The bill contains important elements of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, and I hope you'll make your support of this legislation known to the skeptics in the United States Senate and to the United States House. H.R. 7 expands individual development accounts, which provide a way for charities, government, and business to help struggling families find the security of assets and the dignity of independence.

The bill allows not-itemizing Federal taxpayers to joint itemizers in deducting their charitable contributions, a step that should encourage new charitable giving all across America. The "Community Solution Act" also expands charitable choice, the principle already established in Federal law that faith-based organizations should be able to compete for Government funds, without being forced to hide their religious character.

We recognize that the funds will be spent on social services, not worship services. And we recognize there must be secular alternatives for those who wish to use the services. We respect the separation of church and state and the constitutional rights of religious people. But the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because there are religious must come to an end if we want to heal America.

As you know, many community groups are not religious in nature. Their employees and volunteers are motivated by kind hearts and moral convictions. Yet, many acts of charity and social justice are also the acts of faith. And in our cities, they are often associated with African-American churches. More than 70 percent of African-American churches engage in community outreach programs, including daycare, job search, substance abuse prevention, food and clothing distribution. They're far more likely to apply for public funds for their social programs than other churches. And the people who most often benefit from the outreach efforts of these African-American churches are poor children, who are not affiliated with any church at all. In some places, African-American churches are the only institutions that hold the fraying strands of a community together. And their work should be praised and welcomed and encouraged.

I've heard the voices, and so have you, the critics who are concerned about supporting good works, motivated by strong faith. I suggest they go to the cities to see the need and to see the hope. I suggest they talk to the forward-thinking mayors, mayors who are on the frontline, who work closely with faith and community organizations, who are witnesses to the power of this approach.

Your witness is in Philadelphia, where Mayor John Street supports the Amachi program, directed by former Mayor Wilson Goode, which recruits mentors to care for the children of prisoners.

Your witness is in Orlando, where earlier this month Mayor Glenda Hood announced her faith-based and community matching grants program. That program focuses on funding youth and family projects that contribute to civic responsibility and character development.

Your witness is in Indianapolis, where my good friend Steve Goldsmith, when he was the mayor, pioneered the Front Porch Alliance, a partnership between city hall and the values shaping institutions in Indianapolis that helped transform this city. And thank you for being here today, Steve.

You know that childcare vouchers are used at houses of worship. You know the Head Start Programs are often found in religious settings. You know that many public services in our cities are provided through Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army. You know that many Government dollars in Medicaid and Medicare are used in religious hospitals. In all these cases, we are funding the good works of the faithful, not faith itself. Do the critics of this approach really want to end these programs? I certainly hope not. It would be bad for America.

I understand, mayors, my administration did not invent the idea of community empowerment. But along with you, we're going to build on it. Together, we're going to convince the skeptics. Together, we're going to put the Federal Government and local government squarely on the side of America's armies of compassion.

There are great stories in every great city, stories of grand ambition and immigrant enterprise and cultural achievement. There are also stories of suffering, redeemed by hope and faith. And we should listen to those stories, as well.

The Brightmore neighborhood in northwest Detroit can be a tough place to grow up. Some people even ask, "Can anything good come out of Brightmore?" Well, it turns out that much good does come out of that neighborhood. At Rosedale Park Baptist Church, a group of young men and women have committed their lives to bringing hope to young African-Americans. And one of the

young men they've helped is Demarco Howard.

Demarco's dad had been in prison since he was a baby. His mom was addicted to drugs and was unable to raise him, so his aunt took on the responsibility, and she did the very best job she could possibly do. But life was tough. Demarco was shot when he was 6 and spent a year in the hospital recovering. He was often in trouble, and at the age of 14, was arrested and sent to a juvenile detention facility. At that facility, Demarco met someone on the staff of Rosedale Park Baptist Church. Demarco began attending Bible study classes, and his life began to change in dramatic ways.

He goes to school; he does his homework; he goes to church; and he volunteers to help other kids in trouble. I had a chance to look Demarco in the eye and thank him for his leadership, and asked him how life was. And he said, "It's getting a lot better, Mr. President." Thank you for coming, Demarco.

America can be saved, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. The pastor of Rosedale, Dennis Talbert, is fond of quoting a passage from the Book of Romans: "When I want to do good, evil is right there with me." That accurately describes the situation of many of our children in America. Evil is what his church is fighting against, with impressive results. And it's worth noting that Rosedale's outreach programs are financially supported by the Department of Justice and Michigan's Family Independence Agency, among others, and it shows what is possible.

Stories like these are being written all across America, and it's the goal of this administration to praise them at every chance and to replicate them where we can. I hope you continue your good works as mayors. You're on the frontline. At least in Washington, we don't have to worry about how the garbage gets emptied. [*Laughter*] But at least in Washington, we can work in Washington to make sure the garbage gets changed. We can make sure that we think differently about the problems that confront us. We can make sure we ask the question, "What are the results?" not, "What is the process?" And together, we can rally the great compassion and faith and hope of America.

Thank you for what you do, and thank you for giving me the chance to come by and say hello. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:19 p.m. in the Columbus Ballroom at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor Ashe of Knoxville, TN, past president, and Mayor H. Brent Coles of Boise, ID, president, U.S. Conference of Mayors; Gov. John Engler of Michigan; Michelle Engler, wife of Governor Engler; Mayor Ronald Kirk of Dallas, TX; Mayor Kenneth L. Barr of Fort Worth, TX; Mayor Lee P. Brown of Houston, TX; and Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, MI.

Remarks at a Ceremony Honoring Presidential Scholars

June 25, 2001

Thank you very much. Okay, sit down. [*Laughter*] Except for you all. [*Laughter*] Mr. Secretary, thank you. The good folks from Houston know what I'm about to tell you is true. First of all, behave yourself. [*Laughter*] And secondly, I picked a true leader to run the Department of Education when I picked Rod Paige. He did a great job as the superintendent in Houston. He's a no-nonsense kind of guy, you know, and he's getting a lot done. And I'm honored to have you here.

And Bruno, thank you very much. As the Chairman, I appreciate your leadership. And I want to thank all the members on the Commission. Thank you for taking time out of your private lives to herald the best of America. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I understand John Hostettler is here from Indiana and George Nethercutt from Washington and Bernie Sanders from the State of Vermont. I think they're here. Thank you all for coming.

It's an honor for me to be here to honor some of America's finest students. You all should be proud of this award, and you should know your country is proud of you. Congratulations.

Out of an applicant pool of over 2,700 exceptional students, 141 were chosen. While your excellence ranges from science to the arts, all of you share some common traits of

character: hard work, commitment, leadership, faith in yourself, and service to others. You represent the best of your generation, and I'm confident you'll do great things for our great Nation.

You've earned your place here today, but you did not do it alone. First, we want to thank the parents and family members who worked side by side with you. I want to thank you for your commitment to your kids and to their excellence.

And I want to thank the teachers who join us here today. A good teacher is a model and a mentor, a source of praise and a source of challenge. A good teacher can change a life. A generation of good teachers can change a nation. Our Nation deeply respects your important work, and thank you for being here.

You all have come to Washington in an historic time: The Congress is about to pass the most important education reform in nearly 40 years. Every school, with students of every income, will be expected to meet high standards of learning and literacy. Every school will get the flexibility and help it needs to meet those standards. And every student will be tested to make sure those standards are actually achieved.

The longer it takes Congress to pass these important reforms, the less time State policymakers, school boards, principals, and teachers will have to act on them. I urge the Congress to act now, before it is too late.

Thirty-seven years ago, when President Johnson honored the first Presidential Scholars, Congress was debating the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. Now, as you receive your awards, Congress is debating the next frontier of civil rights: solid education—because I believe the better we educate all our children the more united our society will be, the more equal we'll become in hope and opportunity and in achievement.

Excellence in education is a matter of standards and talent, and it is also a matter of character. We all need high ambitions. But it is strong values that give dignity and direction to our lives. And here, as in other areas, the young folks in this room excel.

Marco Ramirez of Florida—say hello to the Governor for me—[*laughter*]—is being honored for his talents as a playwright. Yet, Marco also found a way to translate his love of theater into service. He gave a Halloween party for 200 children in a crime-ridden neighborhood, allowing them to enjoy the holiday in the safety of a school.

Or another honoree, Dean Spears of Oklahoma, shared his love of learning with residents of a local nursing home, out of concern that they did not have enough ways to exercise their minds. After securing a space at the nursing home for a library, Dean advertised his project to the community. The library now has over 1,600 books, each labeled and catalogued by Dean, himself.

Our society needs your contributions. During my lifetime I've seen the culture change from one that emphasized the difference between right and wrong to one that says, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you have a problem, blame somebody else." But I believe culture can change, and it changes as a result of leadership. And the young folks on this stage today are leaders by, first and foremost, taking responsibility of their own lives and listening to that universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

Sometimes it's said that this generation is self-absorbed and apathetic. Your achievements and good works and generous spirit, especially at such a young age, make your friends and family proud. I want to thank you for your contribution you make to our Nation today and urge you on, because the contributions you'll make tomorrow will be just as important.

Welcome to Washington. Congratulations, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Bruno V. Manno, chairman, White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 NCAA Women's Hockey Champion University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs

June 25, 2001

Please be seated. Well, thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

Kathryn, thank you for coming and bringing this group of champs with you. It's good to welcome the coach, the captain of the team, who I understand is the only senior on the team. I'd hate to be the opposition for the University of Minnesota Duluth next year. [*Laughter*]

It is my honor to welcome to the White House the Senators from the State of Minnesota: Senator Wellstone, welcome; and Senator Mark Dayton—many of you don't know this, that he was a fine goalie when he played at Yale University. I know because I witnessed him in the nets. However, having seen some of the replays of the champions' games, Mark, I'm afraid you couldn't have stopped many of the shots coming from these champs. [*Laughter*]

It's good to have the Members of the United States Congress here, too: Jim Oberstar, thank you for coming; and Jim Ramstad, thank you, sir. I appreciate you all being here.

It is my honor to welcome the first-ever team from the University of Minnesota Duluth to the White House. The mighty Bulldogs accomplished an extraordinary feat by winning the first NCAA women hockey championship in only the second season of their existence. That's pretty darn good.

What makes this team special is its international character. Players from Europe, Canada, and the United States all worked together to become champs. As Coach Miller said, it took a perfect mix of players from all over to win the title. But I know something about sports; it also takes a great coach to win a title, too, and this team has got an extraordinary coach. She's had great success with the Canadian national team, before our great Nation borrowed her to lead the Bulldogs. [*Laughter*] Her name is associated with a spectacular rise in women's hockey. And she served as a role model for all the champs.

Coach Miller, congratulations.

I want to thank some of the girls from the Washington, DC, area who are here, as well. I see members of the Best Friends, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. Thank you for coming. It reminds me of what a true champ is. A champ is somebody who wins not only in the ice but who, when off the ice, sets a good example for youngsters to follow. What champs do is, they set high standards, and they work hard, and they make the right choices to achieve those standards and goals. And that's exactly what the University of Minnesota Duluth did. You set the highest of standards.

I know you worked hard. I bet you made sure they worked hard. [*Laughter*] Your team made the right choices off the ice, and that's why they're champs. And so I want to congratulate you all for setting the right example.

For those of you who aren't from the United States, hang around; it's a pretty special place. [*Laughter*] But we welcome you here. We welcome you to the greatest house in our country, the people's house, and congratulate you from the bottom of our hearts.

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kathryn A. Martin, chancellor, Shannon Miller, women's hockey coach, and Brittny Ralph, women's hockey team captain, University of Minnesota Duluth.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and an Exchange With Reporters

June 26, 2001

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome the President, Mbeki, to the Oval Office. It's good to see you again, sir. The last time we visited was in the Governor's Mansion in Texas. We had a great discussion about our country's relations. I look forward to furthering that discussion.

We have a lot of interests that—to discuss. We have the interest of trade and prosperity. My administration has made a commitment to work with leaders like President Mbeki on the continent of Africa to provide hope for people. And we look forward to a great relationship with you, sir. You've provided imaginative, real leadership that a lot of people in this Nation admire, and our relationship is only going to grow stronger as a result of your visit here.

So we welcome you to the United States. We welcome the dialog we'll have here in

the Oval Office and then over lunch with the respective delegations.

Mr. President.

President Mbeki. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Let me say, thank you very much, indeed, Mr. President, for giving us the opportunity to see you. I've been looking forward to this, because for us, Mr. President, our relations with the United States are very important.

You know the challenges we face in South Africa, Mr. President, and the challenges we face on the African Continent. And quite clearly, we need your support and involvement in order to solve those problems.

I'm happy we are able to meet today so we can look, as you said, Mr. President, at the matter of the bilateral relations, as well as what we might do on the wider scale. And I think that, Mr. President, the moment has come for us, as Africans, really to turn the corner, to deal with all of these problems of violence and conflict and poverty, disease, and so on.

And I've been very, very pleased—I must say this, Mr. President—that what we discussed in Austin, Texas, about what might be done, that you have kept to that particular route, those present agreements, with some understandings, has been very inspiring to us. And I'm sure that this visit will help us to get along, as we definitely need to.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you. I'm so glad you're here. Thanks.

HIV/AIDS

Q. Mr. President, neither of you have mentioned the AIDS scourge directly in your opening statements here. How high on the list of priorities for discussing the scourge is this on your agenda?

President Bush. Well, it's an incredibly important part of our dialog. The AIDS pandemic in Africa is terrible, and our Nation intends to do something about it. As a matter of fact, our Nation is doing something about it. We provide more money than any nation in the world to fund a strategy to defeat AIDS, and we will continue to work with nations that can afford to put money into the trust to do so.

I was so pleased to see—not only to announce that our Government put money into an international trust, but the Gates Foundation, a private foundation here in America, contributed $100 million. And yesterday Tommy Thompson and Colin Powell went to the U.N. to discuss this important issue. And we will discuss it, and we'll discuss it in depth, just like we did in Austin, Texas. The President is concerned, as am I.

I discussed it in Europe. I talked to the Europeans. I said, "We've made a downpayment into the international trust to battle AIDS." They should contribute, I said. And I hope they do. I hope the European Union will follow suit. Part of our discussion that night in Sweden was the United States taking the lead in the AIDS pandemic, not only in the continent of Africa but around the world. And this is a big issue, as far as we're concerned. We've got to do something about it.

Mr. President.

President Mbeki. Yes, indeed, as the President says, we actually did discuss this matter, even then, last year in May, when we met in Texas. It clearly is an important matter. That's why I mentioned the matter of diseases on the African Continent. AIDS, indeed, is one of those.

We have to respond in a comprehensive way. One of the matters we'll discuss with the President is this African recovery program that we're working on. And one of the major priority areas in that African recovery program is precisely this area.

So we certainly will discuss this. And we have to do something, because in many instances, these are diseases which are not only caused by poverty, some of them, but also cause poverty. So if you're talking about an African recovery, you cannot but discuss AIDS and really confront it. Malaria, tuberculosis, all sorts of communicable diseases are a particular matter of what has to happen—we have to address them.

South African Government's Response to AIDS

Q. Mr. President, President Mbeki, last week the New York Times published an editorial accusing your government of, in its words, dooming half a generation of young people to an early, protracted, and expensive

death because of its failure to distribute antiretrovirals. How do you explain the amount of criticism that you're coming in for in the United States for what is a perception that you're not doing enough on HIV?

President Mbeki. Well, I'll—we've said—all I would say to that, really, is that people must look at what we're doing in South Africa, not their perception of what they think we're doing but what we're doing actually in the country. And I don't think on the basics of facts an accusation like that can be sustained.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Thabo Mbeki

June 26, 2001

President Bush and President Mbeki committed to build on and strengthen the already excellent ties between the United States and South Africa. We committed ourselves to achieving our shared goals of building a stronger strategic partnership and promoting economic growth and democracy in Africa and globally.

We reaffirmed that our governments will meet regularly, to consult on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of shared importance, and that ongoing cooperative efforts, begun under the direction of the Binational Commission, shall continue and be enhanced in the critical areas of agriculture; conservation, environment, and water; defense; health; housing; human resource development and education; justice and anticrime; science and technology; sustainable energy; and trade and investment. We will establish a joint secretariat to direct and coordinate the consultations and to provide recommendations to both governments.

We discussed the Millennium Africa Recovery Program (MAP) and agreed to work together for a prosperous, democratic Africa. We affirmed our support for the MAP's core goals of conflict resolution, good governance, sound economic management, and fighting HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We affirmed that additional efforts to combat the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are urgently needed, and we renewed our commitment to working together against them and the conditions that enable the diseases to proliferate. We agreed to support the establishment and funding of the global trust fund for HIV/AIDS and other diseases as a unique public-private partnership to bring needed resources to the battle against these diseases through a multi-sector, integrated strategy.

We pledged to work together to support the launching of a new round of World Trade Organization negotiations and affirmed that we have many common interests, in particular the growth of agricultural trade and a shared commitment to working together to bridge the digital divide in Africa. Likewise, we confirmed our satisfaction that the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has produced positive results in South Africa, and has already led to expanded trade and investment between the two countries.

We affirmed our mutual desire for a peaceful, democratic, prosperous Zimbabwe, in which human rights and rule of law are respected. We agreed that a dialogue between the Government of Angola and UNITA rebels on implementing the Lusaka Protocol offers the best promise for peace. We affirmed our commitment to progress toward resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC) and agreed to cooperate on conflict resolution efforts throughout Africa.

President Bush looks forward to the opportunity to visit South Africa as part of the effort to continue building and fostering the growth of our bilateral relationship and promoting our shared agenda.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Howard H. Baker, Jr., as Ambassador to Japan

June 26, 2001

Senator Baker, you've drawn quite a crowd here to the White House. [*Laughter*] Mr. Vice President; Mr. Secretary. CIA Director George Tenet, I believe is here. Justice O'Connor is here; thank you so much for

coming. The Ambassador from Japan is here. Thank you very much for being here, Mr. Ambassador, and your lovely wife. Madeleine Albright, I believe is here—Madame Secretary. Larry Eagleburger is here. Elizabeth Dole, I believe is here. Senator. Elizabeth, thank you very much. The former Ambassadors to the country of Japan are on the stage with us; they have been introduced. Members of the United States Senate are here. Members of the Tennessee congressional delegation are here.

Thank you all for coming, and welcome. Today we call upon one of America's most valued statesmen to help be the keeper of one of America's most valued friendships. Howard Baker has held many titles during the course of his long and distinguished career, they include sailor, Senator, minority leader, majority leader, and White House Chief of Staff. In a few moments, he'll add Ambassador to that list, and once again, America is very grateful.

All the former Ambassadors here are living examples of the very highest standards of diplomatic excellence. And between them, Mike Mansfield, Walter Mondale, Tom Foley, and Howard Baker have accumulated over 100 years of elected office. [*Laughter*] That's a lot of balloon drops. [*Laughter*]

Thirty-four of those years are accounted for by Mike Mansfield alone. The Senator began the tradition of high-level political figures serving as our Ambassador to Japan. He held that post for more than 11 years, longer than anyone else. Japanese press calls these figures *o-mono*—the big guys. [*Laughter*] Well, we're all very honored to have the original big guy with us.

And by the way, Senator Thurmond, he informed me—with quite clear language—that he is 4 months younger than you are. [*Laughter*]

We send the very best people to Japan because the United States has no more important partner in the world than Japan. Our alliance is rooted in the vital strategic and economic interests that we share. It is the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in Asia. Today, this partnership is helping us tackle global problems, as well.

I'm looking forward to welcoming the Prime Minister this weekend at Camp David. Together, we will explore ways we can continue to strengthen our security relationship. We will talk about the Prime Minister's agenda for reforming and revitalizing the Japanese economy. We'll discuss how our countries can work together on realistic and effective responses to global problems such as AIDS in Africa and climate change.

I will also tell the Prime Minister that America's 38th Ambassador to Japan is a man of extraordinary ability, grace, and good humor. In every post he has held, Howard Baker has brought uncommon intelligence and an uncanny ability to calm the ship of state, even in days of crisis.

He comes from good stock. His grandmother, Lillie "Mother Ladd" Mauser—[*laughter*]—was Tennessee's first woman sheriff. [*Laughter*] His father and his stepmother both served in the House. He married into good stock, as well. He counts Senator Everett Dirksen and the grand old man of the Grand Old Party, Alf Landon, as fathers-in-law. And what the Prime Minister is going to find out, he took an extraordinary woman as a bride in Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker.

In the Senate, Howard Baker had a list of rules for being an effective Senator. He called it the Baker's Dozen. The list included: listen more often than you speak; be patient; tell the truth, whether you have to or not; and finally, be civil and encourage others to do the same.

Well, these rules help explain why Howard Baker has made such a mark on American history. They are why he's going to keep making his mark for the years to come.

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Shunji Yanai, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, and his wife, Toshiko; former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright; former Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger; former Senator Bob Dole and his wife, former Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Ambassador Baker.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

June 26, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome back to the Oval Office Prime Minister Sharon. He is a leader who has faced extraordinary circumstances in the Middle East. I believe he's shown patience and is willing to lead. I understand the pressures he is under.

Today it's my opportunity to once again look him in the eye and tell him he's got no better friend than the United States and, as well, tell him that we all must work to break the cycle of violence so that we can begin the process of implementing the Mitchell agreement. Our fervent hope in this Nation is that there is peace in the Middle East.

And I'm so honored you came back, Mr. Prime Minister, and I look forward to having the discussion with you that—it will be an add-on to the great discussion we had the last time you were here.

Welcome.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm very glad to be here again. Israel is committed to peace, will make every effort to reach peace. Peace should be peace for generations, and peace should provide security to the Israeli citizens.

The Jewish people are having one tiny, small country, that is Israel—[*inaudible*]—would have the right and the capability to defend themselves by themselves. And that, of course, we have to preserve, and we have to thank God for that every day.

We are committed to the Mitchell report in its sequence, according to sequence. We adopted the Mitchell report, and we received Tenet document—Tenet plan. And we'll be willing to continue. The one thing that we are looking for is, first of all, it would be full cessation of hostilities, of terror, and incitement. If that would happen, I am fully convinced that the day will come, and we'll have peace in the Middle East.

I would like to thank Mr. President again for coming here. We regard your administration to be a very friendly one, and we would like to thank you for that.

President Bush. And as you know, Mr. Prime Minister, our Secretary of State leaves tonight for the Middle East, and our fervent hope is to advance the process for making sure there's peace in that part of the world.

We'll be glad to answer a question apiece.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, do you expect Prime Minister Sharon—do you expect Prime Minister Sharon to negotiate under fire, Mr. President?

White House Aide. Mr. Fournier of the Associated Press.

Q. Mr. President, the same question to both of you. Do you think it is possible—do you think it's appropriate to move to the next step in the Mitchell report? They call for a cooling-off period even before there's a full cessation of violence.

President Bush. I think that there has to be. The cycle of violence must be broken. I look forward to discussing with the Prime Minister about what's realistic and what's possible. But we both believe that it is possible if there's a strong effort made by both parties to break the cycle of violence.

Mitchell says it's a sequential process. Step one is to break the cycle. And we have been on the phone with all parties—all the time it seems like—urging the cycle of violence to be broken. And progress is being made. I am here to tell the Prime Minister, I know there's a level of frustration, but there is progress being made. And for that progress, we are grateful.

The Prime Minister has shown a lot of patience in the midst of a lot of—in the midst of casualty. But progress is being made. Is it as fast as we'd like? No, it's not. But the fundamental question my administration makes is, are we making progress; is peace closer today than it was yesterday? We believe the answer is, yes.

And therefore, the Secretary of State leaves tonight to try to advance the process, to make peace more real. And he's going to meet not only with the Israelis; he'll be meeting with the Palestinians, as well; urging—urging the cycle of violence to be broken.

Q. The question to both of you, though, is, can we move to step two now, even though there is not a complete end to violence?

President Bush. We're going to discuss all opportunities today, in the meeting today. If I didn't think progress is being made, I would not be sending the Secretary of State to the Middle East. We believe we have a further opportunity to advance the peace process. This is an important statement of the progress that's being made. So the Secretary of State leaves tonight to continue working hard to break the cycle of violence.

Both parties will understand when the level of violence has gotten down to the point where there can be some progress. We just want to make sure that there's a realistic assessment of what is possible on the ground. And we believe that at some point in time we can start the process of Mitchell.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you. First of all, I would like to wish to Secretary of State Colin Powell success in his trip to the Middle East. I know that he, like the President, makes a major effort to bring security and peace in the Middle East.

Israel's position is that we can negotiate only, and we would like to negotiate only when it will be full cessation of hostilities, terror, violence, and incitement. Otherwise, I don't think we'd be able to reach a peace which will really make all of us committed to.

One must understand that if last week we had 5 dead, it's like the United States, Mr. President, having 250 killed, or maybe even 300 people killed by terror. And that is saying that one should not compromise with terror. And therefore, I believe that if we stick to what we have been saying for so many times, such a long time, that it should be full cessation of terror before we move to the other phase, then our neighbors will understand that they have to do it.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister—[*inaudible*]—also ready for a full freeze of settlements?

Q. Mr. President, how can we——

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you see any signs that Yasser Arafat stopped the violence and is willing to go to peace with Israel?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—peace timetable says——

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you see any progress on Arafat's side?

Israeli Embassy Spokesman. Israeli Television, go.

Q. Mr. President, you said that we——

President Bush. Whew! Man. [*Laughter*] I don't know if they wore you out, but I'm certainly worn out. [*Laughter*] Go on.

Prime Minister Sharon. [*Inaudible*]—asked by American television——

President Bush. I don't know, but Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News] looks like he's got one on the tip of your tongue. That's right. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. President, you said that we should be realistic. Don't you think it's a price for terrorists, for terrorism, if right now the United States will force Israel to begin the cooling-off period? We see that in the field the hostilities continue.

President Bush. Any terror is too much terror. Any death is too much death. We recognize that, and we recognize the pressure that the Prime Minister is under. And we condemn terror. We condemn violence. We condemn death.

We also believe progress is being made. If you look at—yes, there's violence; yes, there's terror; but it's being isolated; it's beginning to—contained. Can the parties do more? Absolutely. And that's what the Secretary of State is going to do, is to urge Mr. Arafat to do more, to take better control of his security forces.

We're going to talk to the Prime Minister about his attitudes. We're friends, and I believe that what's important from this perspective is not to let the progress that's been made so far to break apart. We cannot let violence take hold.

And so that's why I've said I admire the Prime Minister's restraint and his patience. I understand the difficulties and the pressures. As he just said, 5 Israeli lives lost is equivalent of 250—5 is too many. But nevertheless, progress is being made. And it's essential that we continue the process and continue the progress that's being made. We're gaining by inches. I recognize progress is in inches, not in miles. But nevertheless, an inch is better than nothing.

And so therefore, this administration is committed to working with the parties. We urge people in the region——

Q. [*Inaudible*]—the decision——

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]—we urge people in the region to stop the violence. And

that's first and foremost. You know, it's— either you're an optimist in life or not. And I'm optimistic that we can get—start the process of Mitchell at some point in time.

Q. But Mr. Prime Minister——

Prime Minister Sharon. I would like to answer to the Israeli Radio. Yesterday we had 16 terror attacks. And that included multi-fire; it included side bombs; it included shooting and sniping. We had 10 wounded. So all together, generally speaking, maybe there are less, but still terror is going on. And by now, though I would like very much to hear that Chairman Arafat instructed to re-arrest those terrorists which are planning and sending and mobilizing those suiciders, he has not done it yet. He has not instructed to arrest them, and they were not arrested. And beside that, he has not instructed yet to stop incitement. And that, of course, he could do—I would say he could have done it immediately because he controlled the—[*inaudible*]—completely.

Q. But will you negotiate under fire, Mr. Prime Minister? Will you negotiate under fire?

Prime Minister Sharon. I've said it very clearly. Israel will not negotiate under fire and under terror. We said it because if we do that, we'll never reach peace. That is the point. It's not—what I'm saying is not an obstacle, not a barrier against peace. On the contrary, if we will be very strict, then the Palestinians will understand they cannot gain anything by terror. Therefore, we have to be very strict in order to reach peace, which all of us would like to have.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7452—Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Actions That Threaten International Stabilization Efforts in the Western Balkans, and Persons Responsible for Wartime Atrocities in That Region

June 26, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has a vital interest in assuring peace and stability in Europe. In the Western Balkans, the United States is engaged, together with North Atlantic Treaty Organization Allies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, United Nations missions, the European Union, and other international organizations in an effort to achieve peace, stability, reconciliation, and democratic development and to facilitate the region's integration into the European mainstream. The United States views full implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 in Kosovo as critical to these efforts.

In furtherance of these objectives, the United States has provided military, diplomatic, financial, and logistical support to international institutions established in the region and to civil and security authorities. The United States has a direct and significant interest in the success of such initiatives and in the safety of personnel involved in them, including numerous United States military and Government officials.

In light of these objectives, I have determined that it is in the interests of the United States to restrict the entry into the United States of persons responsible for actions that threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans region, and of persons responsible for wartime atrocities committed in that region since 1991.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States. I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of the following persons is hereby suspended:

(a) Persons who, through violent or other acts: (i) seek to obstruct the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords (the "Dayton Agreements") or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999; (ii) seek to undermine the authority or security of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the international security presence in Kosovo known as the Kosovo Force, the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the international security presence in Bosnia known as the Stabilization Force, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, or other international organizations and entities present in the region pursuant to the Dayton Agreement or United Nations Security Council resolutions, including but not limited to Resolutions 827, 1031, and 1244; (iii) seek to intimidate or to prevent displaced persons or refugees from returning to their places of residence in any area or state of the Western Balkans region; or (iv) otherwise seek to undermine peace, stability, reconciliation, or democratic development in any area or state of the Western Balkans region.

(b) Persons who are responsible for directing, planning, or carrying out wartime atrocities, including but not limited to acts in furtherance of "ethnic cleansing," committed in any area or state of the Western Balkans region since 1991.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility for implementing this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. The Secretary of State shall advise the Attorney General of such determination, which shall become effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., June 28, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 29.

Executive Order 13219—Blocking Property of Persons Who Threaten International Stabilization Efforts in the Western Balkans

June 26, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers

Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)(IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, have determined that the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, southern Serbia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, threaten the peace in or diminish the security and stability of those areas and the wider region, undermine the authority, efforts, and objectives of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other international organizations and entities present in those areas and the wider region, and endanger the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the activities of those organizations and entities, including United States military forces and Government officials. I find that such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat. I hereby order:

Section 1. (a) Except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (title IX, Public Law 106–387), and in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may hereafter be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date, all property and interests in property of:

(i) the persons listed in the Annex to this order; and

(ii) persons designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, because they are found:

(A) to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of threatening the peace in or diminishing the stability or security of any area or state in the Western Balkans region, undermining the authority, efforts, or objectives of international organizations or entities present in the region, or endangering the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the activities of those international organizations or entities, or,

(B) to have actively obstructed, or to pose a significant risk of actively obstructing, implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 in Kosovo, or

(C) materially to assist in, sponsor, or provide financial or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such acts of violence or obstructionism, or

(D) to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any of the foregoing persons, that are or hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in.

(b) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by United States persons to persons designated in or pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this order. Accordingly, the blocking of property and interests in property pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section includes, but is not limited to, the prohibition of the making by a United States person of any such donation to any such designated person, except as otherwise authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(c) The blocking of property and interests in property pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section includes, but is not limited to, the prohibition of the making or receiving by a United States person of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of a person designated in or pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. Any transaction by a United States person that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to

violate, any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited. Any conspiracy formed to violate the prohibitions of this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this order:

(a) The term "person" means an individual or entity;

(b) The term "entity" means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization; and

(c) The term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to me by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

Sec. 5. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or any other person.

Sec. 6. (a) This order is effective at 12:01 eastern daylight time on June 27, 2001;

(b) This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 26, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., June 28, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 27, and it and the attached annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on June 29.

Message to the Congress on the National Emergency in the Western Balkans

June 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency in response to the unusual and extraordinary threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by (i) actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, southern Serbia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, and (ii) the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo. The actions of these individuals and groups threaten the peace in or diminish the security and stability of the Western Balkans, undermine the authority, efforts, and objectives of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other international organizations and entities present in those areas and the wider region, and endanger the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the activities of those organizations and entities, including United States military forces and Government officials. In order to deal with this threat, I have issued an Executive order blocking the property and interests in property of those persons determined to have undertaken the actions described above.

The Executive order prohibits United States persons from transferring, paying, exporting, withdrawing, or otherwise dealing in the property or interests in property of persons I have identified in the Annex to the order or persons designated pursuant to the

order by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State. Included among the activities prohibited by the order are the making or receiving by United States persons of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of any person designated in or pursuant to the order. In the Executive order, I also have made a determination pursuant to section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA that the operation of the IEEPA exemption for certain humanitarian donations from the scope of the prohibitions would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency. Absent such a determination, such donations of the type specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA could strengthen the position of individuals and groups that endanger the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the United Nations, NATO, and other international organizations or entities, including U.S. military forces and Government officials, present in the region. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under IEEPA to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Executive order. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order, and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive order I have issued. The order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on June 27, 2001.

I have issued the order in response to recent developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, southern Serbia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region where persons have turned increasingly to the use of extremist violence, the incitement of ethnic conflict, and other obstructionist acts to promote irredentist or criminal agendas that have threatened the peace in and the stability and security of the region and placed those participating in or supporting international organizations, including U.S. military and Government personnel, at risk.

In both Macedonia and southern Serbia, individuals and groups have engaged in extremist violence and other acts of obstructionism to exploit legitimate grievances of local ethnic Albanians. These groups include local nationals who fought with the Kosovo Liberation Army in 1998–99 and have used their wartime connections to obtain funding and weapons from Kosovo and the ethnic Albanian diaspora. Guerrilla attacks by some of these groups against police and soldiers in Macedonia threaten to bring down the democratically elected, multi-ethnic government of a state that has become a close friend and invaluable partner of NATO. In March 2001, guerrillas operating on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia attempted to fire upon U.S. soldiers participating in the international security presence in Kosovo known as the Kosovo Force (KFOR). Guerrilla leaders subsequently made public threats against KFOR.

In southern Serbia, ethnic Albanian extremists have used the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ), originally intended as a buffer between KFOR and FRY/Government of Serbia (FRY/GoS) forces, as a safe haven for staging attacks against FRY/GoS police and soldiers. Members of ethnic Albanian armed extremist groups in southern Serbia have on several occasions fired on joint U.S.-Russian KFOR patrols in Kosovo. NATO has negotiated the return of FRY/GoS forces to the GSZ, and facilitated negotiations between Belgrade authorities and ethnic Albanian insurgents and political leaders from southern Serbia. A small number of the extremist leaders have since threatened to seek vengeance on KFOR, including U.S. KFOR.

Individuals and groups engaged in the activities described above have boasted falsely of having U.S. support, a claim that is believed by many in the region. They also have aggressively solicited funds from United States persons. These fund-raising efforts serve to fuel extremist violence and obstructionist activity in the region and are inimical to U.S. interests. Consequently, the Executive order I have issued is necessary to restrict any further financial or other support by United States persons for the persons designated in or pursuant to the order. The actions we are taking will demonstrate to all the peoples of the region and to the wider international community that the Government of the United States strongly opposes

the recent extremist violence and obstructionist activity in Macedonia and southern Serbia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans. The concrete steps we are undertaking to block access by these groups and individuals to financial and material support will assist in restoring peace and stability in the Western Balkans region and help protect U.S. military forces and Government officials working towards that end.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 27, 2001.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

June 27, 2001

Patients' Bill of Rights

The President. It's been my honor to welcome Members of the House of Representatives here to discuss a very important issue, which is Patients' Bill of Rights.

We had a good discussion about making sure that American workers and Americans have got good and decent health care. And there is such a bill that would provide American workers with the right kind of protections. And it's a bill that's been crafted in the House of Representatives, called the Fletcher-Peterson-Johnson bill. Two of the authors are here around the table. This piece of legislation, I am convinced, is—will make a big difference in people's lives. It will protect patients.

There are some other alternatives that are working their way—being debated on the House and the Senate that will run up the cost of health insurance for American workers and could conceivably cost millions of people their health insurance. I can't accept that kind of legislation.

I look forward to signing a bill such as the one that we've discussed here, a good piece of legislation that will make sense for the American workers. I'll be glad to answer some questions.

Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

Q. Sir, do you think the Democrats are playing politics here and angling for a veto, looking ahead to the 2002 elections?

The President. I don't. I think the Democrats are, hopefully, trying to come up with a good piece of legislation. I know the Republicans are. We had that kind of discussion. There seems to be a desire on the parts of people in Washington to get a good bill done. It's certainly my desire.

But I also think the American people will respect a President who stands on principle, and I've articulated the principles that I think are important for a piece of legislation. And the most important principle is that we don't have a piece of legislation that hurts the working people, that causes them not to have health care insurance, because health care insurance is more—will make it much more likely that the worker and their families are able to be treated well.

Now, I realize there are some complaints with HMOs. I signed legislation in Texas that dealt with those complaints. I look forward to signing legislation here that does just that, and the bill we discussed around this table is a piece of legislation that I will sign.

Situation in Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, you issued an order today on Macedonia. Do you think the ethnic Albanian rebels are getting a lot of financial support from the United States, and do you see any chance of committing U.S. troops to Macedonia to prevent a civil war?

The President. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], I take no option off the table in terms of the troops. We're a participant in NATO. I went to Europe recently and said, "We went into the Balkans together; we'll come out together," and I meant it.

Secondly, we've got some evidence that the ethnic Albanians, the extremists, are raising money not only in America but in Europe. And America will do our part to make sure that monies do not go to fund extremist activities that become a destabilizing influence for a democratically elected government in Macedonia.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, on the question of where patients could go to hold HMOs accountable if they're wrongfully denied coverage, Democrats say that Federal court, your preferred venue is too slow, too expensive, and frequently too far away from where people live. Why are you so adamant about keeping people out of their own State courts?

The President. Terry, I think if you look at this piece of legislation, you'll find there's a compromise between those who say it should only be in the Federal court and those who say it should only be in the State court. And the Fletcher bill has come up with an alternative procedure, one that will allow a certain cause of action to be in the Federal court and other cause of action to be in a State court. And it's the right approach. It's a good compromise between two positions.

Q. But what's wrong with Federal court?

The President. Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg Radio].

Bipartisanship/Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, a two part question. Around the table here today you have all—only Republicans. Do you plan talks like this with the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate, talks about Patients' Bill of Rights? And related to that, how close are you on a decision on stem cell research, and can you tell us which way you're leaning?

The President. I'll make a decision about that very emotional issue later on. In terms of whether I've talked to Democrats, of course I do. And there's a Democrat sponsor of this bill. He doesn't happen to be at the table, but he's on the right track, as far as I'm concerned, like the other sponsors of this bill.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

June 27, 2001

The bipartisan proposal introduced today by Representatives Ernie Fletcher, Collin Peterson, Nancy Johnson, and Richard Burr, along with Speaker Hastert and the chairmen of the three committees with jurisdiction, Chairmen Boehner, Tauzin, and Thomas, makes progress in our effort to provide patients with a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights.

This proposal, like the legislation introduced by Senators Frist, Breaux, and Jeffords, is another example of a Patients' Bill of Rights that reflects the principles I laid out earlier this year. I am encouraged that the bill introduced today brings us significantly closer to enacting a good Patients' Bill of Rights.

This legislation provides strong patient protections to all Americans. It ensures that patients have the right to an independent medical review when they have been denied medical care, and it holds health plans accountable by providing patients with meaningful, effective remedies when they have been harmed by a denial or delay in receiving such care.

I am committed to providing patients with expanded remedies to hold their health plans accountable and believe we can do so while protecting workers and their families from costly litigation that would increase health care premiums and leave too many Americans without health insurance. This legislation introduced today provides patients with meaningful remedies while preserving uniformity and certainty for employers who voluntarily offer health care benefits for millions of Americans across the country.

Remarks at the President's Dinner

June 27, 2001

Thank you all. Please be seated. Mr. Vice President, 11 months ago I made the smartest decision I could make when it came to politics. I picked you to become the Vice President. What a good man this guy is, and what a great job he's done for America.

I think you're the one over there with the light shining off your head. [*Laughter*] Oh yes, there you are. But I do know you're sitting next to a fabulous woman. Lynne Cheney is a great friend of Laura and mine, and we're real proud that she is a part of our team, as well.

Speaking about Laura, I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she's doing on behalf of the citizens of America. She is not only a fantastic mother and wife but a truly wonderful First Lady for America. We would like to stay for dinner, but we've got to go home and feed Barney the dog. [*Laughter*]

I'm really proud to be here at what used to be called the House-Senate Dinner. And I'm glad to have something to do with the name change. [*Laughter*] But this name—the dinner's name wouldn't have changed without the help of a lot of people in this room. And I want to thank you and the American people for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank Roger Enrico for his hard work. I want to thank Tommy Loeffler and George Allen and Jim McCrery, as well. I want to thank my friends, the Speaker of the House and soon-to-be majority leader of the Senate, Speaker Hastert and Trent Lott. It is such a pleasure to be able to work with two men to try to do what's right for America. And I want to thank you all for coming. Make no mistake about it, this dinner has one goal in mind, to make sure Denny Hastert remains the Speaker of the House and to make sure Trent Lott is the majority leader of the United States Senate. And we've got a reason why.

This just isn't politics. There's a reason why we need to make sure we remain strong in the Senate—and I want to thank the Senators who are here tonight—and the reason why we need to remain strong in the House—and I want to thank the House Members who are here tonight—and the reason why is because we have an agenda that is positive for America. We have a philosophy that is conservative and compassionate. Ours is a party that stands on principle, and ours is a party that's getting things done for the American people.

You know, there's a lot of talk in this town—people like to hold press conferences; people like to call people names. Well, what I like to do is to point out that when we work together, we can make some serious progress on behalf of the American people.

Take tax reform. Gosh, I remember in the campaign—Dick will tell you—when we used to talk about tax reform, and there would be a collective yawn by the people that made the news. Our opponents said it was a foolhardy effort. But as a result of working together, and as a result of listening to the American people, I was able to sign in the White House, in record time, the first broadbased tax relief in a generation.

It would not have happened had the Speaker and the leader and Members of the Senate and House been willing to work together to do what's right for America. And what's right for America at this point in history is to trust the people with their own money. What was right for America is to understand these projected surpluses were not the Government's money; it was the people's money. And we've got to trust the people with their own money.

We worked together to put a plan out that was fair. Gosh, I remember all the old, tired talk in Washington about targeted tax relief. It meant that a handful of people got to decide who the winners and losers were in the Tax Code. We didn't think that was fair. We came with the simple principle that, if we were going to have tax relief, everybody in America who paid taxes ought to get tax relief. And so the bill I signed reduced all taxes on every taxpayer in America.

We recognized the marriage penalty was unfair. After all, what kind of Tax Code is it that penalizes marriage? Ours is a party that stands for strong families in America. And so we did something about the marriage penalty, and we did away with the death tax in the Tax Code.

Ours was a plan based upon principles. The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can grow or the entrepreneur can flourish. Tax relief sent a clear message that we understand the role of capital in our society, and we want to provide capital for small-business owners regardless of their background, regardless of where they're from, because the American Dream is really about owning something.

And to the entrepreneurs all across the country, we say loud and clear, we understand what you're going through, and we want to stand side by side with you. Tax relief

was principled, in that it said, we trust the people of America. We said loud and clear, when it came to budgeting, we would budget a fair amount of money for the Federal Government; we'd meet the basics, which we did. But with any money left over, we wanted the American people to have the right to spend their own money. You see, we trust the people of America. We'd rather the American people be making decisions for their families, as opposed to the Federal Government.

We also had a plan that was necessary at this point in our economic history. Oh, you're hearing all kinds of second-guessing now about the tax relief plan. But what you can't second-guess is that our economy has slowed down. And one of our jobs—the Vice President's and my job is to solve problems. And a way to handle an economic slowdown is through good, sound fiscal policy and by passing money back to people this summer through tax rebates. And by reducing the rates on everybody who pays taxes, we've sent a clear message to entrepreneurs and capital and workers all around the country: We're going to do something about the economic slowdown. Tax relief is important to provide second wind for the economic growth of the United States of America. I want to remind people it was conservative to cut taxes, but it was compassionate, as well.

I remember traveling our country endlessly, seeking the vote. And nearly every stop, there were people there that were tax families, hard-working Americans who were struggling to get ahead, people who were trying to cope with their high energy bills or trying to get out from underneath their credit card debt, moms and dads who were hoping for a bright future for their children. I can remember looking in the eyes of our fellow citizens at every stop and saying to myself, I can't wait to go to Washington and to work with Congress to pass money back, so these good folks have got more of their hard-earned dollars to spend on their families.

Tax families made a huge impact on me as I campaigned across the country. I can't wait to get on the phone and see whether or not they like their tax rebate check when they start getting them this summer. I suspect they will.

And I remember traveling our country to hundreds of classrooms all across America, as well, and meeting dedicated teachers. And one of the things Laura is doing is, she's traveling the Nation recruiting youngsters and people who have just gotten out of the military to become a teacher. We need more teachers in America. We need to thank our teachers all across our land.

But we've also got to make sure we have an education system that's focused on results, an education system that holds up every child, an education system that believes every child can learn. And so we worked with the United States Congress to pass meaningful, real education reform. It's a reform package that says not only should we set high standards, but we ought to trust local people to chart the path for excellence for every single child. It's an education plan that focuses on each individual by insisting that school districts and States measure, so that we know. The old way used to say, "How old are you? And if you're 10, we'll put you in the fourth grade, and if you're 12, we'll move you here, and if you're 14, gosh, you're supposed to be here." But once we get this bill out of the Senate and the House conference committees and on my desk, America will start to ask the question, "What do you know?" And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do, early, before it's too late. There are no second-rate children in America, as far as we're concerned, and there are no second-rate dreams.

Mine is a job that will leave us with vivid memories and great experiences. There's no vivid a memory than I had when the EP–3 crew came to the White House. They were all dressed in their sparkling whites. They were proud to be Americans, and I was proud to welcome them to the most sacred office in our land. I was really proud to be able to tell the pilot what a fantastic job he did of taking a damaged aircraft and saving the lives of his crewmembers.

Whether it be greeting the EP–3 crew or inspecting the troops as Commander in Chief, I'm reminded of what one of my principal jobs is, and to make sure the world is a more peaceful place. And we believe it starts with having a military that's properly paid, properly housed, and properly trained:

prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Today I submitted up to Congress an amendment to the 2002 budget, which will increase military spending by 32.6 billion over the 2001 budget. It is my administration's commitment to a strong national defense. And at the same time, I'm proud of my Secretary of Defense's review of our military, to make sure that we're focused and make sure that taxpayers' dollars go into weapons systems that will be needed to keep the peace as we head into the 21st century.

I had the honor of representing our Nation recently in Europe, where I had a chance to explain what it meant to develop new weapons systems to keep the peace. Perhaps the most meaningful discussion I had was in a beautiful country called Slovenia. You ought to go there sometime. It is picturesque. I told the President I'd put a plug in for him. [*Laughter*] It is unbelievably beautiful country. And there I had the honor of meeting President Putin of Russia.

It was a fascinating discussion. I explained to him that ours was a peaceful nation. We didn't view Russia as an enemy. Mine is an administration that wants to discard the old way of thinking that took place during the cold war. In the old days, peace was achieved by figuring out how many weapons we could point at each other. But I explained to President Putin, Russia is no longer the threat. The threat to Russia or the threat to the United States or the threat to freedom-loving people will come as a result of a leader of a rogue nation having weapons of mass destruction. And therefore, to keep the peace, we must think differently.

I explained to him that history, past history was no longer relevant to the future, that two young leaders should seize the moment and make the world more peaceful by discarding that part of the ABM Treaty that prevents the United States from doing the research and development necessary to deploy effective antiballistic missile systems to keep the peace.

And it's been my honor to travel our country and to see the great acts of compassion that take place every single day, without one Government law telling people what to do. I remember going to Tampa, Florida, for a Habitat for Humanity building site. I had the privilege of raising the wall. For those of you who have built a Habitat For Humanity home, you know the great pride you have when you nail a bunch a nails and not hit your finger—[*laughter*]—and then stand side by side with good, decent citizens, including the homeowner, to raise the wall. It was such a meaningful moment, because it reminded me about the great strength of America. And the great strength of America is America's people.

Ours is a compassionate land, a decent land, a land where people are motivated by good will, good heart, and strong faith. And so one of the most important initiatives that we're are discussing in the Halls of the United States Congress is an initiative which will gather the true strength of America, a faith-based initiative that says there are people in America who suffer; they suffer from want and need; they suffer from love and compassion. It makes sense for our country to welcome community and faith-based groups into the compassionate delivery of care and help if we want the American Dream to extend its reach throughout every neighborhood in America.

One of my favorite stories is an old story about a grandfather and his grandson walking along a beach that was chock-full of starfish. And the young boy picked one of them up and threw it in the ocean. And the grandfather, looking down the beach, seeing all the starfish, said, "That's not going to make any difference." And the young boy looked at his grandfather and said, "It makes a difference to that one." And that's how you change America—one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And we can also change America, for those of us fortunate enough to hold positions of responsibility, by setting good examples, by working hard to usher in a period of personal responsibility. We must reject the old cultures which said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it; and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." Ours is a group of citizens caring about America who want to work together to usher in a period of personal responsibility, a period where the moms and dads of America understand our

most important job will be to love our children with all our hearts and all our souls, a period when each of us must turn to a neighbor in need and say, "What can we do to help?"—a period of time when those of us who have been elected to office understand the high responsibilities of the offices to which we have been elected.

I welcome a cultural shift in America. I'm going to work hard to call all those who care about our Nation to join me in changing the culture and join me in ushering in a period of personal responsibility. And I want you to know that assuming the responsibility of President is a high honor, an honor I hold dearly, an honor I hold sacred, and an honor I will not abrogate to the American people.

Thank you for coming tonight, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Roger A. Enrico, vice chairman of the board, PepsiCo., Inc.; Tom Loeffler, vice chairman of regents, University of Texas at San Antonio; U.S. Navy pilot Lt. Shane Osborn, USN; President Milan Kucan of Slovenia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

June 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I transmit herewith to you the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 27, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 28.

Remarks to Department of Energy Employees

June 28, 2001

Thank you very much. Okay. Conserve your energy. [*Laughter*] That's the message I'm sending to Congress today, in a comprehensive energy strategy. On the one hand, it says we must be wiser about how we develop and increase supply, and on the other hand, it says we must be wiser about how we conserve energy.

Our Nation must have a strategy, a broad, comprehensive energy strategy that calls upon the best of the Nation's entrepreneurs to help us develop the technologies necessary to make wise choices in the marketplace, as well as calls upon our Nation's innovative technologies to help us find new sources of energy. And the plan I submitted to Congress today does just that.

Mr. Secretary, I appreciate your leadership. He's a man of high energy and good wisdom. And I picked the right man to lead the Energy Department for the country. I want to thank all the hard-working folks here at the Department of Energy and those around the country who are dedicating your lives to making America a better place.

I want to thank the United States Congressman who came. George, thank you very much for being here. He's from the great State of California. As you know, California has an energy issue, and the people of our country and the people of California must understand that the Federal Government has stood side by side with the people of California, working to alleviate the situation there.

We've expedited the ability for California to build new powerplants. We've reduced the regulatory burdens and hurdles to encourage the increase of supply into a State in which no powerplant had been built for over a decade. And yesterday I was pleased to see—and the Governor inaugurated a new powerplant in Chino, California—the beginnings of what is a rational energy policy that will help the good people of California get out from underneath 10 years of neglect.

Secondly, the Federal Government made a strong commitment, led by Spence

Abraham and led by Don Rumsfeld, to reduce the amount of usage of energy in the State of California. And I'm pleased to report the U.S. Navy, for example, has reported it has reduced power during peak hours by 11 percent over last year. And I want to thank you all for being good stewards of the Nation's scarce resources.

I'm also pleased to recognize the members of the Canadian-Mexican-U.S. task force to develop energy supply in our own hemisphere. Natural gas needs to move in our hemisphere. It needs to move easily across our borders to find markets, to be able to ease the pressures of reduced supply all around the country.

One of the interesting things about California is the new powerplants that are now being constructed will be powered by natural gas. Therefore, we need more natural gas supply to power the powerplants. And I want to thank our Mexican and Canadian friends for working with us to jointly develop—[*applause*].

And finally, I want to thank the entrepreneurs who have come to brief Spence and myself on the latest technologies that are developing. You know, one of the great things about our country is that if we provide the right incentive and the right partnerships, there are no limits to what our entrepreneurs can develop; there's no limits to the technology that we can bring to marketplace.

And we saw a lot of that today. We saw new automobiles that will be more fuel efficient, while making sure that consumer demand for comfort is met. We saw new technologies being developed out of Silicon Valley and Massachusetts and other States, that will make consumer products more energy efficient. And I want to thank the entrepreneurs who are here and remind you that my government is committed to this proposition. Our job is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes all across America. That not only means reasonable, sound tax policy; that means putting the Federal Government squarely on the side of innovation.

And so, today I'm pleased to announce $85.7 million in Federal grants to encourage academia and the private sector to join with contributions from the private sector to accelerate the development of fuel cells, advanced engines, hydrotechnology, and efficient appliances for American consumers.

And today, as well, I want to talk about what's called vampires and announce to the Nation the new vampire slayer, and that's the Secretary of Energy, Spence Abraham. [*Laughter*] Because of our desire for instant convenience, many of the appliances in our homes carry unnecessarily high energy costs. Because we're used to a computer coming on instantly or a TV snapping on as a result of a flick of a remote switch, common-day appliances eat enormous amounts of energy, and yet we're developing the technologies necessary to have both convenience and energy savings.

Today we witnessed the technology necessary, for example, to take a device that powers cell phones and reduce the amount of electricity by a significant amount of money. You see, when the battery is plugged into the wall, even though the phone is not charging, it still eats energy. And while that may not be much of a savings on an individual unit basis, when you multiply the amount of chargers plugged into people's walls all across America, one can begin to realize significant energy savings all across the country.

As a matter of fact, it said that these vampires, the vampire devices use about 4 percent of the electricity in the average home. And to put this on a national scale, if we multiplied the vampire devices' energy consumption across the country, we're talking about 52 billion kilowatt hours of power a year, or the equivalent of 26 average-size powerplants.

And so the fundamental question is, are we able to mate the technologies with the consumer devices? And the answer is, we must. We must, if we are to have an energy strategy of which one of the key components is conservation. And so today, not only am I announcing that Spence is the vampire slayer—and by that, I mean that the Federal Government will work hard to purchase and promote those energy savers that only use 1 watt of energy as opposed to the average 4 or 7 watts of energy.

And so, what can we do? What can we do to set the clear example? Well, first, I'm

going to sign an Executive order directing all Federal agencies to purchase appliances that meet the 1-watt standard, wherever cost effective. I say wherever cost effective because I don't want the manufacturers of the new products to feel that they've got an easy market when it comes to the Federal Government. We will purchase the new technologies, but we will make sure we do so without getting gouged. We'll be reasonable purchasers. But the Federal Government must set the example.

We must have—my dream is to have desktop computers all across our Government with the latest savings devices that we saw today on display. Saving devices that say, when the computer is off or on standby, the energy supply being used is reduced by sevenfold. That's necessary. It is the right step for our Federal Government to set the example. It is the right step for our Federal Government—on the one hand, if we lay out an energy strategy, we must act upon the strategy.

And so, Mr. Secretary, when I sign that Executive order, I know the kind of person you are. You will join with me in judging how effective our purchasers have become to whether or not this is simply a piece of paper or whether or not it becomes an action plan for smart Government policy. And both of us are joined together to make sure it's an action plan.

Secondly, we hope industry joins with Government in making these wise decisions. That's happening. The bottom line is essential for many corporations. The bottom line can be drastically affected in a positive way by smart energy practices, and it's happening. Imagine the economies of purchase that will take place when the Federal Government and industry starts making wise decisions about the technologies to save energy, so that it becomes much more feasible for the American consumer in short order.

And finally, we must incorporate the new 1-watt standard in the qualifications to earn the ENERGY STAR as awarded by the Department of Energy and the EPA. The ENERGY STAR is an important marketing tool, because it says to energy-conscious consumers: This product makes sense; this product incorporates the latest technology to conserve energy; this product is the most efficient use of technology that we can promote.

And we're very aggressive about promoting ENERGY STAR. I'm a strong supporter of the program, because there are millions of Americans who want to make the right choices, who want to help this Nation become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, who want this Nation to be a nation that has a reliable energy source, and who want to do their part when it comes to purchasing in the marketplace. And ENERGY STAR is a great way for the Federal Government to enter into a partnership with consumer product producers that says: This is the latest; this is the best. And so the Secretary of Energy and the Director of—Administrator of the EPA and my office will work to promote ENERGY STAR all across the country.

Ours is the first administration that has laid out a broad strategy, a comprehensive strategy, a strategy that goes beyond the stale debates of whether or not we ought to drill for natural gas in Alaska, or not. This strategy is much broader than that. And while I strongly believe we ought to explore for natural gas and hydrocarbons without destroying our environment—and I believe we can do so in Alaska—it's important for the American people to understand that we're talking way beyond just one single issue that seems to dominate the landscape here in Washington, DC.

Ours is a program that says: We must conserve; we must advance technologies that are smart and reasonable and make eminent sense for the future of our country; and that while we're promoting additional supply, we must be wise about how we get supplies to the consumers; we must modernize an aging, decrepit, old, energy-inefficient infrastructure. It's about time an administration came up and told the truth to the American people and laid out a commonsense agenda to make sure the great future of this country is as bright as it possibly can be.

Mr. Secretary, I'm honored to be here. Thank you for the invitation. Again, I want to repeat to all the good, hard-working folks here in this Department, thanks for your service to the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the cafeteria at the Department of Energy. In his remarks, he referred to Representative George Radanovich and Gov. Gray Davis of California.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group

June 28, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

One of the first actions I took when I became President in January was to create the National Energy Policy Development Group to examine America's energy needs and to develop a policy to put our Nation's energy future on sound footing.

I am hereby transmitting to the Congress proposals contained in the National Energy Policy report that require legislative action. In conjunction with executive actions that my Administration is already undertaking, these legislative initiatives will help address the underlying causes of the energy challenges that Americans face now and in the years to come. Energy has enormous implications for our economy, our environment, and our national security. We cannot let another year go by without addressing these issues together in a comprehensive and balanced package.

These important legislative initiatives, combined with regulatory and administrative actions, comprise a comprehensive and forward-looking plan that utilizes 21st century technology to allow us to promote conservation and diversify our energy supply. These actions will increase the quality of life of Americans by providing reliable energy and protecting the environment.

Our policy will modernize and increase conservation by ensuring that energy is used as efficiently as possible. In addition, the National Energy Policy will modernize and expand our energy infrastructure, creating a new high-tech energy delivery network that increases the reliability of our energy supply. Further, it will diversify our energy supply by encouraging renewable and alternative sources of energy as well as the latest technologies to increase environmentally friendly exploration and production of domestic energy resources.

Importantly, our energy policy improves and accelerates environmental protection. By utilizing the latest in pollution control technologies to cut harmful emissions we can integrate our desire for a cleaner environment and a sufficient supply of energy for the future. We will also strengthen America's energy security. We will do so by reducing our dependence on foreign sources of oil, and by protecting low-income Americans from soaring energy prices and supply shortages through programs like the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program.

My Administration stands ready to work with the Congress to enact comprehensive energy legislation this year.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 28, 2001.

Statement on the Transfer of Slobodan Milosevic to the War Crimes Tribunal

June 28, 2001

I applaud today's transfer of indicted war criminal Slobodan Milosevic to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. This very important step by the leaders in Belgrade ensures that Milosevic can finally be tried for his war crimes and crimes against humanity. During various visits by Yugoslav authorities to Washington, they pledged that Yugoslavia was committed to cooperating with the Tribunal. Milosevic's transfer is a strong sign of that commitment. We are confident that the Government of Yugoslavia will continue down the path of cooperation with the Tribunal.

The transfer of Milosevic to The Hague is an unequivocal message to those persons who brought such tragedy and brutality to the Balkans, that they will be held accountable for their crimes. Milosevic's transfer further signals the commitment of the new leadership in Belgrade to turn Yugoslavia away from its tragic past and toward a brighter future as a full member of the community of European democracies.

The United States stands ready to assist the people of Yugoslavia as they continue to take the difficult steps to advance its democratic and economic reform.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Proposed "Community Solutions Act of 2001"

June 28, 2001

I commend the House Judiciary Committee for passing legislation that offers hope to tens of millions of people at risk, including 15 million children. I believe strongly that Government should support programs that work to save and change lives of those in need.

I look forward to action by the Ways and Means Committee and urge the House to pass this legislation as soon possible.

NOTE: The proposed "Community Solutions Act of 2001" is H.R. 7.

Joint Statement by Presidents George W. Bush, John Agyekum Kufuor, Abdoulaye Wade, and Alpha Oumar Konare

June 28, 2001

This meeting affirms the high regard in which United States holds these strong African democracies. Our relationship is based on shared democratic values.

President Bush joins Presidents Kufuor of Ghana, Wade of Senegal, and Konare of Mali in affirming our shared opposition to governments that come to power or seek to retain power by unconstitutional means. The United States opposes any action that undermines legitimate, democratic rule, including coups and other direct power grabs, as well as constitutional changes orchestrated solely to promote an incumbent's hold on power or to impede an opponent.

The leaders agreed to continue our mutual efforts to promote regional peace and prosperity. The United States welcomes and appreciates the participation of Ghana, Senegal, and Mali in initiatives to further regional security, such as the African Crisis Response Initiative and Operation Focus Relief.

Stability and peace are ends in themselves, but they are also essential prerequisites for economic prosperity, development, and poverty alleviation. The United States welcomes the region's efforts to promote stability, as the precursors to investment and economic growth, but also ongoing efforts to break down barriers to regional trade and investment. President Bush also welcomes African development initiatives, such as the Millennium Africa Recovery and OMEGA plans. An integrated West Africa would be best positioned to take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

The leaders expressed a joint commitment to remain engaged in efforts to promote peace, stability, and democracy in West Africa, and President Bush reaffirmed that the United State will work with the region to build mechanisms to prevent and, when necessary, contain and end conflict.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

June 28, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, as amended (47 U.S.C. 396(i)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for Fiscal Year 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 28, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

June 28, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed is a report to the Congress on Executive Order 12938, as required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)).

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 28, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 29.

Remarks at a Black Music Month Celebration

June 29, 2001

Please be seated. Well, thank you all very much, and welcome to the White House, the people's house. It is my honor today to sign a proclamation celebrating Black Music Month and also to welcome some of the finest entertainers in America to the people's room, people who brought a lot of joy and heart and energy to the American scene, folks who have enriched our country's culture. And so, Laura and I welcome you here, and thank you for coming.

I also want to thank Debbie Allen, our emcee, who will be making sure that—[*applause*]—and the Members of Congress who are here. I want to thank our entertainers who are going to entertain today who are here. I want to thank some of the entertainers who entertained me who are here—James Brown, the Four Tops—[*applause*].

We're honoring all-stars today. I want to welcome the student honorees: Danielle Weatherford, Regina De Ocampo, and Lauren Dawson—who are here on the stage with me. I want to thank you all for being here. I want to thank Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff. I want to welcome representatives of the industry, producers and directors who are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

This is an appropriate place to host an event, right here in the East Room, because so many of the world's great artists have preceded us. And we're also welcoming the talent of a new generation, who I just introduced.

Let me talk about some of the music legends who are here on the stage. First, I'm so thankful that Shirley Caesar and Bobby Jones are here. Their voices are a part of a ministry that has had a profound effect on people's lives. It is fitting we honor gospel music in the White House and in our country.

Lena Horne and Nancy Wilson are honorees, and they are unable to join us today. But they sang some sweet music for the American people. And finally, Lionel Hampton is here, and it's such an honor. Laura and I are honored to welcome him to Washington, just like Harry and Bess Truman did when he played at their inaugural ball in 1949. The Johnsons, the Nixons, and the Reagans all invited Lionel here, as well. Presidents come and go, but there's only one "Vibes" President of the United States. [*Laughter*]

Lionel Hampton is an old friend of our family's, going all the way back to my dad's boyhood. On a couple of occasions, he and my grandfather did a few numbers together. My grandfather was quite a singer, as Lionel would tell you. And as Laura would tell you, the gene pool didn't spread this far. [*Laughter*]

A lot of other greats have passed through the White House, including America's Ambassador of Goodwill, Louis Armstrong. In this room, Pearl Bailey was introduced to Mikhail Gorbachev by Ronald Reagan, who said, simply, "This is our Pearl." [*Laughter*] Eubie Blake played ragtime piano on the South Lawn. And these chandeliers, I can assure you, trembled when Ella Fitzgerald sang here. It was here that Duke Ellington received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which was a fitting tribute to the son of a White House butler.

Today we pay homage to an American tradition, a tradition that only America could have produced. Spirituals, jazz, R&B, hip-

hop are performed, heard and loved in every part of the world—every part of the world. But they belong to our country in a unique way. And as the President of this country, I'm proud to herald that uniqueness today.

You trace the roots of black American music, you arrive at the same place—with the people held in bondage, denied schooling, and kept away from opportunity. Yet, out of all that suffering came the early spirituals, some of the sweetest praise ever lifted up to heaven. In those songs, humanity will always hear the voice of hope in the face of injustice.

Since those early days, the music of black Americans has told many other stories, in many other styles: Scott Joplin to Jelly Roll Morton, from Marion Anderson to Aretha Franklin, from Nat King Cole to the Neville Brothers, from Dizzy Gillespie to Sam Cook, Kathleen Battle to Gladys Knight, from James Brown to the Four Tops. It is music that is always easy to enjoy, yet impossible to imitate.

Stories told about Louis Armstrong—someone came up to the legendary giant one day and asked him to define jazz. They wanted to understand it, so they came to the master, himself. And he replied, "Man, if you've got to ask, you'll never know." [*Laughter*]

Well, there's some things I know today. I know America is a richer place for the musicians and the music that we honor today. Again, I welcome you to the White House. And it's now my honor to sign the executive proclamation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, founders, Philadelphia International Records.

Proclamation 7453—Black Music Month, 2001

June 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's rich musical heritage reflects the diversity of our people. Among many influences, the cultural traditions brought to this land from Africa more than four centuries ago and the remarkable musical achievements of African Americans since then have strongly and unmistakably improved the sound of American music.

From historical burdens such as slavery and injustice to the celebration of faith, much of the origin of African-American music reflects our national story. The work songs, shouts and hollers, spirituals, and ragtime of an earlier era laid the creative foundation for many of America's most distinctive and popular musical genres. These include rhythm and blues, jazz, hip hop, gospel, rap, and the roots of rock and roll.

Jazz, often called America's classical music, so influenced our culture that Americans named a decade after it. Like the country of its birth, jazz blends many traditions, such as African-American folk, rhythm and blues, French Creole classical form, and gospel. Through the creation and performance of music like jazz, black Americans were better able to exchange ideas freely across racial and cultural barriers. Before our Nation made significant strides in truly promoting equal justice and opportunity for all, black and white musicians in the genres of jazz, blues, and country played together in jam sessions, recording studios, and small bands. In many ways, their art preceded social change, allowing black and white musicians to meet as equals and to be judged on their musical ability, rather than the color of their skin. Their music also provided an outlet for African Americans to speak passionately and brilliantly to the rest of the Nation and the world.

From New Orleans and the back roads of the Mississippi Delta to Harlem and Chicago, black musicians set enduring and distinctive standards for American creativity. The blues of Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith, the gospel of Mahalia Jackson, the jazz of Duke Ellington, and the soul of Marvin Gaye claim fans of all ages from around the world. The trumpeting genius of Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie illustrate the exceptional musicianship so prominent in various genres of African-American music.

The career of Marian Anderson, the world-class contralto who was denied permission to sing in Constitution Hall because of her race,

symbolizes the achievements of so many black American musicians. Performing instead at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, she drew an audience of 75,000 and inspired the world not only with her rich musical gifts, but also with her determination and courage.

The music of Marian Anderson and other African-American artists has greatly enriched our quality of life and created one of our Nation's most treasured art forms. As universal and original expressions of the human experience, their body of work, both past and present, entertains, inspires, and thrills countless people around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2001, as Black Music Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the contributions of black artists to America's musical heritage and to celebrate their remarkable role in shaping our history and culture.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., July 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

Statement on Senate Action on the Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

June 29, 2001

I am pleased that the Patients' Bill of Rights adopted in the Senate today more closely reflects my principles than did the original McCain-Kennedy-Edwards bill. I appreciate the good faith efforts of those who worked to improve the bill by narrowing some loopholes and giving greater deference to state patient protections.

The Senate failed, however, to address the danger that excessive, unlimited litigation in State courts would drive up premium costs and cause many American families to lose their health insurance. I could not in good conscience sign this bill because it puts the interests of trial lawyers before the interest of patients.

I will continue to work with the House to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, like Fletcher-Peterson-Johnson, that provides patients with strong protections, holds HMOs accountable, but discourages runaway litigation costs. I urge the House to pass a meaningful and effective Patients' Bill of Rights that meets my principles.

Proclamation 7454—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

June 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462), authorize the President to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) provides that beneficiary developing countries, except least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the GSP to eligible articles.

3. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)) provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) during the preceding calendar year.

4. Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C.

2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

5. Section 503(d) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)) provides that the President may waive the application of the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) with respect to any eligible article of any beneficiary developing country if certain conditions are met.

6. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act, and having due regard for the eligibility criteria set forth therein, I have determined that it is appropriate to designate Georgia as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

7. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain beneficiary countries should no longer receive preferential tariff treatment under the GSP with respect to certain eligible articles imported in quantities that exceed the applicable competitive need limitation.

8. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain countries should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A). For certain articles, I have decided that the effective date of the redesignation shall be determined by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

9. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries. For certain articles, I have decided that the effective date of the waiver shall be determined by the USTR.

10. Pursuant to section 503(d) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from a beneficiary developing country. I have received the advice of the International Trade Commission on whether any industries in the United States are likely to be adversely affected by such waivers, and I have determined, based on that advice and on the considerations described in sections 501 and 502(c), that such waivers are in the national economic interest of the United States. I have decided that the effective date of the waivers shall be determined by the USTR.

11. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the addition of Georgia as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A(1) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to provide that one or more countries that have not been treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to such article or articles for purposes of the GSP, and in order to provide that one or more countries should no longer be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A(2) of Annex I and paragraph (1) of Annex III to this proclamation.

(3) (a) In order to provide preferential tariff treatment under the GSP to a beneficiary developing country that has been excluded from the benefits of the GSP for certain eligible articles, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section A(3)(a) of Annex I and

paragraph (2) of Annex III to this proclamation is modified as provided in such section and paragraph.

(b) In order to provide that one or more countries should not be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section A(3)(b) of Annex I to this proclamation is modified as provided in such section.

(4) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries listed in section B of Annex I to this proclamation.

(5) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing country set forth in Annex II to this proclamation.

(6) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(7) (a) The modifications made by Annex I to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after July 1, 2001.

(b) The action taken in paragraph (5) of this proclamation shall be effective on the date of signature of this proclamation.

(c) The modifications made by Annex III to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after a date to be announced in the *Federal Register* by the USTR.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annexes will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Extending Generalized System of Preferences Benefits to the Republic of Georgia

June 29, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 502(f) of the Trade Act of l974, as amended (the "Act"), I am writing to notify you of my intent to add the Republic of Georgia to the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP program offers duty-free access to the U.S. market for a wide range of products from beneficiary developing countries.

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act and have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Georgia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Account of Federal Expenditures for Climate Change Programs and Activities

June 29, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 566(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–429), I transmit herewith an account of Federal expenditures for climate change programs and activities. This report includes both domestic and international programs and activities related to climate change, and contains data on both spending and performance goals.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 25

In the morning, the President traveled from Crawford, TX, to Detroit, MI, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate John H. Marburger III to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gerald Reynolds to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights.

June 26

In the afternoon, the President met with President-elect Alejandro Toledo of Peru in the National Security Adviser's office.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria on July 12.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate John Malcolm Ordway to be Ambassador to Armenia.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate Brian Carlson to be Ambassador to Latvia.

June 27

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald R. Schregardus to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

The President announced his intention to nominate H.T. Johnson to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be Commissioners of the U.S. Parole Commission: Gilbert Gallegos, Henry Hart, Cranston J. Miller, and Marie F. Ragghianti.

June 28

In the afternoon, the President met with President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana, President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali, and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal in the Oval Office.

June 29

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Randal Quarles to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nils J. Diaz to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta to be a member of the Amtrak Reform Board.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster exists in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes on May 27–30.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 26

Robert C. Bonner,
of California, to be Commissioner of Customs, vice Raymond W. Kelly, resigned.

Rosario Marin,
of California, to be Treasurer of the United States, vice Mary Ellen Withrow, resigned.

Roger Francisco Noriega,
of Kansas, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Luis J. Lauredo.

Jeanne L. Phillips,
of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Amy L. Bondurant.

Jeffrey William Runge,
of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, vice Sue Bailey.

Nancy Victory,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, vice Gregory Rohde, resigned.

Submitted June 27

John Arthur Hammerschmidt,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2002, vice James E. Hall, resigned.

Claude M. Kicklighter,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Policy and Planning), vice Dennis M. Duffy, resigned.

Submitted June 28

Stuart A. Bernstein,
of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Denmark.

Carole Brookins,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 2 years, vice Jan Piercy, term expired.

Dan R. Brouillette,
of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice John C. Angell, resigned.

Linda Mysliwy Conlin,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Michael J. Copps, resigned.

Charles A. Heimbold, Jr.,
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Sweden.

H.T. Johnson,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice Robert B. Pirie, Jr., resigned.

Donald R. Schregardus,
of Ohio, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Steven Alan Herman, resigned.

Submitted June 29

Charlotte L. Beers,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, vice Evelyn Simonowitz Lieberman.

Marion Blakey,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2005, vice John Arthur Hammerschmidt, term expired.

Marion Blakey,
of Mississippi, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of 2 years, vice James E. Hall, term expired.

Carol D'Amico,
of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education, vice Patricia Wentworth McNeil, resigned.

Henrietta Holsman Fore,
of Nevada, to be Director of the Mint for a term of 5 years, vice Jay Johnson, resigned.

Jim Nicholson,
of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Holy See.

Randal Quarles,
of Utah, to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 2 years, vice Karin Lissakers, resigned.

Dennis L. Schornack,
of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, vice Thomas L. Baldini.

Judith Elizabeth Ayres,
of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice William A. Nitze, resigned.

George McDade Staples,
of Kentucky, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 25

Statement by the Press Secretary on the National Mediation Board recommendation for the the appointment of an Emergency Board in the dispute between American Airlines and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Released June 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1914, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Bouteflika of Algeria

Released June 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary condemning terrorist violence in Macedonia

Released June 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Elliott Abrams as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Operations at the National Security Council

Released June 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney on his upcoming medical procedure

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 26

H.R. 1914 / Public Law 107–17
To extend for 4 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted

Week Ending Friday, July 6, 2001

The President's Radio Address

June 30, 2001

Good morning. It's the Fourth of July this coming week, a proud day for all Americans. Two hundred and twenty-five years ago the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. That document's bold words defined our Nation and inspired the world, but words alone did not secure America's independence. In 1776 liberty had to be defended by brave soldiers and sailors at the risk of their lives, and liberty is still defended by brave men and women today.

Much has changed over the past two centuries for the people who wear the uniform of the United States. Our Armed Forces have grown into the mightiest on Earth, and their responsibilities extend all over the world. Yet, the courage and patriotism of our service men and women are as sure and as strong as ever, and we owe them the same appreciation that we feel for the soldiers of Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, and Yorktown. We owe them fair salaries, first-class health benefits, and decent housing. And what we owe, we will pay.

This past week I announced an amended budget request for the Department of Defense in 2002—32.6 billion more than in 2001—to improve the training, readiness, and quality of life of our troops. This is the biggest defense increase since the Reagan buildup of the mid-1980s. For too many years, our strength has dwindled. Now we are rebuilding once again, and our first priority is the well-being of men and women in uniform.

Two-thirds of our military family housing units are listed by the Department of Defense as being in poor condition. This will change. We have other defense priorities, as well. Secretary Rumsfeld is completing a review of the mission and structure of our Armed Forces. Soon we'll be proposing a new defense strategy for a new age, a strategy that recognizes the cold war is over but that threats to our security still remain. We are consulting with our allies, with Russia, and with others on a defense system that will protect our country, our forces, and our friends from missile attack and nuclear blackmail.

It's time for fresh thinking and rapid change in our national defense, to prepare for challenges that are changing just as quickly. One thing will never change, the quality and dedication of the men and women who wear America's uniform. They give their best; they are the best; and they deserve the best. There is no greater honor for a President than to serve as Commander in Chief. And my budget priorities reflect the pride I feel in the outstanding people who serve and protect us all.

I urge the Congress to promptly approve my defense requests, which will assure better pay, better housing, and better health care for our Armed Forces. And I wish you and your family a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:04 p.m. on June 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

June 30, 2001

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of a—of our close friend and ally. We had a 2-hour meeting, a very frank and open discussion. There's no question we will work together. There's no

question in my mind our relationship will never be stronger than under our leadership.

We talked about security matters. We talked about economics, and I want to praise the Prime Minister for his vision for reform for the Japanese economy. He's willing to make difficult choices, and that's what a leader does.

We talked about the environment. We talked about baseball. And we talked about the need to make sure that we work for a more peaceful world. And I'm confident we'll be able to do so.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Koizumi. It was a wonderful meeting, and I believe we were able to establish a relationship of trust. It was a heart-to-heart meeting. This was truly a wonderful meeting. I did not feel—or I did not, at the outset, believe that I would be able to establish such a strong relationship of trust with the President in my first meeting, which was much more than I expected.

In the Genoa summit, upcoming summit, and during the President's visit to Tokyo this fall, I am certain that we will be able to have an even closer relationship during our meetings.

President Bush. We'll answer a few questions.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Q. I have a question for both of you, if you don't mind. First——

President Bush. He's given one question, and of course, he asks two.

Japan's Economic Growth/Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. I thought it was one each. [*Laughter*]

Sir, Mr. President, the Prime Minister acknowledges that his reforms will slow the economic growth in Japan, at least in the short term. Wouldn't that threaten to drag down our economy, as well?

And to you, Mr. Prime Minister, do you still think that President Bush's position on the Kyoto treaty is disappointing? And if so, why hasn't your country ratified it, or at least pledged to do so, without the United States?

President Bush. Let me first answer. First of all, the Prime Minister recognizes that there needs to be deep and meaningful reform. I talked to him about our experiences in Texas in the eighties, where we acted—or the marketplace acted, we acted to remedy a situation in which we had bad loans, nonperforming assets, and there was some pain. But as a result of making the very difficult decisions, our economy was restructured and came back stronger than before.

I support the Prime Minister—strongly support the Prime Minister's reform agenda for the economy. He reminded me that in the course of winning his election, he had to appeal to the people of Japan and made a very strong, direct appeal in laying out this aggressive agenda. And we support him strongly.

I believe, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], it's in our Nation's best interests that the Japanese economy flourish, that it's strong and vibrant. And we had a very meaningful discussion, ranging from economic restructuring and reform to trade, the new global round of WTO, as well. And I believe he's the leader that Japan needs for this moment in her history.

He wants you to talk about Kyoto.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I am not disappointed at the President's position. The President is enthusiastic about environmental issues, and there is still time to discuss this issue.

I believe if the United States and Japan were to cooperate in dealing with environmental issues, we will be able to create means which will be more effective in dealing with the global warming issue and also in reducing our gas emissions. And I believe that in doing so, we will further be able to cooperate with the rest of the world.

Presently, I do not have the intention of proceeding without the cooperation of the United States. To the very last moment, I will work with the United States in cooperating on environmental issues. There's still time left to discuss ways to cooperate with each other.

President's Meeting With the Prime Minister

[*At this point, a question was asked in Japanese, and no translation was provided.*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. No, we did not exchange nicknames, like Ron—[*inaudible*]—in the eighties. [*Laughter*] But we still

had a meeting in which we were able to have a truly frank exchange of views in a friendly manner. It was very warm, and it was a very, truly enjoyable, meaningful meeting.

Only people who are called *hen-jins* are able to proceed with reforms or making changes. But when I say *hen-jin,* this is not strange or eccentric, but this means extraordinary. [*Laughter*]

Vice President Dick Cheney

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned about the Vice President's health, and do you think perhaps he should slow down?

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, my great friend and the Vice President of our country went to the hospital today and put a pacemaker on his heart. It's a procedure that is viewed as something not out of the ordinary for the people who have had a heart condition. I'm told the operation went well. I'm going to speak to him in about an hour. I look forward to hearing his strong and steady voice on the phone.

No, I don't think he ought to slow down. I think he ought to listen to his body. I think he ought to—which he has been doing. I think he ought to work at a pace that he is comfortable with. And I know Dick Cheney well, and if I were to say, "You've got to slow down, Mr. Vice President," he's going to say, "Forget it," because he's got a job to do. And he's a valuable member of my administration. He and his doctors made the right decision. And I'm told that he's going to be back to work Monday morning, and I look forward to seeing him in the Oval Office Monday morning. But I'm going to speak to him directly.

Q. They did put it in?

President Bush. They did put it in.

Prime Minister's Economic Reforms

Q. Mr. President, after the meeting with the Prime Minister for almost 2 hours now, did you find out why he's so popular in Japan? Did you wholeheartedly support his economic reform plans, which could result in very slow growth in Japan for as long as 3 years? Didn't you have any reservations at all about his plans, namely, implications for the global economy and for the U.S. economy?

President Bush. I have no reservations about the economic reform agenda that the Prime Minister is advancing. He talks about tackling some difficult issues that some leaders in the past refused to address.

I came—I knew the Prime Minister was dynamic; I've heard that; I've read it. But you don't really realize how dynamic he is until you have a chance to witness his conversation. He's got a great sense of humor. He loves to laugh, but he's a courageous leader, as well. And I admire a person who recognizes that his duty is not to avoid but to lead. His duty is to speak plainly to the people of his country. And I believe strongly that we will have a good relationship, not only to foster what's in the best interests of our country—countries—and in the region, but we'll have a good personal relationship, as well. After all, he's the only world leader I've ever played catch with, with a baseball.

Listen, thank you all for coming.

Prime Minister Koizumi. In meeting with President Bush, I instantly felt that with this person I will be able to give my frank views, and I will be able to speak from the bottom of my heart. He has that kind of an atmosphere within himself. And with our common, shared values between Japan and the United States, I am certain that I will continue to be able to have these frank exchange of views with him.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:09 a.m. outside the Holly Cabin. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi: Partnership for Security and Prosperity

June 30, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met today at Camp David to reaffirm the partnership between the United States and Japan based on shared values, mutual trust, and friendship.

Cooperation for Peace and Stability

Welcoming the fiftieth anniversary of the U.S.-Japan security relationship, the President and Prime Minister reaffirmed that the U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region. The two leaders agreed on the importance of strengthening strategic dialogue, and decided to intensify consultations on the Asia Pacific region and other areas of the world. The President and Prime Minister emphasized the importance of encouraging China's constructive role in the international community and early accession to the WTO, working with the Republic of Korea to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula, furthering non-proliferation efforts around the globe, and promoting United Nations Security Council reform and obtaining for Japan a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The President and Prime Minister decided to intensify consultations at various levels on further steps in security cooperation, building on continuing implementation of the Defense Guidelines. The two leaders noted that these consultations will focus on an assessment of the regional security environment, and areas such as force structure and force posture, security strategies, bilateral roles and missions during contingencies, and cooperation in peacekeeping. The two leaders reaffirmed that forward U.S. presence is critical to regional stability, and the President thanked the Prime Minister for Japan's host-nation support. They agreed on the importance of working on issues related to U.S. forces in Japan, such as the steady implementation of the SACO process to reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa, and thereby strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance. Recognizing the growing threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, the two leaders emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy to address this threat, including a variety of defense systems and diplomatic initiatives, such as arms reductions. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the two governments should continue to consult closely on missile defense, together with strengthened non-proliferation and counter-proliferation measures. The Prime Minister reiterated Japan's understanding regarding the President's call for exploring a new approach to transforming deterrence. The President and Prime Minister also reiterated the importance of cooperative research on ballistic missile defense technologies.

Economic Partnership for Growth

The President and Prime Minister affirmed their belief that open markets and sound macroeconomic and regulatory policy are vital for sustained prosperity. The Prime Minister expressed his determination to vigorously and comprehensively implement structural and regulatory reform to revitalize the Japanese economy, including through effectively addressing corporate debt and non-performing loans. The President expressed his appreciation for the Prime Minister's plan, "Structural Reform in the Japanese Economy: Basic Policies for Macroeconomic Management." The Prime Minister welcomed the President's strong intention to support sustained economic growth in the United States through tax cuts and other measures. They noted with satisfaction the completion of the Fourth Joint Status Report on Deregulation and Competition Policy, and called for increased collaborative efforts to improve their nations' climates for foreign direct investment.

The two leaders announced the launch of a new bilateral economic initiative called the U.S.-Japan Economic Partnership for Growth (detailed in Annex). This initiative establishes a structure for cooperation and engagement on bilateral, regional and global economic and trade issues. Both governments also will engage in cooperative efforts to address other key issues.

President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi reaffirmed their determination to stay personally engaged in the effort to launch a new WTO round later this year in Qatar, to further liberalize world trade and to clarify, strengthen and extend WTO rules, so as to promote economic growth and equip the trading system to meet the challenges of globalization.

Cooperation on Global Challenges

The President and Prime Minister recognized the past cooperative efforts of the two

countries in tackling complex global challenges, and pledged to build on these successes to further expand bilateral global cooperation.

The Prime Minister announced his intention to commit 200 million U.S. dollars for the Global Health Fund. The President, who has already pledged 200 million U.S. dollars to help establish the fund, welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement with gratitude.

The President and Prime Minister expressed their shared understanding of the seriousness of the challenge posed by climate change. The Prime Minister pointed to the importance of the Kyoto Protocol in this regard. The President and Prime Minister recognized that climate change is a pressing global problem requiring a global approach. Bearing in mind Japan's leadership at Kyoto, the President welcomed the Prime Minister's offer to initiate promptly high-level U.S.-Japan government-to-government consultations to explore common ground and areas for common action on climate change.

Partners in an Enduring Alliance

The meeting at Camp David provided an opportunity for the President and Prime Minister to get to know each other on a personal basis so that they can work together as leaders of an enduring alliance and as close friends. Noting that the strength of the alliance rests on the robust support of the American and Japanese people, the two leaders welcomed expanded exchanges among the citizens of both nations. The President and Prime Minister decided that at their meeting in Tokyo in the fall they will review progress on strategic dialogue and the Economic Partnership for Growth, and that they will work to expand bilateral cooperation on global challenges.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

June 30, 2001

On July 4, 1999, the President issued Executive Order 13129, "Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with the Taliban," to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The order blocks all property and interests in property of the Taliban and prohibits trade-related transactions by United States persons involving the territory of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban. The last notice of continuation was signed on June 30, 2000.

The Taliban continues to allow territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Laden and the al-Qaida organization who have committed and threaten to continue to commit acts of violence against the United States and its nationals. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond July 4, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency declared on July 4, 1999, with respect to the Taliban. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 30, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:52 a.m., July 2, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

June 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency

is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Taliban, is to continue in effect beyond July 4, 2001.

The Taliban continues to allow territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Laden and the al-Qaida organization who have committed, and threaten to continue to commit, acts of violence against the United States and its nationals. This situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain these emergency authorities in force beyond July 4, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

June 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Taliban that was declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Leaders of National Service Organizations and an Exchange With Reporters

July 2, 2001

The President. Good morning. Thank you all for coming. Laura and I are so honored to welcome leaders from five of the largest service organizations in our country: Kiwanis, the Lions, the Rotarians, the Optimists, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

First, thank you all for coming, and thank you for your service to the country. We've had a discussion that will really help change the country, I think, and that is all five organizations have agreed to join in urging their members to mentor a child.

We've set a goal amongst us to recruit one million mentors to provide love and comfort to children around America. I can't think of a more noble goal for the organizations here. So I want to thank you all very much for your commitment to America, for your love of the country. Please thank your members for their commitment, as well.

For others around the country who are wondering how best to help a neighbor in need, I strongly urge them to think about joining one of these service clubs, a club whose sole existence is to help make America a better place. And so, I know there are some in our country that say "What can I do to help?" Well, here is five good opportunities.

One of the things you do when you run for office is, you get to go to the service club lunches all around our country. [*Laughter*] And I will tell you, some of the most meaningful lunches as a gubernatorial candidate, for example, in Texas was at the service clubs in rural Texas or in urban Texas. I was able to meet a lot of really good, fine folks.

America is strong because of our people. America is strong because of the compassion of our citizens. And I believe we can meet the goal of a million mentors, so that everybody in America feels the great promise of our country and so that not one child is left behind.

Thank you all for coming.

Vice President Dick Cheney

Q. Who has a tougher schedule today, Mr. President? You or the Vice President?

The President. The Vice President is feeling great. I had a meeting with him. At Camp David, I was asked whether or not he would be at work on Monday. I said I was confident he would be there at 8 o'clock sharp, during our national security briefing, and there he was. He looks great. His spirits are high. He sets such a good example for Americans who may share the same condition he has, and that is to listen to your body, to take precautionary measures, and to be active. And he's active, and he's—we were all thrilled to see how good he looked this morning.

Q. Are you worried about him at all, Mr. President?

The President. No, I'm not worried about him. I'm not worried about him. He's doing great.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidate Bret Schundler and an Exchange With Reporters

July 2, 2001

The President. Mr. Mayor, congratulations. The Vice President and I are so honored you and Lynn came to the Oval Office. It gives us a chance to, one, congratulate you on winning the primary and congratulate you on being a great reformer in Jersey City. I don't think people understand, but that's a city with 6 percent Republicans, and yet, he continues to win overwhelmingly because he's got great ideas. And we look forward to helping you become the Governor of New Jersey.

I think you and I share something in common: We're always underestimated. And a lot of people didn't think I'd be sitting here. Of course, a lot of people didn't think you would be sitting here, either. And so, I appreciate your record.

I'm intrigued by the idea of eliminating the tollbooth in New Jersey. I think the working people in New Jersey are going to really appreciate that idea, and when you couple that with your strong vision of education reform, I think you've got a good chance of winning.

[*At this point, Jersey City Mayor Schundler made brief remarks.*]

The President. You're going to win. [*Laughter*] We're glad to have you.

Vice President's Health

Q. How do you feel, Mr. Vice President?

The Vice President. Very good.

Q. Are you sore?

The Vice President. A little tender, still. It will pass.

Q. Are you taking any painkillers or anything?

The Vice President. No.

Florida Offshore Drilling

Q. Mr. President, did you talk to your brother about——

The President. We were thinking about doing some jumping jacks before you came in, but——

Q. Go right ahead. [*Laughter*]

Q. Did you ask your brother about oil and gas leases, Mr. President?

The President. What?

Q. Have you had a chance to talk to your brother about oil and gas leases, as they were announced today?

New Jersey Gubernatorial Election

Q. Are you going to campaign for him? Make any stops?

The President. What?

Q. Are you going to campaign in New Jersey for him?

The President. That's what we're going to discuss, how we can help him. We'd like to help him in any way we can. We want him to win.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A reporter referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The FY 2001 Supplemental Budget Request seeks approval for the District to use $92.5 million in surplus local revenues to address FY 2001 budget pressures, and approval for the Water and Sewer Authority (an enterprise fund) to spend $2.2 million of its own revenue.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

Remarks During a Visit to a White House Staff Member at Inova Fairfax Hospital and an Exchange With Reporters in Fairfax, Virginia

July 3, 2001

The President. You know, when they come it reminds us of the responsibilities that we have in life. And Vivienne is lucky to have a mother and dad who will love her all the time. And she doesn't know it, yet, but she's learning pretty quickly. She's less than 24 hours old.

We also have a responsibility to make sure education systems provide excellence for every child. We have a responsibility—and Congress needs to bring me a bill that will help the patients who come to these hospitals maintain a reasonable insurance, and a bill that doesn't help lawyers.

We have a responsibility to encourage love all throughout our communities. That's why the faith-based initiative is so important. A lot of babies are born sometimes where the—some babies are born where people just don't love them like they should. And as a society, we've got to make up for that love.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with service organizations all across—representing people from all across the country, committed to finding a million mentors to love children.

The good news for this little baby is she's got a mom and dad who know their responsibilities. It's a great Fourth of July gift.

Congratulations.

Okay.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, do you know when you'll actually make a decision on stem cell research funding?

The President. In a while.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:30 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Vivienne Anna Sayle, daughter of Desiree Sayle, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, and attorney Stephen Sayle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2001

July 3, 2001

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence boldly asserted that all are "created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." With these words, the Signers announced the birth of a new Nation and put forth a vision of liberty and democracy that would forever alter history.

Every Fourth of July, Americans celebrate this pivotal moment in our national story, which set into motion the development of a land of freedom and opportunity unequalled in the world. The Declaration brought forth a new style of government, where democratic institutions gained their power from the consent of the governed. Today, we recognize that people around the globe have also drawn inspiration from the Declaration of Independence. Our prosperity and strength stand as a testament to the ideals it embodies.

Independence Day serves as a special time to remember the achievements of our great statesmen, social reformers, inventors, and artists. We pause to give thanks for the many men and women who gave their lives to defend our freedom. At the same time, the Fourth of July provides a unique occasion to reflect on the challenges ahead. By building on the efforts of previous generations and pursuing opportunity and justice for all our

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status With Belarus

July 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit the report referred to in subsection 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, with respect to a waiver of the application of subsections 402(a) and (b) of that Act to the Republic of Belarus.

I have determined that such a waiver will substantially promote the objectives of section 402, and I have instructed the Secretary of State to provide a copy of that determination to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate. The report also indicates that I have received the assurances with respect to the emigration practices of the Republic of Belarus required by section 402(c)(2)(B) of the Act.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Certain Former Eastern Bloc States

July 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 21, 1994, President Clinton determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, he also determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

On June 29, 2000, pursuant to subsection 302(b) of Public Law 106–200, President Clinton determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan, and on December 29, 2000, pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106–476, he determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Georgia.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Request Act and Fiscal Year 2001 Supplemental Budget Request

July 2, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and consistent with sections 202(c) and (e) of The District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of The District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Request Act and Fiscal Year 2001 Supplemental Budget Request.

The proposed FY 2002 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For FY 2002, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of $5.3 billion, resulting in an adjusted surplus of $85.8 million.

The FY 2001 Supplemental Budget Request seeks approval for the District to use $92.5 million in surplus local revenues to address FY 2001 budget pressures, and approval for the Water and Sewer Authority (an enterprise fund) to spend $2.2 million of its own revenue.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

Remarks During a Visit to a White House Staff Member at Inova Fairfax Hospital and an Exchange With Reporters in Fairfax, Virginia

July 3, 2001

The President. You know, when they come it reminds us of the responsibilities that we have in life. And Vivienne is lucky to have a mother and dad who will love her all the time. And she doesn't know it, yet, but she's learning pretty quickly. She's less than 24 hours old.

We also have a responsibility to make sure education systems provide excellence for every child. We have a responsibility—and Congress needs to bring me a bill that will help the patients who come to these hospitals maintain a reasonable insurance, and a bill that doesn't help lawyers.

We have a responsibility to encourage love all throughout our communities. That's why the faith-based initiative is so important. A lot of babies are born sometimes where the—some babies are born where people just don't love them like they should. And as a society, we've got to make up for that love.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with service organizations all across—representing people from all across the country, committed to finding a million mentors to love children.

The good news for this little baby is she's got a mom and dad who know their responsibilities. It's a great Fourth of July gift.

Congratulations.

Okay.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, do you know when you'll actually make a decision on stem cell research funding?

The President. In a while.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:30 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Vivienne Anna Sayle, daughter of Desiree Sayle, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, and attorney Stephen Sayle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2001

July 3, 2001

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Every Fourth of July, Americans celebrate this pivotal moment in our national story, which set into motion the development of a land of freedom and opportunity unequalled in the world. The Declaration brought forth a new style of government, where democratic institutions gained their power from the consent of the governed. Today, we recognize that people around the globe have also drawn inspiration from the Declaration of Independence. Our prosperity and strength stand as a testament to the ideals it embodies.

Independence Day serves as a special time to remember the achievements of our great statesmen, social reformers, inventors, and artists. We pause to give thanks for the many men and women who gave their lives to defend our freedom. At the same time, the Fourth of July provides a unique occasion to reflect on the challenges ahead. By building on the efforts of previous generations and pursuing opportunity and justice for all our

citizens, we will continue our Nation's development and help ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

On this great day, I extend my best wishes to all Americans for a safe and memorable Independence Day. God bless you, and God bless America.

George W. Bush

Remarks at an Independence Day Celebration in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 4, 2001

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. I appreciate so much your hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here in Philadelphia. It's the perfect place to celebrate our Nation's birthday.

I told the mayor in front of the country when I addressed the Congress that I was coming to Philadelphia to celebrate the wonderful missions that take place in this grand city. Mr. Mayor, thank you for allowing me to come, and thank you for your gracious hospitality. Same to the Governor of this great State, our close friend Tom Ridge and his wife, Michelle. Thank you all very much for your hospitality.

It's an honor to be on the stage with the senior Senator, who married quite well, himself. [*Laughter*] I appreciate you being here, Senator, and the honorable—it's an honor to be on the stage with leaders of the faith community in Philadelphia.

Distinguished guests, my fellow citizens, thank you for your warm welcome.

And thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your lovely gift. Laura and I will make a special place for it at the White House.

Today we celebrate American independence in the place of America's birth, close to a symbol of American liberty. As millions know, to see the Liberty Bell is a moving experience. In America, we set aside certain places and treasures like this to protect them from the passing of the years. We grant them special care to mark a moment in time. Here in Philadelphia, these markers are all around us, reminders of our history.

This is a dynamic and modern city. Yet if the Founders, themselves, were here, they would know the place. Benjamin Franklin and his wife could still find their way from here to the corner where they first saw each other, at Market and 4th. John Adams could make his way to City Tavern and show us the spot where he first shook the hand of George Washington. Thomas Jefferson would still find waiting for him the room where he drafted the Declaration of Independence. And each of the Founders, coming here, would know the ring of the Liberty Bell. It rang to announce the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence 225 years ago.

Those new citizens of a nation just 4 days old heard inspiring words but not original thoughts. Our Founders considered themselves heirs to principles that were timeless and truths that were self-evident. When Jefferson sat down to write, he was trying, he said, to place before mankind "the common sense of the subject." The common sense of the subject was that we should be free, and though great evils would linger, the world would never be the same after July 4, 1776.

A wonderful country was born, and a revolutionary idea sent forth to all mankind: Freedom, not by the good graces of government but as the birthright of every individual; equality, not as a theory of philosophers but by the design of our Creator; natural rights, not for the few, not even for a fortunate many but for all people in all places, in all times.

The world still echoes with the ideals of America's Declaration. Our ideals have been accepted in many countries and bitterly opposed by tyrants. They are the mighty rock on which we have built our Nation. They are the hope of all who are oppressed. They are the standard to which we hold others, and the standard by which we measure ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them.

When Abraham Lincoln wondered whether civil war was preferable to permanent slavery, he knew where to seek guidance. Speaking in Independence Hall he said, "I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the

Declaration of Independence. The Declaration," Lincoln said, "gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men and all should have an equal chance."

From the ideals in the Declaration came the laws and the Constitution, including the free exercise of religion. The Liberty Bell was originally cast to mark the 50th anniversary of William Penn's Charter of Privileges, the first guarantee of religious freedom in this Commonwealth. Now, exactly three centuries after William Penn's charter, the Founders would be pleased to see that we have respected this right of the people and the limitation on the Government. They knew what dangers can follow when Government either dictates or frustrates the exercise of religion.

Our Founders would also be pleased to walk these streets again and to find, amid the problems of modern life, a familiar American spirit of faith and good works. They would see the signs of poverty and want but also acts of great kindness and charity. They would see addiction and the wreckage it brings, but they would also see in the works of the religious groups and charities throughout this city, the power that can rescue abandoned hopes and repair a broken life.

In a world very different from theirs they would see different kinds of hardships, fears, and suffering. Yet, they would also recognize the brotherly love that gave this city its name.

Your mayor and I have just come from an Independence Day celebration in north Philadelphia, organized by a great American named Herbert Lusk. Herb first came into prominence as an athlete. Today, he is pastor of Greater Exodus Baptist Church, and his parishioners still like him. [*Laughter*] Herb's church is one of the hundreds of churches and synagogues and mosques in this city where worship of the Almighty is expressed in service to neighbors in need.

In every part of Philadelphia, caring people are doing the work of compassion. They teach boys and girls to read, as in a program called Youth Education for Tomorrow, where more than 20 faith-based literacy centers are producing great results for your city's children.

At the Jesus School in north Philadelphia, little Aneeisha Graham came a year ago, not knowing any letters of the alphabet. Today, at age 7, she reads at the fourth grade level. Aneeisha is with us today. It's great to see you, darling. Thank you for coming.

Other faith-based groups in this city operate shelters for the destitute and the homeless. They bring kindness and understanding to young women facing domestic violence or crisis pregnancies. They give time and attention to the children of prisoners. These are the kinds of citizens every society needs, citizens who speak for the voiceless and feed the hungry and protect the weak and comfort the afflicted.

America's founding documents give us religious liberty in principle; these Americans show us religious liberty in action. Religious liberty is more than the right to believe in God's love; it is the right to be an instrument of God's love. Such work is beyond the reach of government and beyond the role of government. And those who hold positions of power should not be wary or hostile toward faith-based charities, or other community groups which perform important and good works. We should welcome their conviction and contribution in all its diversity.

So today I call on the United States Congress to pass laws promoting and encouraging faith-based and community groups in their important public work and to never discriminate against them. These soldiers in the armies of compassion deserve our support. They often need our support, and by taking their side, we act in the best interests and tradition of our country.

Without churches and charities, many of our citizens who have lost hope would be left to their own struggles and their own faith. And as I well know, they are not the only ones whose lives can be changed and uplifted by the influence of faith in God.

The founding generation discerned in that faith the source of our own rights, a divine gift of dignity, found equally in every human life. Our Nation has always been guided by a moral compass. In every generation, men and women have protested terrible wrongs and worked for justice, for the abolition of slavery, the triumph of civil rights, for the

end of child labor, the equal treatment of women, and the protection of innocent life.

Not every reformer in our history has been religious, but many have been motivated by a scriptural vision in which "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

We welcome religion in our common life because it leads millions of Americans to serve their neighbor and because it leads countless others to speak for justice, from African-American churches to Catholic bishops. "Religious people," said Dr. Martin Luther King, "should not be the servant of the state nor the master of the state but the conscience of the state."

In my Inaugural Address, I asked Americans to seek a common good beyond their comfort, to serve their Nation, beginning with their neighbor. Today I urge Americans to consider what contributions we all can make, and there's plenty work for us all. Every person can find another to help. Nearly every community of conscience and faith has more to share, and corporate and foundation America can give more and give wiser.

In this way, we all become more responsible citizens. And by extending to all the promise of America, we show an important kind of patriotism. Seventy-five years ago our 30th President, the only President born on Independence Day, spoke words that apply to our time. Calvin Coolidge said, "We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. These did not create our Declaration. Our Declaration created them. The things of the spirit come first."

On this Fourth of July, 2001, a great anniversary of our Nation's birth, and a great anniversary of religious liberty, we remember the ideals of America and the things of the spirit that sustain them.

The Liberty Bell has been mostly silent for two centuries. And during the Revolution, it was unseen, hidden under the floorboards of a church in Allentown. Yet even in silence, it has always borne one message, cast for the ages with the words of the Old Testament: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

In this place of history, we honor the first generation of Americans who followed those words, and we give thanks to the God who watched over our country then and who watches to this very day.

Thank you, all. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. at Independence Historic National Park. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia.

Memorandum on a United States Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

July 4, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–21

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Provision of $20 million for a U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to $20 million in funds made available under the title II (Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–429), for assistance for KEDO without regard to any provision of law within the scope of section 614(a)(1). I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Libya

July 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5.

Remarks on the Nomination of Robert S. Mueller to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

July 5, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. General, thank you for being here. It is my honor to nominate Robert S. Mueller, of California, to become the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I want to welcome his wife, Anne, here, and I want to welcome you all to the Rose Garden.

When confirmed, Mr. Mueller will be only the sixth person to hold this position. He assumes great responsibilities. He was chosen with great care, and he has my full confidence. Bob Mueller earned my trust and that of the Attorney General when he served as Acting Deputy Attorney General earlier this year. He also has earned the confidence of other Presidents before me.

He is the current U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California. He was appointed to that position by President Clinton. He served in my father's administration, as well. Before that, he was U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, making him one of the very few ever to serve as Chief Federal Prosecutor in two jurisdictions.

Our next FBI Director has given nearly all his career to public service, going back to his days in the Marine Corps. He served with distinction and was decorated during the Vietnam war. As a lawyer, prosecutor, and Government official, he has shown high ideals, a clear sense of purpose, and a tested devotion to his country.

As Director, Mr. Mueller will succeed a good and honest man, Director Louis Freeh, who has my respect and the gratitude of our Nation. I also want to thank Acting Director Pickard, who has served well during this transition.

The FBI has a great tradition that Mr. Mueller must now affirm and some important challenges he must confront. Like the Department of Justice, the FBI must remain independent of politics and uncompromising in its mission.

Bob Mueller's term in office will last longer than my own. And the next 10 years will bring more forms of crime, new threats of terror from beyond our borders and within them. The tools of law enforcement will change, as well. The FBI must be ready to protect Americans from new types of criminals who will use modern technology to defraud and disrupt our society.

The Bureau must secure its rightful place as the premier counterespionage and counterterrorist organization in the United States. It must continue to serve as a resource and training center for law enforcement. And it must do all this with a firm commitment to safeguarding the constitutional rights of our citizens.

Bob Mueller's experience and character convinced me that he's ready to shoulder these responsibilities. Agents of the Bureau prize three virtues above all: fidelity, bravery, and integrity. This new Director is a man who exemplifies them all.

Congratulations.

[*At this point, Director-designate Mueller made brief remarks.*]

The President. Congratulations.

Mr. Mueller. Thank you very much, sir.

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas J. Pickard, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Mueller.

Remarks on Departure for Kennebunkport, Maine, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 5, 2001

Education Reform Legislation

The President. Thank you very much. Looking forward to spending the weekend with my family. I know Congress is spending weekends with their families, as well. And when they come back, there's going to be a lot of work to do. And there's nothing more important than getting the education bill to my desk.

I urge Congress to come back to work hard to reconciling differences that may exist between the House and the Senate bill and to get a bill to my desk quickly. It's important to do so. All you've got to do is ask the Governors and superintendents and local officials standing behind me.

These good folks have come to Washington to urge me to urge Congress to get the people's business done, because they've got plans to make for the public schoolchildren of America.

Behind me are three Governors and superintendents from around the country, education leaders who know full well what is required to plan an education year. And if the rules are to be changed—and I hope they are in a constructive way—Congress must act quickly so people at the local level can plan.

Our bill out of the House and the Senate passed with large majorities and bipartisan support. There's no reason to delay. The Secretary of Education joins me in urging the Congress to act. And I'm confident if the will is there, we can resolve any differences and get the bill to my desk.

This is a good bill. It's a good piece of legislation because it aligns authority and responsibility at the local level, because it believes in setting high standards. It challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations, and its cornerstone is strong accountability measures so that we can make sure not one single child gets left behind in America.

So I wish the Members of Congress a great weekend, but I remind them the people's work's ahead.

Thank you all for coming.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Q. Mr. President, do you feel there needs to be a change in the culture at the FBI?

The President. Have a great weekend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Statement on the Church of God in Christ's Endorsement of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative

July 5, 2001

I am pleased to receive the Church of God in Christ's strong endorsement of my Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The Church of God in Christ's support is even greater evidence that people dedicated to serving their communities and neighbors are fully supportive of my plan. This influential organization joins groups including the Roman Catholic Bishops, Salvation Army, Prison Fellowship, and AMEN, our Nation's largest Latino community serving ministries network, in supporting this important initiative.

NOTE: The statement released by the Office of the Press Secretary noted that the Church of God in Christ is the Nation's second largest historically black congregation, with 5 million members and 16,000 churches nationwide. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the letter of endorsement from Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Church of God in Christ.

Exchange With Reporters During a Round of Golf With Former President George Bush in Kennebunkport

July 6, 2001

President's Golf Game

Q. Are you going to shoot your age, sir? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. On the front nine. [*Laughter*] Thanks for the optimism. [*Laughter*] We may get to hit two from the first tee, just to loosen up, that's it.

Former President Bush. Absolutely.

Q. He doesn't need a second one.

President Bush. We're only playing one off the first tee. [*Laughter*]

Former President Bush. Do any of you guys understand these cameras?

Q. Sir, we might have some union issues here. [*Laughter*]

Former President Bush. I'm not asking you to use it; I'm just asking you to see what's wrong with it.

President's Birthday

President Bush. Nobody is commenting on the birthday hat.

Q. So what do you want for your birthday? Is that what you got?

President Bush. I want—I'm going to get what I want for my birthday, spend time with my family, a couple of good phone calls from some little girls down in Texas.

Q. Did they already call you?

President Bush. No. It's a little early. [*Laughter*] Remember, they're 19. [*Laughter*]

Q. Who gave you the hat, sir?

President Bush. Forty-one gave me the 43 hat.

Q. And you gave him?

President Bush. "Thank you, sir." [*Laughter*]

Former President Bush. A guy in Fort Worth gave me the 41.

[*At this point, the Presidents played a round of golf.*]

President's Golf Game

Q. Sir, tell us about your birdie on six.

The President. Thank you for noticing. I got two.

Q. What did you shoot?

President Bush. I don't know. It's hard to add an X into the score.

Q. Two birdies, sir?

President Bush. I had two birdies, a couple pars, a couple of double bogeys. We did play 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Q. We were timing it.

President Bush. What time did we tee off?

Q. I had 7:05 a.m.

Robert Hanssen Espionage Case

Q. Sir, is there anything you want to say about the Hanssen case, with the pleas being entered today?

President Bush. No.

Death of Hannelore Kohl

Q. Anything about former President Kohl's wife?

Former President Bush. We made a statement yesterday to the—knew her very well. Of course, we have great respect and affection for Helmut Kohl, so I sent him a message, simply telling him that we had great sorrow in our hearts for his loss. She's not been well for some time. We haven't seen her in the last 12 months, but she was always very pleasant to Barbara.

And we saw her on many occasions, in her home, small home, and they were our guests at Camp David. So this was a genuine condolence message we sent to the former Chancellor. And it's sad, but life goes on. And you know, he's got two wonderful sons.

Q. Did you send that in a cable, or something, to them?

Former President Bush. Yes. Well, I sent it through the Embassy, through the German Embassy.

Former President's Health

Q. Sir, how's your hip?

Former President Bush. It's all right. You couldn't tell it out there, but no, it's fine. It feels pretty well.

Q. Still hitting them okay?

Former President Bush. No. [*Laughter*] But we're enjoying it. I can go out in the boat. I can play some. But it's doing all right.

President's Birthday

Q. Mr. President, what else are you going to do for your birthday?

President Bush. I have a national security briefing. I'm going to speak to Mr. Putin this morning. Part of it's just to kind of continue our general conversation on world affairs. I've got a few specific things I want to talk to him about; he probably has some things on his mind.

And then I'm going to throw some horseshoes, probably regain the family championship.

Former President Bush. No. No way. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Fishing. And I might go for a jog, too—complete the day. So if you see a rather old guy, kind of moving along slowly, that will be me. [*Laughter*]

President's Discussion With President Putin

Q. Can you tell us what you plan to talk to the Russian President about?

President Bush. No. [*Laughter*] No, he asked to call—I presume he's calling to wish me a happy birthday. If not, I'll remind him it's my birthday, so he can do that. But I look forward to talking to him.

We left some—you know, I told him I'd stay in touch with him. I want to talk to him about Iraq. So to answer your question, yes, I'm going to talk to him about Iraq. I'm going to talk to him about the Balkans, Macedonia. I know it's on his mind; it's on my mind, as well. And I look forward to listening to what he has to say. It'll just be a series of conversations we have over the summer.

As you know, I'm going to see him in a couple of weeks. I look forward to continuing what has been a very good relationship. And it's important that I have a good relationship with Mr. Putin, because it's good for the—it's good for our nations, and it's also good for the world for us to develop a good relationship so we can work together to make the world more secure.

And we share common interests. He's deeply concerned about extremism and what extremism can mean to Russia. And as you know, I am, too. He recognizes there are new threats in the 21st century. The United States is not a threat, and we can work cooperatively to address the new threats of the 21st century.

We're beginning some bilateral dialogs with Russia here in a while. I want to make sure—I want to confirm to him that Evans and O'Neill—Secretaries Evans and O'Neill are looking forward to going over there. So we'll talk a little trade and economic activity, and then—I don't know what he wants to talk about.

Q. Happy birthday, again.

Former President Bush. We're off.

President Bush. Have fun. I'll try not to do too many public events, so you all can kick back and relax. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 7 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Club. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Former President Bush referred to former Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Heinz C. Prechter

July 6, 2001

Laura and I were saddened to hear of the death of Heinz Prechter. He will be missed. He was a great friend of ours as well as the entire Bush family. He was an honorable and loyal man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 1

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

July 2

The President announced his intention to nominate Wanda L. Nesbitt to be Ambassador to Madagascar.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mattie R. Sharpless to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate George McDade Staples to be Ambassador to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

July 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Fairfax, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clifford M. Sobel to be Ambassador to The Netherlands.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Gilleran to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision in the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate John L. Howard to be Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals.

The President announced his intention to nominate Phillip Bond to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology.

The President announced his intention to nominate B. John Williams, Jr., to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Geers Loftis to be Ambassador to Lesotho.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Malinowski to be Ambassador to Nepal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kent R. Hill to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Europe and Eurasia.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Edward Fox to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Legislative and Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate E. Anne Peterson to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Global Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen Michael Minikes to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Brown to be Administrator of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

The President announced the designation of Mary J. Hutzler as Acting Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Chee-Hwa (C.H.) Tung at the White House on July 11.

July 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he visited the Greater Exodus Baptist Church and attended a nearby block party. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 5

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jiang Zemin of China. In the afternoon, he traveled to Kennebunkport, ME.

July 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 30

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President received a report on Japan's environment for foreign direct investment

Released July 1

Statement by National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey correcting Majority Leader Daschle's statement on Social Security and Medicare funds

Released July 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 3

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Chief Executive Tung of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Released July 5

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1029

Released July 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 5

S. 1029 / Public Law 107–18
To clarify the authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to the use of fees during fiscal year 2001 for the manufactured housing program

The President's Radio Address

July 7, 2001

Good morning. My second working day as President, I sent to Congress the boldest plan to improve our public schools in a generation, a plan to raise educational standards for every child and to require new accountability from every school. This reform gives our public schools greater resources and insists on proven results in return, not just for some of our children but for all of them.

The plan has now passed both Houses of Congress with strong margins and broad bipartisan support. We stand on the verge of dramatic improvements for America's public schools. We're increasing funding for public schools and insisting on results. We are maximizing local control to give Governors, school boards, and local people more say in their schools. And we are giving parents unprecedented new choices to help their children get a quality education.

Yet, all of this will happen only when Congress joins with me to take the final, crucial step of resolving differences between the House and the Senate versions and sending an education reform bill to my desk.

Across America, Governors are waiting to work with their legislatures to implement reform. Local school boards are eager to put the new flexibility my plan offers into action. We are ready to provide teachers with the best research on the science of reading this very fall. We need to act quickly, because States and schools must make decisions on how to use their new flexibility and live up to their new responsibility.

We have come so far; we're almost there. And we must finish the job. Completing the work of education reform is a final exam for Congress before they go home in August for summer vacation and before America's children go back to school.

The differences between the education reform bills that passed with large majorities in both House and Senate are small. Both bills call for strong accountability. The Senate bill gives States more flexibility. The House bill is more fiscally responsible and focuses Federal dollars where they will do the most good.

With prompt action this month, our public schools can begin to implement the first of the education reforms this fall, with guidance to help teachers use the latest research to teach all our children to read.

This is summer vacation for our children, and it can be a season of accomplishment for our Nation's leaders. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on my education reform plan.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:40 a.m. on July 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Ceremony Honoring America's Promise

July 9, 2001

Thank you all very much. Marc. There is no more important goal for America than to make sure every person realizes the promise of our great land, and I want to thank the good folks of America's Promise for working tirelessly to make sure that goal reaches throughout all our country. My administration stands side by side with you.

And here in Washington, we can help. It's important for the Congress to pass the education reform package to make sure no child gets left behind. It's important for Congress to pass a good and meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights to make sure all in America have got good access to health care. And it's important for America for Congress to pass my

faith-based initiative so that Government can stand side by side with the soldiers in the armies of compassion to make sure America's promise is rich and real for every citizen.

I'm honored that the first chairman of America's Promise agreed to be our Nation's Secretary of State. He's doing a fantastic job for our country. Welcome, Mr. Secretary. Like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] Thank you for being here, Alma.

I want to thank my friend Marc Racicot for being the chairman of the board. I want to thank Peter Gallagher. I welcome my friend the Governor of Maine, Angus King, for being here. I want to thank Ted Stevens and Connie Morella, as well, for being here—Members of the United States Congress. I want to thank the First Lady of Michigan, Michelle Engler, for joining us, as well. It is my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden Jackie Joyner-Kersee, as well as Bob. Thank you all, and thank you for being such a great supporter for America's Promise.

I also want to thank the members of the board of directors, as well as the members of the Youth Leadership Team, 15 of our best in America who are here today. Please stand. [*Applause*]

Just as I was receiving the organization's annual report, I also had an opportunity to say hello to the 15. And our country is in great hands when you look in the eyes of these 15 fantastic leaders. The record has been impressive, and the commitment has been deep. And I want to thank you, Marc, for continuing to challenge corporate America and individuals with the simple and urgent message: There's a need in every community, and a responsible society meets those needs.

Today we're joined by several men and women from around the country who represent the promise of America's Promise:

Mary Mahoney, the president and chief executive officer of Howard Johnson's. Where's Mary? Hi, Mary. Thank you for coming. She's been a mentor, and she's inspired employees at more than 500 hotels to serve as mentors. I want to thank you very much for your dedication.

Leon Assael, the dean of College of Dentistry at the University of Kentucky, is here. Mr. Dean, where are you? Thank you for coming, Dean. They staffed a mobile dental van and asked volunteer faculty and students to serve more than 12,500 disadvantaged students in Appalachia. Thank you for your service to the country.

Reverend Clifford Barnett of Virginia's Brighton Rock AME Church. Thank you for coming, Reverend. He set up a safe haven for children to come to a place or worship, not only to find hot meals but to learn how to serve one another.

Charlie Trotter of Trotter's Restaurant of Chicago. Hello, Charlie. The man not only serves good food, but every Groundhog Day he opens his kitchen to teach area youth and has sponsored some of his neighborhood youth through scholarship programs. I want to thank you all for coming.

This is an example of the greatness of our country, where people ask the question, "What can I do to help?"—and then not wait for some Government activity to take place but do it anyway in spite of Government. I want to thank you all for serving as fantastic examples, just like I want to thank Aisha Shaheen. Where is she? Aisha—there she is. Thank you so much for coming. She understands that service is a part of a successful life. Catch this: She teaches honors in advanced placement English, biology, and calculus to inner-city youngsters in the south central neighborhood of Los Angeles.

We know what children need to succeed. They need mentors and role models like Aisha. They need to be healthy and educated and challenged to serve and challenged to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And that's what America's Promise does.

In many neighborhoods, what a child needs is a caring adult. Yesterday, flying down from Maine, Angus King, the Governor of that State, told me about a program that he's starting to implement, where this summer they're going to recruit 30,000 mentors in the State of Maine, all aimed to surround the children of Maine with love, all aimed at understanding there's nothing more powerful than an individual that says to a child in need, "Somebody cares for you. Somebody loves you." So Angus, I want to thank you for setting the example.

My dream for America is for there to be mentors all over the country, in every neighborhood, in every community, where adults are able to say to a child, "The America's Promise belongs to you, just as much as it does to anybody else."

The effort requires a broad-scaled strategy. That's why I was pleased to see that America's Promise has drawn 500 national partners and more than 550 State and local partners. And the effort really has just begun.

So I want to thank America's Promise. I want to thank you for your love and compassion. And I want to thank the thousands all across our land who are working hard to make America a fabulous country for all.

Now, there are some things that Congress can do, as well. First, this Congress needs to get a education reform bill on my desk before the summer recess. We had a bill pass out of the House by a broad margin, a bill pass out of the Senate by a broad margin. There is no need for further delay. It is time to get a good reform bill.

This is a bill that says every child matters. We believe in setting high expectations for all children in America. We believe every child can learn. But we also understand that educational excellence is found at local levels. We pass unprecedented amount of power out of Washington to local jurisdictions, and in return for Federal dollars, which we increase, we expect results. We expect there to be a measurement so we can herald success and address failure before it's too late.

Secondly, the Congress must act on a Patients' Bill of Rights, a good Patients' Bill of Rights, one that recognizes patients are important, not lawyers, a Patients' Bill of Rights that encourages quality health care without encouraging frivolous and junk lawsuits that will threaten the very existence of an important health care policy in America. And so I urge—I urge Congress to bring a reasonable bill to my desk. We've made great progress. There's broad agreement.

For example, a heart patient should be able to see a cardiologist he needs without going through a gatekeeper, or a woman should be able to see her gynecologist without asking permission, or a parent should always be able to choose their child's pediatrician. And anyone denied health care by an HMO ought to have the right to an immediate appeal, with the outcome determined by doctors, not HMO bureaucrats or trial lawyers.

We've got the makings for a good bill, and Congress ought to act and bring me a bill so I can sign it before the August recess.

And finally, there is no more important initiative than the faith-based program that I've submitted to the United States Congress. It's important because Government can't make people love one another. But what Government can do is stand side by side with those who do love and those who are compassionate. I can't think of anything more important for our Government to recognize the power of community and faith-based groups in our society. If the goal is to make sure no one is left behind, let us stand side by side with the soldiers in the armies of compassion who have taken on that call, themselves.

So I urge Congress to not get stuck in the process but to think about the results and to pass meaningful legislation that will allow and encourage and foster faith-based groups all across America to help people in need. I absolutely know that the great strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. And Congress must recognize that by enabling such faith-based programs to flourish all across the country.

So there are things we can do here in Washington to help. But there's nothing more important than our citizens. And America's Promise does a fabulous job of cultivating and gathering and nurturing the compassion of America. It's an honor to be the President of a country with so many loving people.

I understand that societies change one heart, one soul at a time, that here in Washington we tend to think all we've got to do is pass a law and everything will be fine. But that's not how it works. Cultures and hope change as a result of our compassion in America seizing the moment. And that's what America's Promise is about.

So Marc, thank you very much for bringing the report. I'm honored to receive it. I encourage people all across our country to find

a way to help, to become involved with making sure America's Promise is, in fact,—reaches it's hope all throughout our society. For those of you who are looking for a way to help our country, call America's Promise; say you want to help. And I can assure you we'll sign you up.

It's now my honor to sign a resolution, like other Presidents have done.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Marc Racicot of Montana, chairman of the board, Peter A. Gallagher, president and chief executive officer, Michelle Engler, board member, and Jackie Joyner-Kersee, spokesperson, America's Promise; Alma Powell, wife of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell; and Ms. Joyner-Kersee's husband, Bobby Kersee. Following his remarks, the President signed the Declaration to Fulfill the Promise of America.

Remarks at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital and an Exchange With Reporters in Fairfax, Virginia

July 9, 2001

Patients' Bill of Rights

The President. Thank you all for coming. Knox, thank you very much for setting up the meeting with Knox and hospital officials, nurses, former patients. We had a great discussion about the need for our Nation to pass legislation with America's patients in mind, that the whole core of a good bill recognizes that patients ought to have direct access to specialists, such as Dr. Berry, an ob-gyn—cancer specialists, that patients ought to have the capacity to take complaints to an independent review organization staffed by doctors and medical professionals.

We're making good progress. There is a lot of agreement on a bill that has—bills moving their way through the House of Representatives right now.

But I want a bill to sign that does not run the cost of premiums up or health care up as a result of excessive lawsuits. I want a bill that honors patients, not trial lawyers, a bill that makes it easier for docs to do their job, as opposed to a bill that encourage excessive litigation.

I want to, again, thank you for the chance to visit.

Dr. Berry, you might want to say a few things.

[*At this point, Dr. David B. Berry made brief remarks.*]

The President. Okay, thank you all.

Q. Mr. President, any decisions on stem cell——

Q. What did you hear from the patients——

Q. What did the patients——

The President. The patients just want to make sure they've got access to specialists, and they, too, like the idea of having an independent review organization where they can take their complaints, where they can solve problems before it ends up in a court of law.

There are some people up there on the Hill that are interested in fostering excessive litigation, which is not good for patients. I think Americans understand that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:18 p.m. in the boardroom following discussions in the hospital. In his remarks, he referred to J. Knox Singleton, chief executive officer, Inova Health System. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Videotape Remarks to the NAACP Convention

July 9, 2001

Thank you very much. I'm honored to be able to send my greetings to you for the 92d annual convention of the NAACP.

Last year I joined you in person at your convention in Baltimore. I said that there is no denying the truth that racism, despite all our progress, still exists, and that there's no escaping the reality that the party of Lincoln has not always carried the mantle of Lincoln. I said that recognizing and confronting our history is important but transcending our history is essential.

A year has passed since I gave that speech, and nearly 6 months have passed since I became the President. We must continue our work to ensure that my party keeps faith with the memory of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

I started by selecting a diverse, well-qualified Cabinet and senior staff. People like Colin Powell, Rod Paige, Condoleezza Rice, and Larry Thompson are tearing down barriers and setting new standards for excellence. Appointments are important, but so is the agenda.

I've made reform of our public schools my number one priority. I have worked closely with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to craft a bill that gives our schools more money but asks our schools for more in return. High standards, accountability, and a culture of excellence is the hallmark of school reform. Every child can learn, and no child should be left behind. I believe my education package is an important step in ensuring that our schools are worthy of our children's dreams.

And my agenda also includes moving forward on my Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. All across the country, private religious and community organizations are serving and uplifting the Nation's poor through a variety of services, from feeding the hungry to providing drug treatment to educating children with disabilities. Our Faith-Based and Community Initiative reflects my belief that Government must be active enough to support these charitable groups but humble enough to let good people in local communities provide such services.

Finally, my agenda is based on the principle of equal opportunity and equal justice. Yet, for too long, too many African-Americans have been subjected to the unfairness of racial profiling. That's why, earlier this year, I asked Attorney General John Ashcroft to develop specific recommendations to end racial profiling. It's wrong, and it must be ended in America.

There are other ways my agenda will help ensure that the American Dream touches every willing heart, from creating opportunities for affordable housing and health care to encouraging savings and reducing taxes on working people. But throughout, my agenda is laced with some common themes: trusting the people, empowering communities and charities, and creating one nation of justice and equality.

It matters what Presidents do. It also matters what Presidents say and how they say it. I've tried to speak in a tone that brings us together and unites us in purpose. I believe that even when disagreements arise, we should treat each other with civility and with respect. That is a basic requirement of democracy.

When he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said that whenever he was on an airplane, he was always reminded of how dependent we all are on each other. He said, "A flight is successful only because of the hard work and devotion of the known pilots and unknown ground crew." His point was that we all have a role to play, and we cannot succeed as a group unless each one of us succeeds as an individual.

As the President of one of the most diverse nations in the world, I carry the responsibility of making sure that every voice is heard and every person is respected. This is the legacy and the unfinished work of Lincoln, King, and so many others, in ways large and small, have brought us to where we are today. They dreamt of a unified America. Now we must continue to work to convert that dream into a reality.

I hope you have a productive and successful convention. And I look forward to working with you on matters that are vital to America.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 3 p.m. on July 2 in the Library at the White House for later transmission to the convention in New Orleans, LA. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 9.

Remarks at an Immigration and Naturalization Service Ceremony on Ellis Island, New York

July 10, 2001

Thank you very much, Mr. Attorney General. I appreciate your kind words, and I appreciate your service to America. My fellow Americans who stand behind us, congratulations.

Just a few minutes ago, I was the leader of another country. Now it's my honor to speak to you as the leader of your country.

And the great thing about America is, you don't have to listen unless you want to. [*Laughter*]

Governor Pataki, it's great to be with you. Mayor Giuliani, thank you both for your kind comments. Senator Schumer—Charles Ellis Schumer, who was named for Ellis Island—and Senator Clinton, thank you all for being here. Congressman Fossella and Congresswoman Maloney, thank you for being here. Assistant Attorney General Dinh, thank you for your service to our country. I made a great appointment when I picked him. Silvia Sanchez, thank you for singing the national anthem. And ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to be here.

I'm pleased to be joined by two members of my Cabinet who are Americans by choice, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mel Martinez.

This little piece of land, less than 30 acres in all, is like no other place in America. Twelve million souls arrived here and would speak of the experience for the rest of their lives. They remembered the difficulties along with the joys. They remembered the long lines—never longer than on a single day in 1907, when more than 11,000 new immigrants filed through this hall. They remembered how loud it was here and how confusing.

There was no President to greet them, only people with clipboards, stethoscopes, and a lot of questions. A man from Italy describes seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time. He said, "The thrill was unbelievable—but always the fear because you had to go through Ellis Island." For all that, they kept hoping; they kept believing; and they kept coming. And 100 million Americans can draw a straight line from the life they know today to a moment in this hall, when a name was called and a person took the first step toward citizenship in the United States of America. Each of you took that first step sometime ago. Several of you have been here for decades.

This group of new Americans includes students, teachers, a restaurant owner, a professor, a bartender, an insurance agent, a doctor, and a violinist. For all of you, the oath of citizenship is more than a formality. And today America is more than your home; it's your country. This is one of the things that makes our country so unique. With a single oath, all at once, you become as fully American as the most direct descendant of a Founding Father.

The Founders themselves decided that when they declared independence and wrote our Constitution. You see, citizenship is not limited by birth or background. America at its best is a welcoming society. We welcome not only immigrants themselves but the many gifts they bring and the values they live by. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants take the oath of citizenship every year. Each has come not only to take but to give. They come asking for a chance to work hard, support their families, and to rise in the world. And together, they make our Nation more, not less, American.

Immigration is not a problem to be solved. It is a sign of a confident and successful nation. And people who seek to make America their home should be met in that spirit by representatives of our Government. New arrivals should be greeted not with suspicion and resentment but with openness and courtesy.

As many immigrants can testify, that standard has not always been observed. For those seeking entry, the process is often a prolonged ordeal full of complexities and burdens. I'm committed to changing this with INS reforms that treat every immigrant with respect and fairness.

Today here's the goal for the INS: a 6-month standard from start to finish for processing applications for immigration. It won't be achievable in every case, but it's the standard of this administration, and I expect the INS to meet it.

Not every applicant is entitled to admission, but every applicant is entitled to a timely and courteous review of his or her case. We can help legal immigrants in other ways. If a child's parent and financial sponsor should pass away, we should permit the other parent to take over as a sponsor. And in the case of a minor child, entitlement to a visa should be measured by the age on the date of the application, not on the date the INS has finally processed the visa.

And we should spare families the hardship of separation while one member is awaiting a green card. I support providing an extension of the temporary window that allows people to file for legal residency without having to return to their country of origin. And I urge the Members of the United States Congress to act swiftly on 245(i) reform.

In the life of an immigrant, citizenship is a defining event. In the life of our Nation, new citizens bring renewal. By taking an oath, as you have done today, immigrants affirm a belief in the American creed. For most Americans, there's no formal moment of affirmation, but to each of us fall the same responsibilities. Our democracy's sustained by the moral commitments we share: reverence for justice and obedience to the law, tolerance and decent respect for the opinions of others, responsibility not only to ourselves but for our families and neighborhoods, love of country shown not in prideful boasts but in modest gratitude, and an active concern for our Nation's future.

That future depends on the values of self-government, our sense of duty, loyalty, self-confidence, and regard for the common good. We're a diverse country and getting more diverse. And these virtues are what keeps this great country together. Believing in them and living by them, this great land will always be united.

When they left behind the old world, the millions who landed here at Ellis Island came with a vision of a better life. They sought more than economic opportunity, though that was surely part of it. They wanted more than political freedom, though that was crucial. Above all, they wanted the rights, the duties, and the dignity of American citizenship. This place is now a museum, but it stands for a living tradition. And on Ellis Island today, the great hope of America is renewed.

Since becoming the President, I've gotten to do a lot of really fascinating things. There's nothing like—quite like the event this morning. So will you please join me, and rise, as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Right hand up, please. Actually, right hand on your heart. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*]

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Registry Room. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; and singer Silvia Sanchez.

Remarks on the Posthumous Presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor in New York City

July 10, 2000

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Eminence; Governor Pataki and Mrs. Pataki; Mayor Giuliani. I want to thank Chuck Schumer and Vito Fossella for such beautiful words. Senator Clinton; distinguished Members of the United States Congress; members of my Cabinet; Mary Ward, Dorothy Hamilton, and members of the O'Connor family; Reverend Ogilvie and Father Coughlin; leaders of the Catholic Church; Maureen O'Flynn, thank you for sharing your angelic voice with us today. My fellow Americans.

Thank you for the welcome to your city and to the seat of this archdiocese. I especially want to thank the police and fire departments for their presentation of the colors and their service to this community.

John Cardinal O'Connor was fond of recalling the greeting he received when visiting the Vatican. Pope John Paul II would meet him with these words: "How is the Archbishop of the capital of the world?" For me, on my first visit as President, it's a pleasure, Mr. Mayor, to be in the capital of the world.

This is a happier occasion than the day when we said our goodbyes at a solemn Mass in a mourning city. It takes a lot to bring all of New York to a pause, but that's what happened when the earthly remains of John Cardinal O'Connor were laid to rest in this beautiful cathedral.

From the distance of a year, his character and his contributions only seem larger. We remember a life of good works, strong faith, and great influence.

For many here today, those memories are still vivid and very personal. For parishioners, it may be the memory of an imposing figure who stood here so many times, looking every

inch a cardinal, fearing, it seemed, nothing and having an opinion, it seemed, on everything.

For thousands of veterans, it's the memory of a chaplain who counseled them, heard their confessions, and attained the rank of admiral. For the working men and women, it will be the memory of an advocate, someone who rose to great prominence but remained the proud son of a union man who honored hard work.

The poor and immigrants of this city will always remember their staunch friend who defended their interests and understood their struggles. Many families remember the church leader who came to AIDS patients with care and love.

Parents here and in Scranton will remember the priest who gave so much time and special care to boys and girls with disabilities. And the world will remember the gallant defender of children and their vulnerability, innocence, and their right to be born.

Many decades from now, these living memories of the man will begin to pass. Fewer and fewer will have known the sound of his voice, the largeness of his presence, the sting of his rebuke, his marvelous sense of humor, or the breadth of his compassion. But future generations will know at least this about the 11th leader of the archdiocese: He was a man who left a mark on his time; a moral leader not only in title but in truth; a defender of the faith, the very kind who have kept the faith alive for two millennia; a great man in a high place; and also for 80 years on this Earth, a good person, a cheerful giver, and a much-loved soul.

Posterity will know this: The Congress of the United States, in respect and gratitude, directed that a gold medal be struck bearing Cardinal O'Connor's name and image. And on this day, on behalf of the American people, I'm honored to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the family and to the successor of John Cardinal O'Connor.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:42 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. In his remarks, he referred to His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York and successor to Cardinal O'Connor; Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and his wife, Elizabeth; Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Mary Ward and Dorothy Hamilton, sisters of Cardinal O'Connor; Rev. Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Chaplain, U.S. Senate; Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives; and opera singer Maureen O'Flynn.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Medical Organization Leaders

July 11, 2001

Thank you. Be seated, please. Dr. Perry, thank you very much. It's great to welcome you up from Monroe, Louisiana. Mr. Secretary—Madame Secretary, thank you all for being here. It's good to see Members of the United States Congress; thank you all for coming; my fellow Americans.

We've just come from a great meeting with leaders of medical organizations that represent over 300,000 doctors—specialists, men and women from around our country who are deeply concerned about the state of the practice of medicine, health care professionals that care deeply about not only the practice of medicine but, more importantly, the patients that they see, men and women whose whole life is aimed at improving the lives of their fellow citizens, as a result of their brilliant skills. We had a frank discussion about medicine today and where medicine is headed. And we share a concern that many patients are not receiving the quality of care that we would hope they would receive.

And so we're now debating this issue in Congress, how best to improve the quality of care without unnecessarily running up the cost of medicine, without encouraging more lawsuits, which will eventually cause people not to be able to have health insurance.

And there's a good alternative working through the House of Representatives that my administration supports. It's called the Fletcher bill. It's a piece of legislation which says that patients ought to have direct access to specialists. These men and women who represent specialists all across America embrace this bill, the bill that my administration supports, because of direct access to specialists. And that's important. It's a very important part of the legislation.

I know there's some talk that the bill that came out of the Senate is the only one that

the doctors in America are for. Well, I think if people take a good look and those who hadn't made up their mind yet in the House listened to the voices up here, they will hear there's plenty of doctors who believe that the Fletcher bill is the proper alternative, so patients get the quality of care they need without the fear of losing health insurance, without the fear that businesses, large and small, might decide rather than being sued all the time and, therefore, drop provisions for health care in total.

That's something we don't want in our society. We want more people covered, not less. We want the cost of medicine not to be driven up by unnecessary litigation. The Fletcher bill provides safeguards.

Now there's another issue that's important, and that is the external review process. It's an incredibly important part of any medical system—future medical system, if we want it to work. And that process basically says, if you're a patient and you and your doc don't agree with the decisions made by the health insurance company, that you ought to be able to appeal to a panel of doctors. And if the panel of doctors rule in your favor, the insurance company is obligated to move forward. If not, it becomes a cause of action in a court of law.

I just had the opportunity of meeting with Helen Barnes, a nurse-practitioner from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Thank you for being here, Helen. She was in an automobile accident, and ever since, she's suffered severe muscular problems in her back and her neck. So she and her doc thought that she ought to have a mammoplasty to ease her pain. Her HMO denied her request for surgery. She then appealed the decision to an external medical review process. They ruled in her favor.

She took her case to an objective review process, a review panel, and they said she and her doc were right. And so she's going to receive the surgery she needs this January. I said, "Why not sooner?" She said, "Because she can't find time to get off work sooner." [*Laughter*]

But nevertheless, the process works. And it's so important that we have a tight external review process, one that addresses patients' needs, not the needs of people who want to sue everybody; one who's focused on the patients of America so that they can take their claims to a panel of experts—medical experts, and have their problems addressed as quickly and as soon as possible.

The issue we ought to be discussing is quality of care for patients. That's the whole focus of medicine. And that ought to be the focus of any legislation that comes out of the United States Congress. And the Fletcher bill that is now being debated on the House floor represents the kind of legislation that my administration can support, that thousands of doctors across America support, and I believe most Americans will support when they hear the facts and the differences between the two pieces of legislation that are now being debated on the House floor.

I want to thank our doctor friends for being here. I want to thank you for your service to your respective communities. The docs in America really are a part of—medical professionals are a part of really what makes this country great. We've got the best health care in the world—by far, the best health care in the world—and we've got to make sure that any legislation, any laws passed out of Washington, enhances the health care for America and doesn't hurt it. And I believe the Fletcher bill will help and enhance the great medical care that we have in our country.

Thank you all for coming. Thank you for the endorsement of a good piece of legislation, and may God bless your work, and God bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Priscilla Perry, M.D., representative, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Statement on Action by the House Ways and Means Committee on the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

July 11, 2001

I commend the House Ways and Means Committee for passing legislation today that includes key elements of my Faith-Based and

Community Initiatives. This clears the way for consideration by the full House of Representatives. This legislation will stimulate more charitable giving and support faith-based and community organizations in their efforts to help those in need. I will continue to work on a bipartisan basis with Members of the House and the Senate to implement my Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Memorandum on Implementing Government Reform

July 11, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Implementing Government Reform

Throughout the campaign and in my Budget, I have called for "active, but limited" Government: one that empowers States, cities, and citizens to make decisions; ensures results through accountability; and promotes innovation through competition. Thus, if reform is to help the Federal Government adapt to a rapidly changing world, its primary objectives must be a Government that is:

- Citizen-centered—not bureaucracy centered;
- Results-oriented—not process-oriented; and
- Market-based—actively promoting, not stifling, innovation and competition.

In order to establish and implement Government reform throughout the executive branch, I hereby direct the following:

1. *Establish Chief Operating Officers.*

Each agency head shall designate a Chief Operating Officer, who shall be the senior official with agency-wide authority on behalf of the Secretary or agency head. The Chief Operating Officer, the equivalent of the Deputy Secretary, shall report directly to the agency head and shall be responsible for:

(a) implementing the President's and agency head's goals and the agency's mission;
(b) providing overall organization management to improve agency performance;
(c) assisting the agency head in promoting Government reform, developing strategic plans, and measuring results; and
(d) overseeing agency-specific efforts to integrate performance and budgeting, expand competitive sourcing, strengthen their workforce, improve financial management, advance e-government, apply information policy and technology policies, and other Government-wide management reforms.

2. *Implement Additional Agency Reforms.*

Each agency head shall identify and implement additional changes within the agency that will promote the principles of government reform.

3. *Establishment of President's Management Council.*

In order to advise and assist the President in ensuring that Government reform is implemented throughout the executive branch, I hereby establish the President's Management Council ("Council"). The Council shall comprise:

(a) The Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget;
(b) The Chief Operating Officers from the following agencies:
(1) Department of State;
(2) Department of the Treasury;
(3) Department of Defense;
(4) Department of Justice;
(5) Department of the Interior;
(6) Department of Agriculture;
(7) Department of Commerce;
(8) Department of Labor;
(9) Department of Health and Human Services;
(10) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
(11) Department of Transportation;
(12) Department of Energy;
(13) Department of Education; and
(14) Department of Veterans Affairs.
(c) The following central management agency representatives:
(1) Director of the Office of Personnel Management;
(2) Administrator of General Services;
(d) Chief Operating Officers of the following agencies:
(1) Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
(3) National Science Foundation;
(4) Social Security Administration; and
(5) Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(e) Chief Operating Officers of three other executive branch agencies designated by the Chairperson, in his or her discretion;
(f) Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary;
(g) Deputy Assistant to the President for Management and Administration; and
(h) Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President; and
(i) Such other officials of the executive departments and agencies as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or I may, from time to time, designate.

The Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall serve as Chairperson of the Council. The Chairperson of the Council may appoint a Vice-Chairperson from the Council's membership to assist the Chairperson in conducting affairs of the Council.

The functions of the Council shall include, among others:

(a) improving overall executive branch management, including implementation of the President's Management Agenda;
(b) coordinating management-related efforts to improve Government throughout the executive branch and, as necessary, resolving specific interagency management issues;
(c) ensuring the adoption of new management practices in agencies throughout the executive branch; and
(d) identifying examples of, and providing mechanisms for, interagency exchange of information about best management practices.

The Council shall seek advice and information as appropriate from nonmember Federal agencies, particularly smaller agencies. The Council shall also consider the management reform experience of corporations, nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, Government employees, public sector unions, and customers of Government services.

Agencies shall cooperate with the Council and provide such assistance, information, and advice to the Council as the Council may request, to the extent permitted by law.

4. *Independent Agencies.*

Independent agencies are requested to comply with this memorandum.

5. *Revocation and Judicial Review.*

(a) the memorandum of October 1, 1993, entitled "Implementing Management Reform in the Executive Branch" is revoked.
(b) this memorandum is for the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

6. *Publication.*

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Remarks on Medicare Reform

July 12, 2001

Thank you all very much. Today I'm here to talk about our most important commitment to our seniors, the health of our seniors and how we can modernize and strengthen Medicare.

I'm also here to announce an exciting new plan to provide every senior on Medicare an opportunity to better afford prescription drugs by the beginning of next year.

I want to thank the members of both political parties—of all three political parties—[*laughter*]—who are here today. It shows us firm commitment to make sure our Nation fulfills a solemn pledge to our seniors and that is that our seniors have the best possible health care available for them. So thank you all for coming. We've got many Members of the House and the Senate, most notably, Senators Breaux and Thomas—I mean, Senators Breaux and Frist and Congressman

Thomas, all three Members who worked hard on Medicare reform in the past and who are joining with the administration to promote Medicare reform this year.

Thirty-six years ago this month—and thank you, as well, Mr. Secretary, for being here—36 years ago this month President Lyndon Johnson flew to Independence, Missouri, to sign Medicare into law and to present the first Medicare registration card to former President Harry Truman. President Johnson spoke that day about what Medicare would mean for our country, and here is what he said: "No longer would older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer would illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime, so that they may enjoy dignity in their later years." He went on to say that "no longer will young families see their own incomes and their own hopes eaten away simply because they are carrying out their deep moral obligations to their parents and to their uncles and to their aunts."

Medicare has lived up to President Johnson's vision. It has improved the health of America's seniors, and it's eased the financial anxieties of retirement, reduced the burden on younger generations, and fulfilled our Nation's commitment.

Medicare is a binding commitment. The Medicare promise we made in 1965 will never change. And as medicine advances and the needs of our seniors change, Medicare, too, must advance, and it, too, must change. This generation of leaders must honor and renew the promise of Medicare by strengthening Medicare for the future.

In 1965 health care usually meant hospital care. Today, we understand how important it is to prevent people from getting sick in the first place. Yet, Medicare does not fully cover preventative medicine.

In 1965 prescription drugs meant antibiotics. Today, illnesses that could once only be treated by invasive surgery are treated instead with effective new drugs. But these new drugs can be very expensive, and under the current system, Medicare doesn't pay for them.

In 1965 medicine could offer people diagnosed with cancer and other dangerous diseases little hope. Today, we can defeat many once incurable diseases but too often at a costly price that Medicare will not pay in full.

In 1965 the pace of medical progress was relatively slow. Today, hardly a day goes by without news of an exciting advance to extend life or improve health. Yet, Medicare takes way too long to authorize new treatments.

We must act now to ensure that the next generation of medical technology is readily available to America's seniors, from medicines tailored exactly to an individual's disease to Internet diagnosis that will allow patients to be treated by experts on the other side of their continent without the patients having to leave their living rooms.

In 1965 Medicare's finances were based on assumptions that quickly proved wrong. This has had enduring consequences. Medicare has too many limits on coverage. Seniors enrolled in Medicare are responsible for a nearly $800 deductible every time they visit a hospital. And they find themselves responsible for paying thousands more if they are seriously ill.

Medicare's funding structure doesn't make sense—two different parts, one of which appears to have a surplus, even though the other has a much bigger shortfall. And Medicare's costs are rising too fast, which creates anxieties about the program's stability.

It may be that cars don't get any better than the 1965 Mustang. But even the '65 Mustang didn't have power windows or antilock brakes. When it comes to cars and when it comes to health care, 1965 is not the state of the art. We need to bring Medicare into the 21st century, to expand its coverage, improve its services, strengthen its financing, and give seniors more control over the health care they receive.

Medicare's most pressing challenge is the lack of coverage for prescription drugs. Several people here with us this morning know from personal experience what that means. Frank Van der Linden was a newspaper reporter, and a good one; now he's being squeezed behind Medicare premiums and drug costs. Or Bobby Cherry, he's a senior coordinator at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, right here in Washington; he pays close to 40 percent of his income for prescription drugs and Medicare copayments; or

Gwendolyn Black, who spends $2,400 a year to put four healing drops a day into each of her eyes.

Today I announce the first step toward helping American seniors get the prescription drugs they need and deserve, a new national drug discount program for seniors that will begin early next year. Every senior on Medicare can receive a new drug discount card. It won't cost much, at most a dollar or two a month, and will work like the cards you already have for, say, your groceries. Present the card at a participating pharmacy, and you receive a substantial discount. It's as simple as that, and it's convenient.

The new drug discount plan combines the purchasing clout of millions of seniors to negotiate lower prices than under the current system. And under my plan, participating pharmacies will get new customers, and seniors will get high-quality drugs at a lower price.

It's a plan similar to the plan that brings discounts to many Americans who have private insurance. And the leaders of the companies that have been so successful in providing drug discounts in private plans are here with us today and will brief the press on the savings about our strategy.

The drug discount plan is the first necessary step to provide immediate help to seniors without destabilizing Medicare's finances. It is the first step, but it is not a substitute for a drug benefit and for strengthening Medicare. And that's why my administration has developed, with a bipartisan group of legislators, a framework for strengthening and expanding Medicare for the long term. This framework will guide us as Congress takes up Medicare in the coming months, and here are its main elements:

First, seniors already enrolled in Medicare and those near retirement must have the option of keeping their Medicare exactly the way it is today. No senior will see any change that he or she does not want or does not seek. If you like things the way they are, that's just the way they'll stay.

Second, all seniors today and tomorrow will be offered a range of new Medicare plans, including an improved and updated Government plan, as well as others offered by nongovernment insurance plans. All the Medicare plans must offer benefits at least as comprehensive as the Government plan. All will be regulated by the Federal Government, and all of them must offer prescription drug coverage.

Third, everyone enrolled in Medicare will have the power to choose—power to choose—which plan works best for him or her. The plans will compete with each other, forcing them to offer better service, extra benefits, and lower premiums. All seniors in America should enjoy the same freedoms that Federal employees have today when it comes to choosing their health care plans. We must trust seniors to make the right decisions for themselves.

Fourth, Medicare must become more responsive to seniors, especially to seniors on low incomes and with unusually high medical costs. Sometimes people discover Medicare's gaps when they need Medicare most. Under the current system, the sickest Americans pay a higher percentage of their bill than others do. And that's not right, and under our approach, that will stop. We'll put a stop-loss limit on the amount any senior can be asked to pay in any year.

Too many seniors feel compelled to purchase costly Medigap policies to cover what Medicare does not. Take, for example, Mr. Cuyler Taylor, who's with us today. The Taylors spend more than $10,000 a year on drugs and Medigap insurance. Our framework will not only cover drugs, but it will reduce the need for costly, extra insurance. The gaps in Medicare bear especially hard on low income people, and extra help will be available to them, as well.

And finally, we must put Medicare on a sustainable financial footing for future generations.

The two parts of Medicare must be combined into one. When popular alternative plans are established, the Government's contribution to any one Medicare plan should eventually be tied to the average cost of all Medicare plans, preventing any one plan from driving up the cost that all Americans must pay.

So these are the main principles for strengthening and improving Medicare. Nobody on Medicare will see any change in Medicare unless he or she wants it. There

will be new Medicare choices, and all of these new choices will offer prescription drugs. Medicare plans will compete by offering better service and lower premiums. Medicare will respond better to the needs of seniors and, especially, low income seniors and seniors with high medical bills. And Medicare will be put on sound financial footing.

These are principles which will strengthen one of our Nation's most sacred obligations, the health of our senior citizens. We'll protect seniors now, offering exciting new services and more choices to seniors in the future, and guarantee prescription drug coverage. And we will do it without overtaxing our children and our grandchildren.

Medicine is constantly improving. Medicare must keep pace. That's my administration's commitment today and its exciting new vision for health care in America.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:51 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Proclamation 7455—Captive Nations Week, 2001

July 12, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The 21st century must become the "Century of Democracy." Democracy and freedom have taken root across the globe, and the United States will continue to stand for greater consolidation of pluralism and religious freedom, wider access to information, and respect for human rights and for the rule of law. Our Nation and many of our allies share this vision for the world. In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "For the sake of peace and justice, let us move toward a world in which all people are at last free to determine their own destiny."

During the 20th century, dictators, monarchs, and colonialism gave way to democracy through ballot boxes, pressure from citizens, and negotiated settlements to conflicts. However, freedom and liberty remained out of reach for many. In 1959, the Congress promulgated a Joint Resolution authorizing and requesting the President to declare the third week of July as Captive Nations Week and to continue this annual statement "until such time as freedom and independence shall have been achieved for all the captive nations of the world."

Worldwide, many nations have successfully made transitions to democracy since President Eisenhower signed the Captive Nations Resolution. These democracies, whether nascent or consolidated, are found in areas that the great General and 34th President could have barely imagined would find freedom before the 20th century closed.

In spite of the proliferation of democracies over the past century, many people across the globe are held captive by their governments. More than a decade after the Berlin Wall fell, more than 2 billion people still live under authoritarian regimes. America must remain vigilant in our support of those living under authoritarianism. There remain people in Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia who do not enjoy the right to choose their own governments and to hold those governments accountable.

Americans and the 3 billion others across the globe living in democracies desire the same freedoms for the remaining 42 percent of the world's population who live without them. But as long as governments like those in Afghanistan, Burma, Cuba, Iraq, and Sudan exist, freedom is not accessible to all. Greater access to robust marketplaces of ideas, as well as freedom of worship and expression, will empower those living in closed societies. Strong and transparent judicial systems and respect for human rights and the rule of law also serve as necessary foundations for democracy.

To promote the development of democratic practices worldwide, I reaffirm America's support for freedom, justice, and pluralism. I have asked my Administration to examine our programs to support democracy and human rights movements closely and to ensure that these programs advance American policy. In addition, I want to make certain that our annual State Department

human rights, trafficking in persons, and religious freedom reports are integrated into American foreign policy.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 15–21, 2001, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their devotion to the aspirations of all peoples for liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 13, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 17.

Remarks at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland

July 13, 2001

Thank you very much. Dr. Miller, it's my honor to be here in the number one hospital in the United States to talk about an incredibly important issue. And that's Medicare, and how to make sure it's relevant as we head into the 21st century.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come. I'm honored to be traveling today with Tommy Thompson. I knew Tommy as a Governor. I knew he'd be a great Secretary of Health and Human Services, and he's proved me right. I appreciate you being here, Tommy.

I want to thank Dr. Brody. I want to thank Mr. Peterson. I want to thank Congressman Cummings and Congressman Ehrlich for being here, as well. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for coming. I appreciate the baseball bat with Cal Ripken's signature on it. [*Laughter*]

I am so proud of the health care system of America. We're the best in the world. We've got the best docs in the world. We've got the best research in the world. We've got the best hospitals in the world. And I intend to keep it that way. It's really important that our health care be responsive and innovative and rewarding.

And there are some bills coming up in front of Congress now that will help determine the course of medicine. One is called the Patients' Bill of Rights. It's really important that we not have our system ladened down by unnecessary lawsuits, that when we pass legislation, we keep patients in mind and make sure patients have direct access to specialists and make sure patients have the capacity to take their complaints to an independent review organization so that the complaint can be remedied quickly, not held up in a court of law.

I think we'll get a pretty good piece of legislation out. I certainly hope so, because it's part of a reform process, all aimed at making our health care system focus on patients and their relationship with doctors.

The big issue also confronting us is Medicare. The other day in the Rose Garden I laid out a Medicare set of guidelines, and I'm going to reiterate those here today. But I started off my talk by reminding people that another Texas President, Lyndon Johnson, started Medicare. And he presented former President Harry Truman with the first Medicare card, as he outlined the dream of Medicare.

And the truth of the matter is, Medicare has met the goals of America. Seniors are better off as a result of Medicare. But the problem with Medicare is, medicine changes, and Medicare has not. Medicine in the United States is changing dramatically, and I witnessed firsthand some of the fascinating technologies taking place in your eye clinic here and incredibly important changes when it comes to kidney transplants.

And yet, oftentimes, as innovation occurs in the health care area, Medicare is stuck in the past. It won't change, because it's too bureaucratic. The other day I said, you know, 1965 is when the program started, and even

though a lot of people think the 1965 Mustang was the best car ever made, it wasn't very modern. And even though Medicare may be the best invention of man, it's not very modern today.

And so, in the Rose Garden and here again at Johns Hopkins, I call upon the Congress to work with the administration to modernize Medicare, to make sure the Medicare system reflects the great hopes and promises of the health care in the 21st century. And what does that mean?

Well, it means, first and foremost, that anybody who likes Medicare today can stay on Medicare; that if you're happy with the Medicare system, getting up in your years, you're not interested in change, that you should be allowed to stay in the system as it is. In other words, no change, no threats, no problems.

However, Medicare also ought to do what it does for Federal employees. The Federal Congress ought to say, "If it's okay for Federal employees to have a variety of choices from which to choose, so should America's seniors. If it's okay for people who work for the Federal Government to be able to pick and choose a plan that meets his or her needs, seniors ought to be able to do that, as well."

So we need to bring new opportunities and options into Medicare for America's seniors, all of which must include prescription drug benefits; all of which must understand that part of the innovation that has taken place in the medical arena has included brand-new prescription drugs and new opportunities for people to have prescription drugs, and prescription drugs needs to be an integral part of Medicare, not only the system that exists today but whatever options seniors choose to use in the future.

Thirdly, any good Medicare system will create competition for service and will reduce premiums.

Fourthly, any good Medicare system must have stop-loss insurance provided for patients. I mean, we have a system today in Medicare where there's no telling how much people pay, depending upon the complications on the procedure. And that's not right. We need stop-loss. We need to say to seniors, there is certainty when it comes to your Medicare bills. And that's not the case today in Medicare.

And at the same time, we've got to recognize that we need to take care of low income seniors, as well. There are going to be some seniors that simply aren't going to be able to afford much. And our Government must be kind and generous in taking care of those seniors.

And finally, this system needs to be on sound financial footing. Trying to figure out Medicare financing is pretty confusing for the layman. We've got one fund where everybody says, it's got a surplus. We've got a second fund that's in significant deficit. And that kind of accounting has got to stop. We need honesty in accounting when it comes to Medicare, by combining both Part A and Part B into a unified trust, so the American people know exactly what's happening in the Medicare system.

Those are the guidelines I laid out. Pleased to report to you yesterday in the Rose Garden, there were some Democrat Members, there were some Republican Members, and there was even an independent Senator. [*Laughter*]

This is an incredibly important issue. Now, I understand politics pretty well, and I'm afraid the American people do, too. They've seen what happens with the Medicare issue. That's why, in the political vernacular, they call it "Mediscare," because somebody who comes along and tries to do what's right will have the issue used against them for political purposes.

The truth of the matter is, I'm not afraid of the issue, because this is the right thing to do. We've got a lot of baby boomers, like me, fixing to retire. And we had better make sure we modernize the system, to make sure the system is whole and sound for tomorrow's seniors.

But we also have an obligation for today's seniors. And the idea that many seniors can't access the latest technology—many seniors on Medicare don't have the same benefit that other seniors do in the private markets, got private insurance—just simply is not right.

And so it's time for the United States Congress to set aside the kind of political bickering that tends to dominate our Nation's Capital, and to focus on what's right for the

people—is to seize this moment before it's to late; to come together, both parties coming together to modernize Medicare, to make it sound but also to make sure it's a compassionate system and one that works.

Health care is an incredibly important part of our country. It's what sets America apart and makes our land so incredibly unique. And those of us who hold high office have the obligation to make sure the system works as best as it possibly can.

I want to thank the docs for your hard work and your compassion. My hope is that with proper reforms, we'll continue to attract the best and brightest in our society to the medical profession, so that doctors actually get to perform their talent, as opposed to spend hours on paperwork, that you get to spend more time in your offices, as opposed to the court rooms, that you get to practice the medicine for which you've been trained.

I want to thank the folks here at Hopkins for setting up a fine example for hospitals all across the land. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for letting me come by, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. in the Hurd Hall. In his remarks, he referred to William R. Brody, Ph.D., president, Johns Hopkins University; Edward D. Miller, Jr., M.D., chief executive office, Johns Hopkins Medicine; Ronald R. Peterson, president, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Mayor Martin O'Malley of Baltimore; and Cal Ripken, Jr., third baseman, Baltimore Orioles.

Statement on Climate Change Review Initiatives

July 13, 2001

Last month I announced the fundamental principles to guide a scientifically sound and effective global effort to reduce the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As I said then, my administration's climate change policy will be science-based, encourage research breakthroughs that lead to technological innovation, and take advantage of the power of markets. It will encourage global participation and will pursue actions that will help ensure continued economic growth and prosperity for our citizens and for citizens throughout the world.

Today I am pleased to report on specific initiatives that have been advanced in the past month by my Cabinet-level Climate Change Working Group. These initiatives represent important steps in putting our principles to work through partnerships with other nations, industry, and non-governmental organizations. They are designed to increase our scientific understanding of climate change, to tap the enormous promise of technology in addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and to promote further cooperation on climate change with our partners in the Western Hemisphere and beyond.

To advance the science of climate change, the Secretary of Commerce has convened an interagency work group charged with developing a Federal research plan that will prove vital to increasing our understanding of the dimensions and dynamics of climate change. Prominently, NASA will invest over $120 million in the next 3 years in research on the natural carbon cycle, climate modeling, and the link between atmospheric chemistry and climate to help reduce uncertainties in the science highlighted by the recent National Academy of Sciences report requested by my Cabinet-level working group.

To advance technological innovation, the Department of Energy has just signed agreements to begin two significant new projects to study carbon sequestration. The first agreement is with The Nature Conservancy, the world's largest private international conservation group, to study land use and forestry practices for storing carbon more effectively in Brazil and Belize. The second is with an international team of energy companies—BP–Amoco, Shell, Chevron, Texaco, Pan Canadian (Canada), Suncor Energy (Canada), ENI (Italy), Statoil Forskningssenter (Norway) and Norsk Hydro (Norway)—to develop a new set of technologies for reducing the cost of capturing carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion plants. Grants for six other sequestration research projects have also been awarded under this $25 million initiative that leverages an additional $50 million from the private sector and foreign governments.

To further cooperation in the Western Hemisphere and beyond on climate change, the Department of Treasury yesterday entered into a $14 million "debt for forest" agreement with the Government of El Salvador under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. By funding tropical forest conservation in that country, the agreement will secure important benefits of carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation.

Fostering further scientific cooperation on climate change among nations in our hemisphere, the Department of Commerce is bringing together more than 100 scientists from the United States, Mexico, and South America to study the regional impacts of climate change, another important area of uncertainty highlighted by the National Academy of Sciences study.

My Environmental Protection Agency Administrator also met with the Canadian and Mexican environment ministers on June 29 and pledged to jointly consider "market-based approaches for carbon sequestration, energy efficiency, and renewable energy in North America." Today the United States will host a meeting with the Japanese environment minister at which they will focus on opportunities for bilateral cooperation on climate change, including enhanced, joint climate modeling research.

Finally, in keeping with my commitment to engage internationally, the United States has participated and will continue to participate constructively in international discussions on climate change, including in the upcoming Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP–6) that begins this Monday in Bonn, Germany.

These initiatives illustrate the efforts my administration will continue to encourage strongly. These partnerships leverage resources to achieve tangible results. In many cases, their scope is international, reflecting the fact that both the problem and solutions for climate change extend beyond the borders of any one nation. And they represent the kind of investments in scientific and technological knowledge on which real progress on this long-term challenge must be based. I am pleased that those who are signing agreements with us or who have otherwise pledged to pursue joint research with our Government share our vision of enhancing our knowledge and making progress on this important issue.

Statement: Toward a Democratic Cuba

July 13, 2001

Seven years ago today a tugboat carrying 72 people off the coast of Cuba, the *13 de Marzo,* was repeatedly rammed by Cuban authorities resulting in 41 deaths, including 10 children. On this sad anniversary, the United States extends condolences to the families and survivors of this tragedy. The tyranny that rules Cuba today bears direct responsibility for this and other crimes—crimes, that should not go unpunished, against innocent civilians, and countless other human rights violations over the years.

As I said on Cuban Independence Day, the sanctions the United States enforces against the Castro regime are not just a policy tool but a moral statement. It is wrong to prop up a regime that routinely stifles all the freedoms that make us human. The United States stands opposed to such tyranny and will oppose any attempt to weaken sanctions against the Castro regime until it respects the basic human rights of its citizens, frees political prisoners, holds democratic free elections, and allows free speech.

In order to manage more effectively the sanctions against the Cuban regime and enforce the Federal regulations governing the embargo, I have asked the Treasury Department to enhance and expand the enforcement capabilities of the Office of Foreign Assets Control in this area. It is important that we uphold and enforce the law to the fullest extent with a view toward preventing unlicensed and excessive travel, enforcing limits on remittances, and ensuring humanitarian and cultural exchanges actually reach pro-democracy activists in Cuba.

In addition, I will expand support for human rights activists and the democratic opposition, and we will provide additional funding for nongovernmental organizations to work on pro-democracy programs in Cuba.

Focusing our support on activities that promote democratic values will go a long way toward accelerating the democratic transition of Cuba.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce the Director, Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Mr. Salvador Lew, a well-respected journalist and member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting. I have told Mr. Lew that my number one priority is to make sure that Radio and TV Marti are broadcast clearly to Cuba allowing every Cuban citizen access to accurate news and information. In order to do that, I have instructed him to use all available means to overcome the jamming of Radio and TV Marti. Once we open the flow of information, the demands for freedom will ring stronger than ever.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

July 13, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 7

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms on June 3–14.

July 8

In the evening, the President returned from Kennebunkport, ME, to Washington, DC.

July 9

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fairfax, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack Martin to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joan E. Ohl to be Commissioner of Children, Youth, and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Melody H. Fennel to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederico Juarbe, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation: Mark Edward Rey, Eric M. Bost, James R. Moseley, Joseph J. Jen, Thomas C. Dorr, J.B. Penn, and William Hawks.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee: Daniel P. Burnham, Joseph Paul Nacchio, Van B. Honeycutt, Clay M. Jones, David Michael Cote, F. Duane Ackerman, Herbert W. Anderson, Donald Joseph Obert, and Bernard John Ebbers.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as Directors of the Board of Directors for the Student Loan Marketing Association: Colin R. McMillan, Catherine L. Hanaway, Mary K.

Bush, Cory T. Shade, Kathleen MacLellan Gregg, and Sara Alicia Tucker.

July 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation to congratulate 2001 Wimbledon women's singles champion Venus Williams from the Oval Office. Later, he traveled to New York City, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark W. Olson to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his intention to nominate Elsa A. Murano to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jay S. Bybee to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel.

July 11

In the afternoon, the President met with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Chee-Hwa (C.H.) Tung in the Residence at the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate William D. Montgomery to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clifford G. Bond to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mario P. Fiori to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary E. Peters to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mauricio J. Tamargo to be Chairman of the Federal Claims Settlement Commission of the United States at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Curie to be Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Baxter to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert V. Royall to be Ambassador to Tanzania.

July 12

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael P. Socarras to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eric M. Javits to be U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Lester Pritchard to be Special Envoy for Four-Party Talks, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association: William Robert Harvey, Molly Hering Bordonaro, Taylor C. Segue III, and Victor Henderson Ashe.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the American Battlefield Monuments Commission: Paul X. Kelly, Frederick M. Franks, Jr., Julius E. Becton, Patrick H. Brady, Antonio Lopez, Alan K. Simpson, Joseph E. Persico, Tom Ridge, Will H. Tankersley, Sue E. Turner, and Sara A. Sellers.

The President announced his appointment of Annabelle Thompson Lockhart as Acting Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert W. Jordan to be Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 8–10.

July 13

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and later to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President sent a message of support to President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina concerning Argentina's economic situation.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 10

Theresa Alvillar-Speake,
of California, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy, vice James B. Lewis, resigned.

J. Richard Blankenship,
of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Ross J. Connelly,
of Maine, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, vice Kirk K. Robertson, resigned.

Emily Stover DeRocco,
of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Raymond L. Bramucci.

Melody H. Fennel,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Hal C. DeCell III.

Thomas C. Hubbard,
of Tennessee, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

Thomas J. Miller,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Larry C. Napper,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Joan E. Ohl,
of West Virginia, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Patricia T. Montoya, resigned.

Harvey Pitt,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2005, vice Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., term expired.

James E. Gritzner,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, vice Charles R. Wolle, retiring.

Michael J. Melloy,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice George G. Fagg, retired.

Michael P. Mills,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, vice Neal B. Biggers, retired.

Submitted July 12

Eric M. Bost,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Shirley Robinson Watkins, resigned.

Michael L. Dominguez,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Ruby Butler DeMesme.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Jill L. Long, resigned.

Mario P. Fiori,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Mahlon Apgar IV.

Nelson F. Gibbs,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Keith R. Hall.

William T. Hawks,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Michael V. Dunn, resigned.

Hans H. Hertell,
of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Joseph J. Jen,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Keith C. Kelly, resigned.

Robert Geers Loftis,
of Colorado, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

James R. Moseley,
of Indiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Richard E. Rominger, resigned.

J.B. Penn,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice August Schumacher, Jr., resigned.

Mark Edward Rey,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Karl N. Stauber.

Ronald M. Sega,
of Colorado, to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering, vice Hans Mark, resigned.

Craig Roberts Stapleton,
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

John P. Stenbit,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Arthur L. Money.

Mauricio J. Tamargo,
of Florida, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for term expiring September 30, 2003, vice John R. Lacey.

Otto Wolff,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Linda J. Bilmes, resigned.

Otto Wolff,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce, vice Linda J. Bilmes, resigned.

Otto J. Reich,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), vice Peter F. Romero.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 7

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of Montana

Released July 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Mary K. Sturtevant as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council

Released July 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Request by the Salvation Army for an OMB Circular

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 657

Announcement of nominations for a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Eighth Circuit and two U.S. District Court Judges

Released July 11

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the National Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Commonwealth of Virginia

Released July 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit to Europe

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 10

S. 657 / Public Law 107–19
To authorize funding for the National 4–H Program Centennial Initiative

The President's Radio Address

July 14, 2001

Good morning. This week in Washington, we have turned our attention to the goal of better health care for all Americans. I have asked Congress to send me a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, one that provides immediate access to specialists and an immediate appeal to a panel of doctors when an HMO denies care. I hope to sign a bill that gets people help when they need it, not a bill adding hundreds of dollars to the high premiums they already pay.

I am also asking Congress to join me in modernizing and strengthening Medicare. All of us, young and old, have a stake in the outcome of this discussion. From its beginning 36 years ago, Medicare has represented a basic binding commitment to our seniors. That commitment will always stand. And as medicine advances and the needs of our seniors change, Medicare must advance and improve, as well.

The most pressing challenge is the lack of coverage for prescription drugs. To begin solving this problem, I am proposing a new national drug discount program for seniors. This is a straightforward, nonbureaucratic program which can be in place by January. Everyone in Medicare will be eligible for a drug discount card, costing no more than $1 or 2 per month. Present this card at a participating pharmacy, and you will receive a substantial discount—at least 10 percent. It's as simple as that, and it's convenient, as well.

This program will provide immediate help to seniors without destabilizing Medicare's finances. Yet, my prescription drug plan is only a first step. We need broader reform to bring Medicare into the 21st century. We need to expand coverage, improve services, strengthen Medicare financing, and give seniors more control over the health care they receive. And as Congress takes up legislation, they should be guided by some basic principles.

First, for everyone in retirement or near retirement, any changes in their Medicare coverage should be up to them. No senior should have to accept something different if they like Medicare just the way it is.

Second, all seniors should be offered a range of new Medicare plans, both Government and private. Every plan offered to seniors should have at least the same benefits as the Government plan. And all plans must offer prescription drug coverage.

Third, everyone enrolled in Medicare should have the power to choose which plan works best for him or her. The plans will compete with each other, forcing them to offer better service, extra benefits, and lower premiums.

Fourth, reform must provide special help to seniors with low incomes and unusually high medical costs. We must put caps on the amount any senior can be asked to pay in a year. And since the reformed Medicare will cover prescription drugs, low income seniors will no longer have to pay for costly Medigap insurance.

And finally, we must strengthen Medicare's finances and make sure that the benefits promised to our seniors will be always there.

Medicine in America is constantly improving, and Medicare must improve at the same pace. By these principles, we can assure that Medicare will always offer seniors the care they need with the quality they deserve.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:21 a.m. on July 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Medal of Honor to Captain Ed W. Freeman

July 16, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Today, for the first time, I will present the Medal of Honor. It's a unique privilege to present the Nation's highest military distinction to Ed Freeman of Boise, Idaho. This moment is well deserved, and it's been long in coming.

Our White House military unit is accustomed to a lot of great events, but I can assure you they started this day with a great sense of anticipation. After all, they know how rare this kind of gathering is and what it means. To be in the presence of one who has won the Medal of Honor is a privilege; to be in the room with a group of over 50 is a moment none of us will ever forget. We're in the presence of more than 50 of the bravest men who have ever worn the uniform, and I want to welcome you all to the White House.

It's an honor, as well, to welcome Barbara—a name I kind of like—[*laughter*]—Ed's wife, along with his family members and members of his unit from Vietnam. As well, I want to welcome the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Chief of the Joint Chiefs, as well as members of the Joint Chiefs. I want to welcome Senator McCain. I want to welcome Senator Craig, Congressman Otter, and Congressman Simpson from the delegation of Idaho. I want to welcome you all.

It was in this house, in this office upstairs, that Abraham Lincoln signed into law the bills establishing the Medal of Honor. By a custom that began with Theodore Roosevelt, the Medal of Honor is to be presented by the President. That duty came to Harry S. Truman more than 70 times. He often said that he'd rather wear the medal than to be the Commander in Chief. Some of you might have heard him say that. [*Laughter*] Perhaps you were also here on May 2, 1963, when John F. Kennedy welcomed 240 recipients of the Medal of Honor.

By all rights, another President from Texas should have had the honor of conferring this medal. It was in the second year of Lyndon Johnson's Presidency that Army Captain Ed Freeman did something that the men of the 7th Cavalry have never forgotten. Years pass, even decades, but the memory of what happened on November 14, 1965, has always stayed with them.

For his actions that day, Captain Freeman was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. But the men who were there, including the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Crandall, felt a still higher honor was called for. Through the unremitting efforts of Lieutenant Colonel Crandall and many others, and the persuasive weight from Senator John McCain, the story now comes to its rightful conclusion.

That story began with the battalion surrounded by the enemy in one of Vietnam's fiercest battles. The survivors remember the desperate fear of almost certain death. They remember gunfire that one witness described as the most intense he had ever seen. And they remember the sight of an unarmed helicopter coming to their aid.

The man at the controls flew through the gunfire not once, not 10 times, but at least 21 times. That single helicopter brought the water, ammunition, and supplies that saved many lives on the ground. And the same pilot flew more than 70 wounded soldiers to safety.

In a moment, we will hear the full citation, in all its heroic detail. General Eisenhower once observed that when you hear a Medal of Honor citation, you practically assume that the man in question didn't make it out alive. In fact, about one in six never did. And the other five, men just like you all here, probably didn't expect to.

Citations are also written in the most simple of language, needing no embellishment or techniques of rhetoric. They record places and names and events that describe themselves. The medal itself bears only one word, and needs only one: Valor.

As a boy of 13, Ed Freeman saw thousands of men on maneuvers pass by his home in Mississippi. He decided then and there that he would be a soldier. A lifetime later, the Congress has now decided that he's even

more than a soldier, because he did more than his duty. He served his country and his comrades to the fullest, rising above and beyond anything the Army or the Nation could have ever asked.

It's been some years now since he left the service and was last saluted. But from this day, wherever he goes, by military tradition, Ed Freeman will merit a salute from any enlisted personnel or officer of rank.

Commander Severs, I now ask you to read this citation of the newest member of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. And it will be my honor to give him his first salute.

[*At this point, Comdr. Paul J. Severs, USN, Navy Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. We'll see you for a reception. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks on Accepting a Bust of Winston Churchill and an Exchange With Reporters

July 16, 2001

The President. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

I think I casually mentioned to the Ambassador, right after my swearing-in, that I lamented the fact that there was not a proper bust of Winston Churchill for me to put in the Oval Office. He's a man of great action, because here sits a bust on loan from Her Majesty's Government that I accept gratefully and will place right here, where the flowers are, beneath one of my favorite west Texas paintings. I accept gratefully, and I look forward to looking at Sir Winston on a daily basis.

People said, "Why would you be interested in having the bust of an Englishman in your Oval Office?" And the answer is, because he was one of the great leaders in the 20th century. He was an enormous personality. He stood on principle. He was a man of great courage. He knew what he believed, and he really kind of went after it in a way that seemed like a Texan to me: He wasn't afraid of public opinion polls; he wasn't afraid of—he didn't need focus groups to tell him what was right. He charged ahead, and the world is better for it.

He also had a great sense of humor. There have been a lot of Churchill stories, some of which you can repeat on TV, some of which you can't, Mr. Ambassador. One that came to mind was, after he lost office in the election in 1945, King George VI offered him the Order of the Garter. And here is what he said: "I could hardly accept His Majesty's offer of the Garter when his people have given me the order of the boot." [*Laughter*]

Churchill reminds me of two things—one, we need more humor in the public arena. He had a great wit. He had a fantastic way of making people smile and laugh. And secondly, he reminds me of the importance of our relationship, the relationship between Great Britain and America.

As the Ambassador mentions, in a couple of days' time, I will go to confirm and renew that relationship. Not only will I have the honor of meeting with Her Majesty; I will also spend some quality time again with the Prime Minister. We've got a strong personal relationship that is most helpful to making sure our countries continue the tie that binds.

I'm looking forward to my trip overseas. And a perfect way to begin is to stop off in London and then, eventually, go to Chequers, and then—and have a very constructive and honest and straightforward dialog about areas where we cooperate to make the world a better place.

In the meantime, Mr. Ambassador, I'm honored that you came by. Thank you very much for bringing Sir Winston. I look forward to visiting with him. Sometimes he'll talk back; sometimes he won't, depending upon the stress of the moment. But he is a constant reminder of what a great leader is like.

So, thank you for coming, sir.

United Kingdom-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, is the special relationship as healthy today as it was in Churchill's time?

The President. I think it is. I do. We cooperate in the Balkans. The Prime Minister and I talk quite frequently on issues that are

of concern for world peace. We don't agree on every single detail of issues, but we do agree that the relationship is special and unique. And I think it is very strong.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Are you expecting criticism, on your UK trip, of your policies on the Kyoto treaty and missile defense?

The President. You mean, from whom? Editorial page writers? Oh, perhaps. But on both issues I have made my positions clear. People shouldn't doubt where the United States stands. And I made those positions on principle. In principle, it's important for us to develop a new strategic framework to make the world more peaceful. The Prime Minister, in his public statement at Camp David, understood exact—said to the people he understood exactly where I was coming from.

We will continue to consult with Great Britain on the issue. I will keep him posted about my dialog with Mr. Putin. As a matter of fact, one of the things I look forward to doing is sharing the conversations I had with Mr. Putin and what my intentions are in Genoa, as well as in Shanghai, when I meet Mr. Putin.

And I think the Prime Minister and others are beginning to realize the cold war is over. I know he knows it's over. And the fundamental question is, how do we deal with the threats of the 21st century? And on global warming, the Prime Minister knows, as do the leaders of the EU, they heard me say as loudly and as clearly as I can, we agree with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases, but we don't accept the methodology of the Kyoto treaty.

So I look forward, over time, to detailing our strategy with our friends and allies. And again, I repeat, it's with the goal in mind of making sure that we all work in the world developing and—developing nations as well as industrial nations of reducing greenhouse gases.

U.S. Sanctions on Cuba

Q. Mr. President, on a question that is of interest to Europe, do you plan to extend the waiver of the Title III of Helms-Burton for another 6 months?

The President. I do.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, do you have any initiative to suggest in Northern Ireland that might break the deadlock between the parties there?

The President. Where? Northern Ireland? No, what I told the leaders of—Prime Minister Blair and Ahern, I said, "Call me if you need help." They're the folks closest to the ground. They're intricately involved in the situation, and the United States stands ready to assist. If there's anything we can do to help bring peace to the region, my government is more than willing to do so.

Q. But you haven't received a call yet?

The President. I have not, but I suspect that Tony Blair and I will discuss this issue. I look forward to getting his perspective on the issue. And again, if he needs our help, we'll be glad to help.

President's Upcoming Visit to the United Kingdom

Q. You've been to Britain before, Mr. President. What are you looking forward to most on your revisit?

The President. Well, I'm looking forward to going to Chequers. The Prime Minister told me when he came to Camp David that he thought I was—would really love to see Chequers. And my dad told me the same thing; the Ambassador's confirmed that, as well. I look forward to going. I look forward to seeing Her Majesty the Queen.

I had the honor of coming to a state dinner here in Washington that my mother and dad gave for her. And it's—I found her to be a lovely, dignified, smart lady. And I look forward to representing my country in her presence.

My first trip to overseas was a successful trip. I'm confident this will be, as well. It's such an honor to represent our Nation in foreign capitals and to be with foreign leaders. I look forward to—but I really look forward to making progress on key issues, such as missile defense and world trade, working with nations who are less fortunate than Great Britain and the United States—nations in Africa.

We're going to have a very interesting session in Genoa with the leaders of developing nations. And the United States and Great Britain will take the lead in helping convince all our friends and allies to provide support necessary to help nations develop, starting with free trade.

Energy Policy

Q. Mr. President, on energy, your Cabinet is out today, pushing your energy plan. Is it a tougher sell now, given that gas prices have come down; we're not seeing the rolling blackouts in California that we were just a couple of months ago?

The President. Well, I think anytime there's not an immediate problem that's apparent to people, it's tough to convince people to think long term. But it's clear that there are warning signs. It's clear—it should be clear to the American people that we're dependent upon foreign sources of crude oil, when every quarter, we worry about whether or not OPEC is going to run the price of crude up. It should be worrisome to people that the State that's had the best conservation efforts is the State that's had brownouts. And even though there may not be a brownout today, it's an indication that we need an energy policy.

And so we're going to take a very strong effort to convince the American people that we've got a plan that couples not only sound conservation but the need to develop new sources of energy. And one of the primary topics that will be on the agenda when the President of Mexico, Vicente Fox, comes after our August recess, in the beginning of September, will be to continue to talk about the hemispheric strategy to bring natural gas into the United States, and to Mexico, for that matter.

I'm going to meet with Jean Chretien in Genoa, and we'll be talking about energy, I can assure you. Canada has got a lot of natural gas in the Northwest Territories; we need to figure out how to get that gas into the United States.

And I think the American people will listen to a rational, logical approach about how best to create energy security and diversification, as well as how to promote conservation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:12 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Christopher Meyer, United Kingdom Ambassador to the U.S., who presented the bust; Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. A reporter referred to Title III (protection of property rights of U.S. nationals) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law No. 104–114).

Statement: The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, Title III

July 16, 2001

Today I transmitted to Congress my decision to exercise the authority granted to me under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act to suspend for 6 months, from August 1 through January 31, the right to bring actions under Title III of that Act. In exercising this authority, I do so taking into account that it is necessary for the national interest of the United States and will expedite the transition to democracy in Cuba.

Real differences remain between the United States and our allies concerning the best methods for pursuing change in Cuba. However, for its part, the European Union has again renewed its Common Position on Cuba and has reaffirmed its goal of promoting a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. Our actions will encourage support for the embargo and further strengthen, not weaken, the growing multilateral, multifaceted movement to promote democracy and human rights in Cuba.

My administration is firmly committed to a proactive Cuba policy that will assist the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom. On Friday I reaffirmed my commitment to maintain existing sanctions against the Cuban regime and to strengthening pro-democracy movements in Cuba. I call upon the European Union and the international community to work together with us toward the fundamental goals that should unite us: free speech, free elections, and respect for basic human rights in Cuba.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

July 16, 2001

Dear _____ :

Pursuant to subsection 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114) (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that the suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 2001, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks at the World Bank

July 17, 2001

Thank you all very much. Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for your distinguished years. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your kind comments. I'm honored to be here today with the Secretary of the Treasury, Paul O'Neill—thank you for being here, Mr. Secretary—as well as our Trade Ambassador, Bob Zoellick. I appreciate the leadership that these two men have shown. Their steady advice, their standards, their adherence to principle make my job a lot easier.

I also want to thank Jim Wolfensohn for not only the invitation to be here but for your traveling long distances to get here to hear this speech. He said he landed at 6 o'clock this morning. Obviously, he'd never heard me give a speech before. [*Laughter*] But I do appreciate his leadership. I appreciate the fact that he's raised the profile of global poverty and has underscored the importance for erasing it. I'm proud of his leadership, and I'm proud of the folks that work here at the World Bank. And I want to thank you for coming to give me a chance to speak to you.

Last month in Poland, I talked about Europe and America working in partnership to build a house of freedom, a house whose doors should be open to all of Europe's emerging democracies and a house whose windows should be open to help Europe and America see clearly their challenges and responsibilities in the rest of the world.

My last trip to Europe focused mainly on opening the doors of freedom throughout Europe by enlarging NATO and the European Union. Tomorrow I will travel to Europe to meet with leaders of the world's most industrialized nations, as well as Russia, to discuss the developing world and its needs and the developed world and our duties.

The needs are many and undeniable, and they are a challenge to our conscience and to complacency. A world where some live in comfort and plenty while half of the human race lives on less than $2 a day is neither just nor stable. As we recognize this great need, we can also recognize even greater promise.

World poverty is ancient, yet the hope of real progress against poverty is new. Vast regions and nations from Chile to Thailand are escaping the bonds of poverty and oppression by embracing markets and trade and new technologies. What some call globalization is, in fact, the triumph of human liberty stretching across national borders. And it holds the promise of delivering billions of the world's citizens from disease and hunger and want. This is a great and noble prospect, that freedom can work not just in the new world or the old world but in all the world.

We have, today, the opportunity to include all the world's poor in an expanding circle of development, throughout all the Americas, all of Asia, and all of Africa. This is a great moral challenge, what Pope John Paul II called, placing the freedom of the market in the service of human freedom in its totality. Our willingness to recognize that with freedom comes great responsibility, especially for the least among us, may take the measure of the 21st century.

This cause is a priority of the United States foreign policy, because we do recognize our responsibilities and because having strong and stable nations as neighbors in the world is in our own best interests.

In centuries past, strong nations often wanted weak neighbors to dominate. In our age, strong nations must recognize the benefits of successful partners around the world. Strong partners export their products, not their problems. Conquering poverty creates new customers. And a world that is more free and more prosperous is also a world much more likely to remain at peace.

To build this better world, we must be guided by three great goals. First, America and her friends and allies must pursue policies to keep the peace and promote prosperity. The United States and her allies will pursue a balance of world power that favors human freedom.

This requires a new strategic framework that moves beyond cold war doctrines and addresses the threats of a new century, such as cyberterrorism, weapons of mass destruction, missiles in the hands of those for whom terror and blackmail are a very way of life. These threats have the potential to destabilize freedom and progress, and we will not permit it.

Prosperity depends on a stable and peaceful world. Global prosperity also depends on the world's economic powers keeping our economic houses in order. We all must pursue pro-growth policies that encourage greater productivity, reduce tax burdens, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and stable prices.

Our second goal is to ignite a new era of global economic growth through a world trading system that is dramatically more open and more free. One of the most important objectives of my meetings with other G–7 leaders in Italy will be to secure their strong endorsement for a launch of a new round of global trade negotiations later this year.

And at home, one of my most important legislative priorities will be to secure from Congress trade promotion authority that five other Presidents have had, an authority necessary so that when our United States enters into agreement, the countries with whom we've agreed to will understand we mean business. It's time for Congress to act.

Free trade applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor. We know that nations that open their economies to the benefits of trade are more successful in climbing out of poverty. We know that giving developing countries greater access to world markets can quickly and dramatically raise investment levels and incomes. We also know that free trade encourages the habits of liberty that sustain freedom over the long haul.

That is why I applaud the World Bank's leadership in helping countries build the institutions and expertise they need to benefit from trade.

Despite trade's proven track record for lifting the lives of the poor, organizers of the summit expect many people to take to the streets later this week in Italy to try to stop our progress. They seek to shut down meetings because they want to shut down free trade. I respect the right to peaceful expression, but make no mistake, those who protest free trade are no friends of the poor. Those who protest free trade seek to deny them their best hope for escaping poverty.

Legitimate concerns about labor standards, the environment, economic dislocation should be and will be addressed. But we must reject a protectionism that blocks the path of prosperity for developing countries. We must reject policies that would condemn them to permanent poverty. As my friend the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, said, the protesters seem strangely determined to save the developing world from development.

Our third goal must be to work in true partnership with developing countries to remove the huge obstacles to development, to help them fight illiteracy, disease, unsustainable debt. This is compassionate conservatism at an international level. And it's the responsibility that comes with freedom and prosperity.

Already, 23 of the world's poorest nations are benefiting from efforts to relieve them of the crippling burden of massive debt. These nations have committed themselves to economic reform and to channeling the savings from debt relief into health and education. The United States has been and will

continue to be a world leader on responsible debt relief.

The developed nations must also increase our commitment to help educate people throughout the world. Literacy and learning are the foundation of democracy and development. That is why I propose the United States increase funding for our education assistance programs by nearly 20 percent.

Today I'm directing the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development to develop an initiative to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa, where some countries are expected to lose 10 percent or more of their teachers to AIDS in the next 5 years.

For its part, the World Bank and the other development banks must, as Secretary O'Neill has noted, focus on raising productivity in developing nations, especially through investments in education.

Yet, only about 7 percent of World Bank resources are devoted to education. Moreover, these funds are provided as loans that must be repaid and often times aren't. Today I call on all multilateral development banks to increase the share of their funding devoted to education and to tie support more directly to clear and measurable results.

I also propose the World Bank and other development banks dramatically increase the share of their funding provided as grants rather than loans to the poorest countries. Specifically, I propose that up to 50 percent of the funds provided by the development banks to the poorest countries be provided as grants for education, health, nutrition, water supply, sanitation, and other human needs, which will be a major step forward. Debt relief is really a short-term fix. The proposal today doesn't merely drop the debt; it helps stop the debt.

The world also needs to begin realizing the enormous potential of biotechnology to help end hunger. The U.N. has recently reported biotechnology can dramatically improve crop yields in developing countries while using fewer pesticides and less water. We need to move forward based on sound science to bring these benefits to the 800 million people, including 300 million children, who still suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Finally, the Genoa Summit will formally launch a new global fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. The United States was the first to announce our contribution to this fund, originally called for by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. We are proud to have been a leader in developing the fund's structure and its focus on prevention with a broad strategy that includes treatment and care.

And I'm proud that our country contributes nearly $1 billion annually to international efforts to combat AIDS and infectious diseases. I might remind folks that's more than twice the amount of the second largest donor. We stand ready to commit more to the global fund when it demonstrates success.

In all these areas—health, education, hunger, and debt—America is committed to walking alongside leaders and nations that are traveling the hard but rewarding path of political and economic reform, nations that are committed to rooting out cronyism and corruption, nations that are committed to building the institutions of freedom and good government.

In 1950, at the height of the cold war, John Foster Dulles issued a promise to the people of South Korea. "You're not alone," he said. "You'll never be alone so long as you continue to play worthily your part in the great design of human freedom." Fifty years since, our circumstances have changed beyond recognition. The world is no longer divided into armed camps. Democracy has become a seed on the wind, taking root in many nations. So much has changed, yet America's commitment is still the same.

To all nations promoting democratic government and the rule of law so that trade and aid can succeed, you're not alone. To all nations tearing down the walls of suspicion and isolation and building ties of trade and trust, you're not alone. And to all nations who are willing to stake their future on the global progress of liberty, you will never be alone. This is my Nation's pledge, a pledge I will keep.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. in the Preston Auditorium at the World Bank. In his remarks, he referred to James D. Wolfensohn, president, World Bank Group.

Statement on the Death of Katharine Graham

July 17, 2001

The Nation's Capital and our entire Nation today mourn the loss of the beloved first lady of Washington and American journalism, Katharine Graham. Her legacy and influence spanned many different arenas, from powerful publisher to quiet philanthropist, to accomplished businesswoman, to Pulitzer Prize winning author, to gracious and loyal friend. Presidents come and go, and Katharine Graham knew them all. When Laura and I moved to Washington, she was the first to welcome a new President to the Nation's Capital with a dinner at her home. Mrs. Graham became a legend in her own lifetime because she was a true leader and a true lady, steely yet shy, powerful yet humble, known for her integrity and always gracious and generous to others. Her life, chronicled in her Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, presents a tremendous example for our generation and generations to come. Laura and I send our prayers to her children and grandchildren, to her colleagues at the Washington Post Co., and to her many friends throughout Washington, America, and the world. She will be sorely missed.

Statement on Action by Committees of the House of Representatives on a National Energy Policy

July 17, 2001

Today's actions in the House Resources Committee and in the House Energy and Commerce Committee represent important steps toward implementing a comprehensive and balanced energy policy. I am pleased that the committees are acting swiftly to increase energy efficiency, expand use of renewables, and open a small portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for environmentally responsible exploration.

For too long America has lacked a comprehensive national energy policy. My administration has proposed a plan that will reduce America's reliance on foreign oil through increased conservation and efficiency, improved infrastructure, and increased exploration. I commend the House committees for moving forward on these goals.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone

July 17, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 17, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Interview With Foreign Journalists

July 17, 2001

The President. I'll make a few comments. Did anybody hear what I said at the World Bank? Nobody? [*Laughter*] You're kidding me. I spend all this time writing this speech, and nobody listens.

Here's what I said. I said that in Europe I talked about a house of freedom; I talked about opening doors—that means expanding freedom by enlarging NATO and the European Union—I also talked about opening windows, so that America, our allies, and friends can more clearly see the problems that face those who are the developing world.

And so I laid out a strategy that I'm going to pursue in Genoa that, one, says that those of us who are prosperous must continue to

put policies in place to enhance prosperity, lower taxes, less regulation, and free trade; secondly, that we have—must work together to develop a new security arrangement that will help address the threats of the 21st century. In other words, prosperity for all must include a prosperous and stable world.

Secondly, I talked about open trade. I firmly—I said clearly, as clearly as I could, that the protesters in Italy have the right to express their opinion in a peaceful way. But they hurt the case of the poor when they argue against trade; they hurt the opportunities for developing nations to grow. As I said, my friend Ernesto Zedillo put it well. He said, the thing that troubles him is that it's clear that the protesters don't want the developing nations——

Assistant Press Secretary Countryman. They want to protect the developing nations from development.

The President. Yes. All I was going to say is, it's clear they don't want the developing nations to have access to development, and he's right.

And thirdly, in order for developing nations to be able to succeed, our nations and our friends must work hard to enhance education, fight disease. I reminded folks that we were the first nation to step up with contribution to the HIV/AIDS fund. We're part of the strategy. We will put more in as the fund shows success.

I believe you're going to see that, at the G–7, there will be a strong commitment for more contributions from nations represented here at the table. We contribute nearly a billion dollars a year in international aid to HIV/AIDS; that's more than double the second-largest donor in the world.

I talked about the need for the World Bank and multilateral banks to have more grants for education and health, as opposed to loans. I said that our Nation will work to develop a teacher training program in Africa. My point is, is that part of enhancing world prosperity and world freedom, that those of us who are fortunate nations must work together to provide opportunity: trade, better health, and better education. That was my speech; I'm sorry you missed it. [*Laughter*]

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. I was going to kick-off as the British representative. As you know, the peace process in Northern Ireland is at a critical stage and facing possible disaster at the moment. The Irish Prime Minister, the Catholic Deputy Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, moderate voices in both north and south have no less than 40 editorials in the American newspapers, including in the Washington Post and the New York Times, have called for decommissioning of weapons.

I quote the latest one, the Houston Chronicle put it: "It is time, indeed, it is well past time for the IRA to honor its commitment to the Good Friday peace agreement by surrendering its weapons."

Is it now also time now for U.S., as you prepare to visit Britain, to help break the log-jam by calling on Sinn Fein and its IRA associates to move on surrendering of weapons and bring back stability to Northern Ireland?

The President. We strongly the support of Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern's attempts to enact the Good Friday agreement. And one of the crucial points is decommissioning. And my government stands side by side with those two governments and those two leaders in urging all sides to decommission, to disarm, and to enact the Good Friday agreements.

The situation in Northern Ireland is coming to a critical stage. I look forward to talking to my friend about the issue. As I said yesterday, I stand ready to help. But there should be no mistake that we believe the decommissioning part of the Good Friday agreement must be upheld.

Upcoming Visit With the Pope

Q. Mr. President, you're coming close to Italy and to the Holy See.

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to it.

Q. What do you expect from your first meeting with His Holiness the Pope, considering his position on abortions, stem cell, the death penalty?

The President. Well, I expect to talk to a very principled man who speaks from strong convictions. And I look forward to being in the presence of a great world leader.

In my speech in Warsaw, I reminded people that His Holiness and his influence had amazing effect on transforming—an amazing effect to encourage freedom. I believe—I truly believe he's a great world leader, and I appreciate his efforts of reconciliation and healing. In my country, the Holy Father has an enormous impact, because the leaders of the Catholic Church, for example, stand strong on the principle of life. They also stand strong on making sure that those who have no voice are heard. And I respect the Catholic Church; I respect the leadership. And I look forward to a very frank discussion.

This will be my first chance to have met the Holy Father. It's not my first time to Rome, though.

Q. Are you a little excited?

The President. I'm very excited. You can't help but be excited and be thinking about being in the presence of a great leader, a man who has got such depth, such spiritual strength and depth. And he's had an enormous impact on the world.

And so I look forward to that, and I also look forward to seeing Rome again. I was there to visit my daughter, who went to school at the American School in Rome for a 6-month period of time. Laura and I went over to visit her; I believe it was in the fall of '98, right after my reelection as Governor of Texas. We had a wonderful experience, and I'm looking forward to going back.

Strength of the Dollar/Role of G–7 Economies

Q. Mr. President, the strong U.S. dollar is getting a real problem for the U.S. export industry. Are you worried about this? And a question related to this, the European countries a year ago, when they have been here at the IMF/World Bank meeting, they were talking about taking the role of an engine for the world economy. Do you think, or do you expect them to take this role, and, if, what do you think they're going to do?

The President. If the IMF should take a strong role for——

Q. No, the European countries taking a——

The President. Well, I think this. I think that—let me answer the dollar question second.

First, as to the role of market-oriented economies and democracies, we do have a role. And the first step is to make sure our economies are strong and that we trade freely between ourselves. That's why I urge—as a matter of fact today, if I'm not mistaken, the EU Trade Commissioner and Ambassador Zoellick, the trade commissioner for the U.S., are making a joint statement—if it's not today, it's soon—about the need to have a new global round of trade. In other words, I do believe that those of us who have got rule of law and transparency in our economies, who have got essentially market-oriented economies, have an opportunity to help spread wealth around the world.

In other words, if our economies don't grow, it's very difficult for African nations to grow. Because I remind you, I submit the only way for growth is for commerce and trade and capital to exchange across borders. So we do have a—but we've got to make sure our own economies grow. And part of the problem I think you're alluding to is the fact that our economy has slowed down.

And so we have—and I will talk about this, what we have done to, you know, enhance economic growth—one, we've got a tax stimulus package that's going to be kicking in here soon. I think the checks start actually going out this week. About $40 billion will be injected into our economy over the next 3 months in terms of rebates. So that should help bolster consumer activity.

Secondly, the Fed has continued to act to cut rates. And whether they will or not in the future is up to Mr. Greenspan. It's an independent part of our Government.

But nevertheless, I can safely say to our partners, we're taking steps necessary to make sure our economy recovers, and that includes, by the way, addressing energy. And needless to say, we had a very frank discussion about energy in my last trip to Europe, and I suspect we'll have another frank discussion about energy.

One of the things—the Prime Minister of Canada and I have had a very interesting relationship, and one that will continue to grow, is over energy. He knows full well—and Canada, by the way, is now the largest supplier of energy to the United States, and there are some great opportunities for us to

enhance natural gas deliverability into our country by cooperating in our own hemisphere.

My only point is that I will assure my friends and our trading partners that we're doing our part to strengthen our economy, but we've got to work to make sure we reduce trade barriers in order for prosperity to continue.

The strong dollar: The dollar is what it is based upon market. And the reason I say that is, our Government will not artificially enter markets. The market decides the strength of the dollar. And I would urge other countries, now, to do the same thing. A strong dollar has got, obviously, benefits and problems for us. One, it's harder to export, but it also helps attract capital. And much of our economy relies upon investors investing in the U.S. because of the dollar. And so we understand the pluses and minuses and, therefore, let the market determine the float of the dollar.

I don't know if that answered your question properly.

Japan's Economy/Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. My question is—I tried to follow up his question. So, Mr. President, you met Prime Minister Koizumi last month, and it was a very good meeting. But Prime Minister Koizumi tried hard to make serious structural reform, and then the Japanese economy continued to decline, and then the yen rate—the result is a weak yen and a stronger dollar. So, President, are you concerned about such a weak yen?

And may I—President, my second part of the question is on Kyoto Protocol issues. And President, you know the Japanese Government have been trying to persuade the United States to participate in Kyoto agreement, but the U.S. is still reluctant to join. So my question is, what will be the U.S. reaction if Japan move forward to sign the Kyoto agreement without U.S. commitment to join the agreement?

The President. Well, first I did have a great visit with your Prime Minister. I found him to be a very charming man and a courageous leader. He's tackling a very tough economic situation, a huge amount of debt. And he is willing to work hard to restructure and reform the economy so that there is, in fact, transparency and reality in the assessment of the Japanese economy. And I appreciate that a lot.

I said in my statement with him at Camp David that we firmly stand with him on his reforms. And of course there may be a consequence as to the yen and dollar relationship, but the market ought to make that decision. I believe Japan—and we hope that Japan does restructure her economy and fully address the loans and the debt overhang in a very constructive, forthright manner. I believe the Prime Minister intends to do that, and I urge him and continue to encourage him to do so. And I appreciate his willingness to take on this very difficult issue, and I think the Japanese people appreciate that, as well.

Secondly, we also had a long discussion about Kyoto, as I have with many of the leaders around the world, and I made it clear to all the world leaders that our country supports the goals. We just have differences on the methodology. I reminded the people that we spend a lot of money on understanding global warming, that we approach the issue from a science-based perspective, that the goals are unrealistic, however, and that the United States Congress—Senate, made it very clear that they were unrealistic with a 95 to nothing vote and that my assessment of the situation was upfront.

I explained to them as clearly as I could that our Nation will work to develop a strategy that other nations can understand clearly, but that they should make no mistake about it, that the idea of this particular treaty—of which there was a goal of—for example, setting a goal of carbon reductions by 1990—something less than the 1990 emissions was something that our country was unable to withstand. You know, some leaders were more sympathetic than others, I must confess.

Nevertheless, I do believe that people appreciated the frank assessment, and I believe they're going to appreciate the strategy that we lay out over time to help meet the needs. Each country has to make its own mind up as to how to proceed with this issue. Each country must—the parliaments of these countries must deliberate. The governments must be straightforward, it seems like to me,

about the consequences. And we will see how other nations—I know how other nations have accepted my declaration; we'll see how they handle it with their own internal politics regarding this issue. But we can continue to cooperate and will cooperate on technology transfers.

You know, a new generation of nuclear power and the capacity to be able to handle the waste in a technologically feasible way makes a lot of sense. And our Nation is more than willing to invest in new technologies and to look at how to make the world more clean. I reminded the ministers and the leaders that this also relates to energy. And as one of the trading partners, significant trading partners for many countries, it seems like the nations would want our economy to continue to grow. And yet, in order to do so, we must address our energy needs.

There is a big debate in America right now about energy. But make no mistake about it, when you import nearly 60 percent of your product from overseas, that's a dependency upon foreign sources that can create instability.

Secondly, we've got to find—and the State of California was the best in conservation in the Nation. They're the best at putting conservation practices in place, but they ran out of energy. And so on the one hand, we've got to do a better job of conservation, and we will. The Vice President has spent a lot of time talking about that. But we've got to find more energy. They hadn't built a powerplant in 12 years in the State of California. And guess what? When you grow your State the way they have—in other words, the demand increases the way it has and there is no supply, it creates a problem. And we've got to address that. And it must be—and I put this in the context of an environmental strategy. And the two go hand in hand as far as we're concerned.

I talked very frankly to leaders around the table about the need for us to continue to come up with safe alternatives, safe disposal practices for nuclear energy. But our Nation needs to look into it, and so does the developing world, by the way, it seems like to me.

And you know, some in Europe have a different perspective about nuclear energy. It's an important discussion, and we'll continue to consult with our friends.

Russia and NATO/Russia-China Friendship Pact

Q. First of all, I wanted to thank you for inviting us all in—it's a high—working in my life.

President Putin yesterday suggested that he wants a new security structure in Europe that would either involve Russia in NATO or NATO disbanded and a new infrastructure with Russia in it. I wonder whether you think such integration can really be on the table.

And also, the Russians and the Chinese have just concluded a new treaty on friendship. And both of those countries are firmly opposed to NMD. So I wonder if you are concerned about that issue.

The President. I can understand nations that share a large border wanting to work on a friendship agreement. It makes sense to me.

First, let me say, we did have a very constructive meeting in Slovenia. It was a very forthright, very straightforward, very open discussion about issues. And I made it very clear to Mr. Putin that Russia is no longer our Nation's enemy. And therefore, I don't think—the "therefore" of that is that we should not view each other with suspicion, that we ought to think seriously about working together to get rid of a document that codified a cold war distrust. That's what the ABM Treaty was. It was a document—when Russia and America divided the world into armed camps and we stared each other down with missiles.

I've spoken very clearly to the President that it's time for new leadership to develop a new strategic framework for peace. The threats that the ABM Treaty addressed no longer exists—no longer exists. There are new threats, new forms of terror: cyberterrorism, fundamentalist extremists, extremism that certainly threatens us, threatens Israel, who is our strong ally and friend, threatens Russia. We've got to deal with it, the threat in Europe, at some time, perhaps. We must deal with that issue. And one way to do that is coordinate security arrangements, is to talk about how to—as to how to deal with the new threats but also is to

be able to have the capacity to rid the world of blackmail, terrorist blackmail.

And so we had to have the capacity to shoot somebody's missile down if they threatened us. It's a defense, as opposed to relying on peace—but with offensive weapons, why don't we think about developing defensive systems. So I've read with interest the statements—I've been reading with interest the statements by a lot of people.

But this Nation, I'm committing this Nation to a more peaceful world by a realistic assessment of the threats, and we've got to address them, and I'm going to. And I continue to consult with our allies and friends, which I'm confident this topic will come up with Tony Blair. I look forward to explaining him my position. I did so with the Prime Minister; I have done so with the leaders of every nation represented here. I did so with Jean Chretien right here at this table during my first working dinner as the President of the United States. He sat right there, and we had this discussion.

I explained to him the philosophy behind my attitudes. I firmly believe it's the right thing to keep the peace. And I look forward to a continued dialog starting next—whenever—Sunday, I guess it is, with Mr. Putin, on this very subject. I'm not going to speak for him, but I will tell you, he listened very carefully, and I appreciated that.

Now, the other question was——

Q. Can both sides belong to the same structure?

The President. Oh, oh, oh, NATO. Well, first of all, his vision, he mentioned this in our press conference in Slovenia, as well. He talked about a NATO that might at some point include Russia. I think that's what he was saying. You know, I found that to be an interesting comment, something worth noting.

In the meantime, however, there is a round of NATO expansion—the practicality is, there's a round of NATO expansion next fall, a year from this coming fall, and I will reiterate what I said. It's not a matter of when—I mean, it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. And countries that are making progress toward democracy and working hard to conform to the action plan, we ought to be very forward-leaning toward those countries. I gave it very—you should read my speech.

But I will tell you this. As Russia looks west, she finds no enemies. She finds no enemies. And that's the way it's going to be, so long as I'm the President.

Energy Policy in the Western Hemisphere

Q. I know you like energy questions, so I'll throw a double-barrelled energy question at you.

The President. Thank you, sir. The Canadians are always good about double-barrelling. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've expressed a strong desire to get at the natural gas that's in the Northwest Territories. How do you reconcile that with the very intense political pressure to bring the gas south, through Alaska, bypassing the Canadian resources? And secondly, you've talked about a continental energy policy, energy pact. You've got free trades with NAFTA. Would a logical next step, given the United States' great need for water, be a water pact?

The President. Very interesting. Let me start with the energy. What Barrie [Barry McKenna, Toronto Globe and Mail] is referring to is, there are competing visions about how to get natural gas from a gas plentiful part of the world into American markets. One, an Alaska pipeline; and secondly, a Canadian pipeline—or perhaps a combination of the two. We've got a debate here in America about whether or not America ought to be exploring for natural gas in parts of our State of Alaska. It's very similar to the Northwest Territories in Canada.

The Canadian Government has made—along, I might add, with the tribes in that part of the world—have made the decision that exploration for natural gas would not only be economically beneficial but can be done in a way that doesn't harm the environment. I agree with their assessment. Whether or not the United States is willing to think along the same lines is an open question that is still going to be debated in the United States Senate. Nevertheless, my attitude is, we need supply. And therefore, I have committed myself to working with the Canadian Government to figure out how to get natural gas into the United States.

The quicker, the better, Barrie. And we are willing to work with your Government to figure out a way that can expeditiously move gas. He's referring—you know, obviously, to the extent that it would be an American pipeline, a pipeline on American soil would make it easier for me politically. Nevertheless, I'm a practical man; I want the gas here.

We will continue to work on the Alaska pipeline. There are perhaps enough reserves to justify an Alaska pipeline. I know there's enough reserve to justify a Canadian line. It's conceivable we could have both, that would both feed the midwestern market and the western market.

The second issue is hemispheric energy, and that really pertains to—I don't know if you know this, but Mexico is a net importer of gas. And so we've got all of us—three of us are continuing to meet on how best to make sure that all of us are able to fully explore the opportunities in the hemisphere. But so long as Mexico imports gas from America, it is gas that ultimately will be replaced by Canada in our market. And we've got to encourage Mexico, and I know that President Fox thinks this way, about enhancing exploration for what he calls "dry gas" in the country of Mexico.

As well, we're working on electricity hookups. And one of the things that the Prime Minister and I have talked about, the possibility of hydroelectric power generating in Canada, moving down through to particularly the Midwest. It requires a significant amount of capital outlay, but nevertheless, it's really worth the discussion.

Water is—I'm from a part of the world where—where I grew up, there was no water. And at one time, when the price of international crude oil got down to around $10 a barrel, water was more valuable than oil, at least where we live. Water will forever be an issue in the United States, particularly the Western United States. I don't know exactly what you have in mind in terms of importation of water. I presume it's—perhaps some have suggested abandoned pipelines that used to carry energy. That's a possibility. I would be open to any discussions.

Our Nation must develop a comprehensive water strategy as we head—particularly as these Western States continued to grow. You know, one big debate we have in America is whether or not we build more reservoir space, more water storage, above-ground water storage. It is a battle, needless to say, that pits local conservationists versus those with agricultural interests, for example. And I've looked forward to discussing this with the Prime Minister, should he want to bring it up, at any time, because water is valuable for a lot of our countries. A lot of people don't need it, but when you head south and west, we do need it.

Q. Mr. President.

The President. Patrice [Patrice DeBeer, Le Monde].

U.S.-EU Relations

Q. Yes. What is your vision, your master plan for U.S.-European relations? And more specifically, for U.S.-EU relations for 2008, until 2008 when you leave this house? Maybe this would be——

The President. I like an optimistic man. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'm not voting.

The President. But nevertheless, I appreciate it. [*Laughter*]

Q. Maybe this would reassure all those who have questions about the U.S. strategy.

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Yes. Look, when I first went to—my first trip to Europe was an icebreaker. You know, some of the leaders had come here, and we had visited. But a lot of folks had never—you know, they had read things about me, so they weren't able to hear my vision. They were told things through the newspapers; sometimes things were true, sometimes frankly not so true. But nevertheless, it gave me a chance to have a very honest dialog.

Patrice, I think they realize that, one, my Nation is firmly committed to NATO, the expansion of NATO. Our commitment to NATO is real. One of the big issues—that's important for people's vision of the American role—very important.

You know, during the course of the campaign, I made it clear that I thought that our military should be used to fight and win war—that's what I thought the military was for—and that I was concerned about peacekeeping missions and that we've got to be

very clear about—to our friends and allies about how we use our troops for nation-building exercises, which I have rebuffed as a—basically rebuffed as a kind of a strategy for the military.

And as a result of that, some in Europe were very concerned about our presence in the Balkans, for example. And the Secretary of State reiterated my position very clearly early in the administration, and I had the opportunity to do so: "We came in together. We leave together." That's an important statement for people to understand, that our Nation will continue to work with our European friends—in this case, to bring stability to the Balkans and Macedonia. We're very much involved. We've got an Ambassador on the ground there working with the EU Ambassador to bring peace. There is a cease-fire; progress is being made; our Nation is engaged and involved.

Having said that, it's important, however, to continue to work, though, to replace troops in a responsible manner with civil institutions, civil structures that can do the same thing the troops are doing.

We've got to work for a police force and security arrangements that are run locally, so that the NATO troops at some point in time will no longer serve as peacekeepers. Now, that's obviously more opportunistic to do that in Bosnia than it is in Kosovo at this point in time, but nevertheless, we must do so.

In terms of the EU, I believe that we can have a very constructive relationship with the EU. Obviously, there are some concerns where we differ, but we shouldn't allow these differences, like biotechnology, for example, which I talked about today in my speech regarding developing nations. The U.N. came out—this is kind of an aside—the U.N. came out with a very interesting study that made it clear that biotech and biotechnology will enhance the ability of poor nations to grow more plentiful amounts of food. We agree with that position. And yet, we have a disagreement with our European friends on that, it seems like.

Nevertheless, we shouldn't allow those disagreements to undermine and to kind of diminish the fact that we share the same values. And it's the values that unite—not just the history but the values that unite America with Europe. The values of freedom, free press—I emphasize free press being exercised right here in the Family Dining Room at the White House—free speech—it will be exercised in Genoa, I suspect—[*laughter*]—free elections, free religion, basic values that we share. And our European friends, I believe, are beginning to understand that about me, that I respect Europe, I respect our history, but most of all, I respect the values of Europe, and that I will not let differences of opinion get in the way for the larger vision. And that is a Europe free and whole, a Europe expanded, and a Europe in partnership with America. And we'll have frank discussions.

Look, the only thing I can do in these meetings, and I will do—I will just tell people what I think. I will represent my Government in a way that is forthright, transparent. People will know where we stand. And some will like it, and some won't like it. But they will always know that I will be willing to listen, discuss, and consult on issues of importance.

And I think people will find that my lecture is—my manner is not lecturing; it's hopeful and optimistic. It is, I believe that we can—I'm an optimistic man. I wouldn't be sitting here as the President if I didn't have an optimistic view of how we can work together.

And secondly, I think people will find that, as I said today, that I do embrace a kind of compassionate conservatism in the international arena that recognizes that those of us who are fortunate have an obligation to help the developing nations, the sick.

It is unbelievable that on my watch and on the watch of the other leaders around the table that Africa, for example, suffers the pandemic that it does. And we must come together, and we must take this issue incredibly seriously, and work together to help develop—help Africans develop a strategy of education, treatment, and cure that will work, and help fund it, and crank up our NGOs to go help. And I think the people will see the strategy and——

Protests at Economic Summits

Q. Does it look to you that these big meetings are increasingly being held behind armed camps? You were in Quebec City;

WTO is going to meet in the desert. In Genoa, they're on a boat, some of them, and Canada is talking about making it on a mountaintop next year.

The President. Let me say, I—in Quebec City, I don't know what percentage, but I would say clearly 95 percent of the people were there to stage a peaceful protest about a variety of issues. Some anarchists wanted to make it difficult for the Canadian Government to conduct a meeting.

And in all due respect, those who try to disrupt and destroy and hurt are really defeating the cause of—their cause, it seems like to me. I think a lot of people in the world are just kind of sick of it.

There is one thing to have an open dialog. It's another thing to try and hurt and destroy. You know, secondly, as I said, the people who are protesting are hurting the poorer nations. If they're trying to undo trade, it seems like to me their strategy and their philosophy will lock people into poverty. And I strongly disagree with them, and I made that clear in a speech today. You need to get the exact wording in the transcript. [*Laughter*]

There should be no question about my view, about what these voices of isolationism and protection are doing. They can couch it in any words they want, but they're condemning people to poverty, as far as I'm concerned. And you know what? They need to go and ask the people. Ask the African nations; ask what their hope is. Find out from the people that they're supposedly speaking on behalf of exactly what their opinion is, and they're going to find a different point of view.

I thought Quebec City was—first of all, I got to see Quebec City in kind of a near-empty state, which was beautiful. It was a fantastic venue. But obviously, any time you're meeting and you've got issues to discuss and there is tear gas wafting through the air, it kind of changes the atmosphere somewhat. But that's not going to prevent me from having a good dialog with the leaders.

The truth of the matter is, the discussions inside the halls of these buildings are fairly immune to what's going on. And the other thing is, there are some there, they just want to get their picture on TV. And TV cameras are powerful incentive.

Thanks, everybody.

Argentina

Q. Are you concerned about Argentina?

The President. I am concerned about Argentina. I am concerned about Argentina, Marc [Marc Hujer, Suddeutsche Zeitung]. And our Nation is very much—you know, watching the situation very carefully. Late last night off the news—I'm sure the news reported—it looked like there was an agreement between the governors and the central government as to how to rein in spending, which is a very important step in a—direction that Argentina needs to go. We don't believe that the Argentinean situation—first of all, we think if the de la Rua government continues to push for reform, we believe they can settle and calm the situation down so there is a platform for growth.

We also are watching very carefully this whole notion of contagion and don't believe it's going to be contagious if, in fact, it doesn't go the way that we hope it goes. But yes, we're concerned about it. We're also watching Turkey very carefully, as well.

Anyway, thanks. Enjoyed it.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:43 a.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina. Participants in the interview were: Patrice DeBeer, Le Monde; Ben MacIntyre, Times of London; Barrie McKenna, Toronto Globe and Mail; Maurizio Molinari, La Stampa; Marc Hujer, Suddeutsche Zeitung; Masanori Matsui, Nihon Keizai Shimbun; Andrei Sitov, TASS; Stephen Sackur, BBC–TV; and Giulio Borrelli, RAI–TV. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 18. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Exchange With Reporters in London, United Kingdom

July 19, 2001

Bipartisan Foreign Policy

Q. Mr. President, any comment on Senator Daschle's comments this morning, saying he was concerned about U.S. isolationism?

The President. One of the things that America has prided itself on is a bipartisan foreign policy, and I would hope that that tradition continues. It's a very important tradition. I think the people of America appreciate the foreign policy positions we've taken, that we're not retreating within our borders. But I'll represent the American interests.

And secondly, the world leaders have found that I'm a person who speaks plainly and openly about key issues. We're willing to listen, but I will still continue to stand for what I think is right for our country and the world.

I happen to believe missile defense is important to keep the world more peaceful, and I believe we need to work together to reduce greenhouse gases. But I refuse to accept a treaty that will harm our country's economy.

Q. Did Tom Daschle go too far? Did he break the tradition?

The President. I think that's going to be up for Tom Daschle to make up his own mind whether he did or not. I do believe it's important to have a bipartisan spirit when it comes to foreign policy. I would hope that tradition continues.

National Missile Defense

Q. Putin backed off a little bit on the possibility yesterday of a missile defense thing.

The President. We're having a good discussion with President Putin on missile defenses. I was pleased to see his comments. Remember, I want you all to remember that he was the first world leader to indicate that perhaps we needed to think differently about the new threats of the 21st century.

He clearly talked about theater defenses, as well as the capacity to develop technologies to intercept missiles on launch. I still believe he understands that need. I look forward to discussing that with him in Genoa. It's going to be part of our dialog.

Now I'm going to go see Her Majesty. I look forward to renewing a friendship. I met her when she came to visit Washington, DC. My mother and dad kindly invited Laura to, and me, to the—a private lunch with her. And it's such an honor to go represent my country there at Buckingham Palace. And of course, we're off to see Prime Minister Blair. I'll be glad to visit with you after I visit Prime Minister Blair.

Previous Meeting With Queen Elizabeth II

Q. Is the "black sheep" story true, sir?

The President. You need to ask my mother. [*Laughter*] Yes. Very good research. Well researched.

President's Visit to London

Q. London in general. Are you enjoying your trip so far?

The President. You know, I have. Somehow, the press got this notion I had never been to London. I was reading in one of our major newspapers the other day that this is the first time I had been to London, which is simply not the case. It is a spectacular city.

I was struck by a couple of things, one, how diverse the city is and how clean it is. And it is a beautiful city.

Winston Churchill

Q. Is it true that you asked specifically to go to the Cabinet War Rooms later on because of your interest in Churchill?

The President. I am. Well, I've always been intrigued by Churchill. I think he was one of the really fascinating leaders. Last week, or, let's see, this week—sometimes, time flies—at some point in the recent past, the British Ambassador brought a bust on loan from the English Government to the Oval Office. So Churchill is now watching my every move.

I loved Churchill's stance on principle. Sometimes in this world, it is important to have a world leader stand up on principle and defend policy based upon principle, not trying to figure out politics.

I also loved his sense of humor. The man was blessed with a wonderful gift of kind of bringing light to politics. And we need that.

We need that a lot of times. People need to learn to laugh.

And when they gave him the Order of the Garter, he said, "How can I accept the Order of the Garter? I just got the order of the boot." [*Laughter*] That's right after he had been defeated.

Q. Is that your favorite Churchill anecdote, or——

The President. Well, I've got some, but I can't repeat in mixed company, if you know what I mean. He was a great leader, and he was blessed with a lot of talents. And I'm really looking forward to seeing that part of his life. You bet.

Q. Thank you.

Visit to the British Museum

Q. Mr. Bush, what do you think of Camden? The Bar of Camden? What do you think so far from what you've seen?

The President. If you're asking about this, the reading room was spectacular. I mean, there's no way to describe it other than spectacular.

What I found interesting was, we saw the—they have catalogued the list of folks who have signed in over the past to use the room. And Karl Marx and Lenin, Mark Twain, George W. Bush. [*Laughter*] From one end of the spectrum to the other.

Q. Continuity?

The President. One end of the spectrum to the other.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 p.m. at the British Museum. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; United Kingdom Ambassador to the U.S. Christopher Meyer; and Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. A reporter referred to a previous conversation between George W. Bush and Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom during former President Bush's administration. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Faith-Based and Community Initiative

July 19, 2001

Back at home, Congress has taken an important step toward building stronger and more caring communities.

In a victory for progress and compassion, the House has acted to expand charitable giving, to increase the help available to poor Americans, and to end discrimination against churches, synagogues, and charities that provide social services. Our Faith-Based and Community Initiative levels the playing field so that all people and groups with a heart to serve have the chance to serve.

I commend Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, and especially thank Congressmen J.C. Watts and Tony Hall for working together in a bipartisan way to enact this plan.

I also want to thank countless supporters from across America who have taken this initiative to heart. From small religious congregations to large foundations and faith-based charities, the real support for our work has come from people and groups that put first the injunction to love and serve a neighbor in need. With their help, with the vote in Congress, and with support from major organizations like the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, momentum is on our side. Now the Senate must act, and I urge the Senate to join us to provide help and hope to those who so urgently need it.

This fall, Members of the Senate can provide practical help to community organizations fighting for safer streets and a brighter future for our children.

These groups work to prevent crime and drug abuse, provide help to the elderly, feed the hungry, care for abused women and children, shelter the homeless, and build hope in communities where hope is too often not a resident. We must all take their side. The Senate must take their side.

I've talked with Senator Daschle about the critical importance of this legislation, and I urge him to bring it up promptly so we can get to work helping the people who need our help most.

Back in January, Senators Rick Santorum and Joe Lieberman stood with me when our Faith-Based and Community Initiative was launched. I look forward to working with them, so we can stand together again when this bill is signed into law.

One of the great goals of my administration is to rally America's armies of compassion and restore a spirit of caring, citizenship, and community. One of the things that makes America unique is the loving spirit of the many people in our great country who want to help those in need.

Government should encourage them, and if these good people are acting based on the calling of their faith, we should respect and welcome them, and never stand in their way.

Churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples are in every neighborhood in America, and we can never have a Government bureaucracy big enough to extend a hand to every child who needs a mentor, to every adult who needs a friend, to every senior citizen who needs a hot meal and a human touch.

No one can love a neighbor as well as a loving neighbor, and we must unleash good people of faith and works in every community in our country. By doing so, we can extend the hope and the promise and the opportunity that is at the heart of the American Dream to the heart of every child in America.

I commend the United States House and urge the United States Senate to act quickly to unleash this enormous force for good.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom in Halton, United Kingdom

July 19, 2001

Prime Minister Blair. Good evening, everyone. First of all, can I say how delighted I am to have President Bush here, not just here in Britain but also here staying with us, and Laura, tonight at Chequers. And we're looking very much forward to hosting them. And I think it is yet another example of the strength of the relationship between our two countries. It is a very strong relationship, a very special one.

And I know in the discussions we've had we've ranged over many issues. Obviously, we started with the discussion of the upcoming G–7/G–8 summit where we agreed how important it is that we get across the strong message to people that the summit is important because it allows us to discuss issues of real importance to people. I have no doubt that we'll be with people there who will be making their protest, but I hope they do so peacefully, because some of the things we're discussing at this summit, in terms of global trade, in terms of the developing world, are things that are of huge importance not just to the most prosperous countries of the world but also to some of the poorest countries of the world.

We touched then on many other issues in the course of our discussion, including, obviously, missile defense, the issue of climate change, and a good discussion on Macedonia and Northern Ireland, the Middle East process, and of course, the state of the world economy.

And I'm sure you want to ask some questions about those things. But once again, can I say, George, how much I welcome you and Laura here, how delighted we are to see you. And I know and hope very much this will be a good evening for you and set you up in the right frame of mind for the summit ahead. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you. At Camp David, Tony told me Chequers was a beautiful place, and he was telling the truth. And we're glad—Laura and I are glad to be here. I appreciate so very much your hospitality and your friendship. America and Great Britain have got a special relationship. We both have pledged to keep the relationship as special as possible, and I'm convinced it will continue to be.

I, too, look forward to going to Genoa. You know, I am—I can't wait to make the case, along with Tony Blair, about the need for the world to trade in freedom. And for those who want to shut down trade, I say this to them as clearly as I can: You're hurting poor

countries. For those who kind of use this opportunity to say the world should become isolationist, they're condemning those who are poor to poverty. And we don't accept it. We don't accept it.

We've got a lot in common between our countries, most of which is values. We value freedom. We value political dialog. We value freedom of religion—freedom of the press, for that matter. But we also value the fact that we're responsible nations and that we realize there are some who are less fortunate than the great land Tony is the leader of, and our great land, as well.

So at the summit, we'll be talking about how best to help the continent of Africa deal with HIV/AIDS, how best to make sure our aid and loans work well, and how best to encourage the habits of freedom, starting with good education.

So I'm looking forward to it, and I want to thank you for having Laura and me here. It's a great joy to be in your beautiful country.

Prime Minister Blair. Right. We'll take some questions. We'll bring you a mike, I think.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. Could I ask you both about what you've been saying to each other about Northern Ireland and, particularly in view of the President's comments, whether you feel it's still possible that the package that Britain and Ireland are going to produce can be even-handed in the continued absence of decommissioning?

And can I also ask you, Prime Minister Blair, about your thoughts on Jeffrey Archer, the former deputy chairman of the Tory Party and Conservative MP, starting a 4-year sentence tonight for perjury and perverting the course of justice?

Prime Minister Blair. I'm afraid on the second part, I've really got nothing to say on that.

In respect to the first part, the package that we put to the parties will be balanced because it will deal with all the outstanding issues. It will deal with the issues of the stability of the institutions, how we get a normalized situation—we've reduced troop movements and the numbers of troops in Northern Ireland dramatically, but we want to do more—how we make sure, too, that we get a police service that all parts of the community in Northern Ireland can support. And then also there is the issue of the decommissioning, the putting beyond use of paramilitary weapons. And obviously there's got to be action on all those fronts.

And so we hope very much the people will respond positively. Because, as I often say to people, you only have to look at the situation in the Middle East to realize what happens when negotiation breaks down, when parties move apart from each other, and how quickly a situation that looked optimistic can become unstable and dangerous.

And this is—this Good Friday agreement, this peace process is the only hope for people in Northern Ireland. And the package has been put forward by ourselves and the Irish Government together. And I hope people respond positively and realize that the future of generations of people in Northern Ireland depend on that positive response.

President Bush. We did spend a fair amount of time talking about Northern Ireland. I've reiterated to the Prime Minister that I stood ready to help in any way—a simple phone call away. If there's anything I can do to help bring peace to the region, I will do so. And make no mistake about it, people shouldn't have any doubt as to where my Government stands. We stand strongly, side by side with Britain when it comes to decommissioning in Northern Ireland.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

National Missile Defense/Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. A question for each of you, please. Mr. Prime Minister, does Saturday's successful test of a antimissile system in the U.S. affect your opinion at all of President Bush's plans to deploy a missile shield and scrap the ABM Treaty?

And to you, Mr. President, as we speak, environmentalist ministers are meeting in Germany, trying to find a way to salvage the Kyoto global warming treaty. If the rest of the world proceeds without you, doesn't it isolate your policies and your country?

President Bush. Ron's very good about taking one question and converting it to two. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Blair. Well, first of all, on the subject of missile defense, obviously, we await a specific proposal from the U.S. administration. But I want to say this and say it clearly, that I think President Bush is right to raise the issue of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and say that that needs new and imaginative solutions, because it's a huge threat facing the whole of the world.

Secondly, I think that that has got to, as I said at Camp David, has got to encompass defensive systems and offensive systems. And I think it's again sensible and right that we sit down and work our way through that.

And the third thing is that we welcome very much the approach that President Bush and the administration have taken to consulting allies and also making it clear that they wish to have a dialog and a partnership with Russia about this issue.

And I think that in combination, those things are bringing about a situation in which we can have a sensible and rational debate about an issue that is of fundamental importance facing the world. So I hope that in that spirit, you know, we will carry forward the dialog that we have achieved so far.

President Bush. Let me comment on that, and then I'll comment on your other question. The thing I appreciate about the Prime Minister is that he's willing to think anew as we head into the future. It's hard for any country to commit to vague notions. But there are some leaders who just out of hand reject any willingness to think differently about security. And Prime Minister Blair is not that way. He's been very forthcoming. He's had great questions. He's been more than willing to listen to the philosophy behind moving beyond a treaty that has codified a relationship that no longer exists.

ABM Treaty codified a relationship between enemies. Russia is not our enemy. And as we head into the 21st century, we must think about new ways to keep the peace. And the Prime Minister has been very positive. You know, some people just reject new thought out of hand. And that's certainly not the case. And as time develops, I will stay in touch—as our plans develop, I'll stay in touch with Tony as to what's going on. He's been a great person with whom to consult on this issue.

The United States is concerned about the emission of CO_2. We share the goal of reduction of greenhouse gases. We will be and are in the process—we'll be presenting a strategy that may have different means than Kyoto of achieving the same goal. And we're in the process of developing the strategy.

People shouldn't, just because I gave an honest assessment of Kyoto's chances in the United States Senate and what it would mean to our economy, should not think that we don't share the same goal. We do. We want to reduce greenhouse gases. Ours is a large economy, generating—we used to generate more wealth than we are today, and as a result, we do contribute greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. And so we're concerned about it.

But first things first, as far as I'm concerned. Our strategy must make sure working people in America aren't thrown out of work. My job is to represent my country, and I'm going to do so in a way that keeps in mind the ability for people to find work and for our Nation to be prosperous. And I believe economic growth and sound environmental policy can go hand in hand.

Mr. Prime Minister, as I assured you, I will come to you with a strategy that conforms to the goals of Kyoto and one that is—that I hope people understand makes sense for our country.

EU-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, given the very strong relationship which you say exists between yourself and Tony Blair, between Britain and the United States, are you endangering that special, unique, close relationship because Mr. Blair wants to be a bridge between Europe and the United States, and yet, you don't seem to be offering very much to help narrow the gulf which seems to be opening up between Europe and the United States on key issues?

President Bush. I will let Tony Blair speak to how he feels my relationship with Europe—I'm not going to—you'll say my answer is not very objective, but frankly, after

my last trip here, I think the European leaders got to know me and realize that our country will be engaged with Europe in all aspects.

In the Balkans, I made it clear: We came in together, and we're going to leave together. When it comes to trade, I made it clear that we're a strong trading partner. We've got to work hard to reduce barriers that prevent us from trading freely. When it comes to defenses within NATO, we're more than willing to do our commitment. And, you know, I appreciate Tony's friendship. I think people will find out that I'm plenty capable of conducting foreign policy for the United States in a way that reflects positively on my Nation. And I'm glad to be back in Europe. I look forward to a frank discussion in Genoa, and I'm confident that we'll find areas to work together on. When we disagree, we'll do so in a respectful way.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I would just like to add a word on that, if I could, James. First of all, I think that the way the President came to Europe and to Göteborg and made his presentation impressed everybody who was there. I thought it was a highly successful visit.

And of course, there may be differences of the minute, for example, over Kyoto. Though, again, I think it is helpful that the United States is saying, "Look, this is not what we can agree to, but nonetheless, we agree with the aim. We agree with the objectives, and there are proposals that we will make as to how we can get there." Now, you know, we've had a very strong position in favor of Kyoto. That is our position, obviously. But the fact is that dialog there is extremely important.

But you know, on a whole range of issues, Europe and America and Britain and America stand together. We're doing so in the Balkans. We're doing so trying to sort out the problems of Macedonia. We're doing so on the issue of world trade. We're going to do so again on issues like Africa and global health and debt. And where we're trying to go to the G–7/G–8, and present to the world an agenda for better and more free trade, for help for the poorest nations of the world, for stability in the world economy, which is of dramatic importance not just to our countries, not just to Europe and America but to the whole of the world.

You know, this is a passionate belief I have that I held in theory when I was an opposition leader and has strengthened in practice over the last few years that I've been Prime Minister. And that is not merely is the relationship between Britain and America key—and we are and always will be key allies—but when Europe and America stand together and when they approach problems in a sensible and serious way and realize that what unites them is infinitely more important than what divides them, then the world is a better, more stable, more prosperous place. When we fall out and diverge and when people try and put obstacles in the way of that partnership, then the only people rejoicing are the bad guys.

That is my basic view after these years. And just to make one other point. Since this administration has come to power, on the issue of trade, in particular, we have seen big steps forward in the relationship between Europe and America. These are the important things, as well. There's a whole range of issues that I was dealing with a couple of years ago which were tough issues here that we've got resolved. So I think it's against that background that we make these judgments.

President Bush. Randy [Randy Mikkelsen, Reuters].

International Economy

Q. Mr. President, will you be urging your G–7 partners to do more to bring major economies out of the doldrums? And will you heed the call of U.S. business and labor groups who urge you to discuss negative effects of the strong U.S. dollar in Genoa?

And Prime Minister Blair, I'd like your views also on whether Europe is doing all it can to stimulate the global economy.

President Bush. Well, one of the things I'll do, Randy, is to share with my colleagues the successes we've had at cutting taxes, as well as holding the line on spending—let me say this—successes we've had so far in holding the line on spending, but the President is given a veto for a reason, Mr. Prime Minister, and that's to hold the line on spending—as well as to assure them that our Fed

is going to continue to watch our economy very carefully.

The Federal Reserve is independent from our Government, but nevertheless, Mr. Greenspan is sending signals that he's concerned about the state of our economy. In other words, we're doing everything we can to, within our own borders, to deal with an economic slowdown. As for the dollar, the market needs to determine the price of the dollar.

There's all kinds of folks in our country insisting the dollar be this way or the dollar be that way. The best way to determine the price of the dollar is to let the market determine that price. And that's my message to business, labor, anybody else who wants our Government to intercede in the market.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, just shortly on the question of the European economy, obviously, we want to see the European economy strengthened. I think the—quite apart from the impact of the world economy, particularly the U.S. economy, on Europe is the whole issue of economic reform in Europe.

We now—one of the big changes in the direction of European economic policy over the past couple of years has been that every year now—and next year it will be in Barcelona in March—we hold an annual summit specifically on the issue of economic reform, in order that Europe should be not a fortress Europe but should be a Europe that is open, competitive, not just within Europe but with the rest of the world.

Now, I think we've still got a lot of structural change to get through in Europe. And certainly we will be raising this, obviously, in the G–7/G–8, but within the European Union, as well. It's important that we make big steps forward on that reform agenda, since whatever the state of the world economy, some of the rigidities we still have within our own economies have to be eliminated.

National Missile Defense

Q. Prime Minister, could you tell us whether you support President Bush's wish to set aside or get rid of the ABM Treaty? And for President Bush, could you tell us whether it is likely that you'll want to upgrade U.S. radar stations in the north of England for your missile defenses?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, in respect to the first part, as I said a moment or two ago, we welcome very much the approach the U.S. administration has taken, which is to say, "Look, the world has moved on. Let us look at what is the right framework for today, and let us do that in close consultation and dialog with Russia," since it's a treaty between these two countries. And I think that is the right approach to take.

President Bush. I'm absolutely convinced we need to move beyond the ABM Treaty and will continue my dialog with President Putin in a couple days time. It is important for him to know, once again, to hear me say once again, Russia is not the enemy of the United States. There is no need for us to live under a treaty that codified a period of time in which the world was divided into armed camps. It's time to work together to address the new security threats that we all face.

And those threats just aren't missiles, or weapons of mass destruction in the hands of untrustworthy countries. Cyberterrorism is a threat, and we need to work on that together. There are all kinds of threats that freedom-loving people will face in the near future. And I look forward to discussing all those threats with President Putin, as I have with Tony Blair.

It's premature to determine how best to track missiles under a new strategic framework. So to answer your question about upgrading radars in Britain or in America or anywhere else, it is too early to determine. The problem we face under the current system is that it's impossible to do enough research and development to determine what will work. Therein lies part of the dilemma for the Prime Minister. He said, "What do you want me to support? What are you proposing?" And what I'm first proposing to Mr. Putin is that we move beyond the treaty so that we can figure out what does work.

And I want to remind you all that he was the leader early on who said that the new threats of the 21st century will require theater-based systems that will be able to intercept missiles on launch. Mr. Putin said that. Of course, that's what I was saying in the

course of the campaign, which led me to believe that there was some common ground. And that's the common ground on which we're exploring moving beyond the ABM Treaty. And I look forward to reporting back how the conversations go here pretty soon to my friend Tony Blair.

John Roberts [CBS News].

Stem Cell Research

Q. I have a three-part question for you, Mr. President, and a one-part question for you, Prime Minister Blair.

President Bush. Wait a minute, that's four questions.

Q. Well, no, it's essentially one question——

President Bush. Okay, good.

Q. ——in three parts. [*Laughter*] I'm wondering, sir, how it is that it's taking you so long to make a decision on whether or not to continue embryonic stem cell research. What is the basis of the this compromise that we've heard about? And now that Senator Frist has joined Senator Hatch and former Reaganites in supporting a continuation of funding for embryonic stem cell research, do you believe you now have enough political cover on the right to make a decision in the affirmative?

And Prime Minister Blair, as some U.S. laboratories, in anticipation of a negative decision, have started the process to move to Great Britain, I'd like to know your position on embryonic stem cell research in the context of the global advancement of science.

President Bush. I'll start.

Prime Minister Blair. You're welcome. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. John, this is a very serious issue that has got a lot of ramifications to it, and I'm going to take my time because I want to hear all sides. I want to fully understand the opportunities and to fully think through the dilemmas.

And so I will make an announcement in due course, when I'm ready. And it doesn't matter who is on what side, as far as I'm concerned. This is a decision I'll make. And somehow to imply that this is a political decision is—I guess either doesn't understand how I—somebody doesn't understand how I think or really doesn't understand the full consequence of the issue. This is way beyond politics.

This is an issue that speaks to morality and science and the juxtaposition of the both. And the American people deserve a President who will listen to people and to make a serious, thoughtful judgment on this complex issue. And that's precisely how I'm going to handle it.

Prime Minister Blair. If you'll forgive me, John, I'm not going to get into any of the debates that are happening in your country. We have made our decision here, as you know and as your question implied. The only thing I would say to you about this issue is that it is an extraordinarily difficult and sensitive question for people. And I think, certainly, the best way of resolving it is for people on whatever side of the argument they are to realize that the people on the opposite side are not necessarily badly intentioned or badly motivated. They're just in an immensely difficult situation, taking a different perspective.

I think if people approach the question with that type of good will, even towards people with whom they profoundly disagree, then I think the answers are, if not easier to find, they're easier then to explain. But as I say, we took our decision here, but your decision is for the President and people in the United States.

President Bush. I was wondering if anybody has got an extra Pepsodent? [*Laughter*] Get it?

Prime Minister Blair. Okay. Thanks a lot.

NOTE: The President's 12th news conference began at 6:30 p.m. at Halton House at the Royal Air Force Halton base. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks on Departure From Oxford, United Kingdom

July 20, 2001

Good morning. First, I'd like to thank the Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair for their gracious hospitality. I can assure you, Chequers is a—it's a great place to get a night's sleep and a good place to renew a confirmed friendship.

The Prime Minister and I had a wide-ranging discussion. We're really intent to make sure that our relationship is strong and honest and open. I can assure the people of Great Britain, as well as my own country, that our relationship and alliance has never been stronger.

Secondly, I'm off to Genoa, where the G–7 and the G–8 will meet to discuss how to enhance the world's prosperity. It really begins with each of our own countries making sure our economic houses are in order. I will share with my fellow leaders the fact that we shepherded through a major reduction in income taxes in America so that the working people have got more money in their pockets to spend on their needs.

I'll also share the fact that our Federal Reserve is conscious of the need to make sure that the interest rates are such that we have economic vitality. As well, we will discuss ways to make sure countries less fortunate than ours will be able to sustain economic growth. It's imperative that we have a new round of global trade talks, to make sure that all nations in the world have got opportunity within their lands.

There are some who will try to disrupt the meetings, claiming they represent the poor. To those folks I say, instead of addressing policies that represent the poor, you embrace policies that lock poor people into poverty, and that's unacceptable to the United States. Trade has been the best avenue for economic growth for all countries, and I reject the isolationism and protectionism that dominates those who will try to disrupt the meetings in Genoa.

And finally, on the homefront, I'm pleased that the United States Congress easily passed a faith-based initiative sponsored by J.C. Watts of Oklahoma and Tony Hall of Ohio. It's an initiative that puts our Federal Government squarely on the side of faith-based and community-based programs, all of which exist to help a neighbor in need.

The debate has been long and arduous, and now the Congress is beginning to act. It's a positive step toward making sure the American Dream extends its reach throughout all our communities. It's a step that recognizes that Government can't cause people to love one another, but what Government can do is stand side by side with loving individuals who are intent upon bringing compassion and hope to neighborhoods where there may not be any.

I congratulate the House. I urge the United States Senate to act on this measure quickly, so that the armies of compassion, which exist all across America, will be invigorated and continue their march to make sure our country is hopeful and optimistic.

Thank you very much for your hospitality. May God bless Great Britain, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:23 a.m. at Royal Air Force Brize Norton airfield. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

G7 Statement—Genova

July 20, 2001

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the G7 countries and the Representatives of the European Union, met today in Genova to address current challenges in world macroeconomic trends and to bolster efforts aimed at promoting growth and stability, and at improving the efficiency of the international financial system.

World Economy

2. While the global economy has slowed more than expected over the past year, sound economic policies and fundamentals provide a solid foundation for stronger growth. We will remain vigilant and forward looking in implementing measures, as necessary, to ensure that our economies move towards a more sustained pattern of growth, in line with their potential. We pledge to pursue policies that will contribute to global growth by enhancing strong productivity growth in a sound macroeconomic environment, through structural reform, free trade and strengthened international economic cooperation.

- In the United States, while growth has slowed sharply, long-term trends remain favourable. Markets are dynamic

and flexible, and both monetary and fiscal policies are being actively employed to support recovery, while maintaining price stability. The recently enacted tax cuts should bolster growth.

- In Canada, tax cuts and monetary conditions are supporting growth while structural policies should continue to be aimed at increasing productivity. In the United Kingdom, where the slowdown appears moderate, policies should continue to strengthen the foundations for sustained growth and employment over the medium term, and meet the inflation target.
- In the euro area, although economic activity has weakened, growth prospects remain favourable. Tax cuts, as well as structural reforms aimed at further increasing employment, should continue to support sustainable non-inflationary growth. The steady implementation of economic reforms will contribute to further raising the potential for growth.
- In Japan, economic activity has further weakened, and prices continue to decline, Against this background, monetary policy should keep providing ample liquidity. Vigorous implementation of financial and corporate sector reforms is needed to lay the foundation for stronger economic growth over the medium term. We welcome the recently announced reform initiatives, which will contribute to this end.

3. Emerging market economies are unevenly affected by global economic developments. Growth rates in some countries have slowed towards a more sustainable rate, while in others they have decelerated sharply. We welcome the progress achieved in many countries in increasing their resilience against potential crises and the steps taken over the last year to strengthen the international financial system to better prevent crises. However, recent developments in emerging markets point to the need for further progress in reinforcing domestic financial systems and the underlying fiscal positions. Recent measures taken in Argentina and Turkey represent positive steps in this direction. We commend these efforts and encourage the continued implementation of their reform programs in close collaboration with the IMF and other relevant international financial institutions.

4. High and volatile oil prices are a concern for the world economy, in particular for the most vulnerable developing countries. Increased and diversified energy supplies, improved energy efficiency, expanded infrastructure and stable oil markets are important objectives. Oil producing and oil consuming countries should remain in close contact.

5. In addition to the policies we are pursuing in our own economies, we agreed today that co-operation on three further elements is important to a strengthened global economy:

- the launch of a new trade Round;
- action to enhance the stability and integrity of the international financial system;
- actions to ensure that the poorest countries are not left behind, including the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

Launching a New Trade Round

6. Sustained economic growth world-wide requires a renewed commitment to free trade. Opening markets globally and strengthening the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the bedrock of the multilateral trading system is therefore an economic imperative. It is for this reason that we pledge today to engage personally and jointly in the launch of a new ambitious Round of global trade negotiations at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar this November.

7. We are committed to working with developing countries, including the least developed, to ensure that the new Round addresses their priorities through improved market access and sounder, more transparent trade rules. We recognise that there are legitimate concerns in implementing the Uruguay Round Agreements. We welcome the steady progress made so far on implementation issues and are ready to examine ways to make further progress in connection with the launch of a new Round. Capacity building is essential to integrate developing countries

into the trading system, and we are intensifying our efforts to assist in this area, including with international institutions.

8. In the interests of all, the new Round should be based on a balanced agenda, while clarifying, strengthening and extending multilateral rules. An improved dispute settlement mechanism is central to this effort. Increased transparency in the WTO itself is also important to strengthen confidence in the global trading system. The WTO should continue to respond to the legitimate expectations of civil society, and ensure that the new Round supports sustainable development.

9. We recognise the importance of expanding WTO membership on meaningful economic terms. We welcome the fact that negotiations with China are now almost completed and that progress is being made towards Russia's accession. We shall strongly support other applicants in their efforts to meet the conditions for an early membership, with a view to making the WTO a truly universal organisation.

Strengthening the International Financial System

10. Increasing global growth and prosperity depends crucially on a sound and stable international financial system. We are united in our determination to continue to strengthen it to prevent financial crises, to limit the impact of those that inevitably do occur, and to tackle financial abuses.

11. Since the Okinawa Summit a number of important steps have been taken, including: measures to increase the effectiveness of crisis prevention by reinforcing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) surveillance and encouraging the implementation of the key international codes and standards; involving the private sector in crisis prevention and resolution; streamlining and reforming IMF lending facilities; and enhancing IMF transparency and accountability. These efforts should be maintained.

12. Looking forward, we endorse our Finance Ministers' recommendations for action to further strengthen the international financial system and their commitment to foster international consensus in this endeavour. In particular, the international financial institutions and the G7 countries should stand ready to help countries adopt the policies required to ensure sustained access to capital markets. We also support our Finance Ministers' suggestions to further develop the framework for private sector involvement.

13. The Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have a central role to play in combating poverty by promoting productivity growth and supporting equitable and sustainable economic development, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2015 International Development Goals. To this end, we welcome and endorse our Finance Ministers' recommendations for reforming the MDBs and sharpening their focus on core social and human investments, in particular health and education. We encourage the MDBs to continue to evaluate their internal structure in order to enhance their operational effectiveness. We attach particular importance to:

- strengthening co-ordination among MDBs;
- enhancing their internal governance, accountability and transparency;
- reviewing their pricing policies with a view to enhancing the development impact of the resources available;
- promoting good governance in borrowing countries.

We call on MDBs to provide support for global public goods, such as fighting infectious diseases, facilitating trade, fostering financial stability and protecting the environment. We support a meaningful replenishment of IDA and, in that context, we will explore the increased use of grants for priority social investments, such as education and health.

14. We reaffirm our support for the multilateral effort against abuses of the global financial system and endorse our Finance Ministers' recommendations to address this challenge. We welcome the efforts several jurisdictions are making to address weaknesses in their anti money laundering regimes. We endorse the recent Financial Action Task Force decisions de-listing four jurisdictions and recommending the adoption of additional counter-measures against the most uncooperative ones if they do not take appropriate action by September 30, 2001. The International Financial Institutions have an

important role in helping jurisdictions improve their anti money laundering regimes and we urge them to step up their efforts in this regard. We encourage progress in assessing adherence to supervisory and regulatory standards in Offshore Financial Centres. We look forward to the 2001 OECD progress report on harmful tax practices and support the work, as envisaged by our Finance Ministers, aimed at addressing such practices. We ask our Finance Ministers for further work in these areas.

HIPC

15. The Enhanced HIPC Initiative we launched in Cologne aims to increase growth, reduce poverty and provide a lasting exit from unsustainable debt, by reducing debt on the basis of strengthened policy reforms. We welcome the important progress that has been achieved in implementing the Initiative. At Okinawa nine countries had qualified for debt relief. Now, twenty-three countries (Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) are benefiting from the Initiative, with an overall amount of debt relief of over $53 billion, out of an initial stock of debt of $74 billion. This will significantly reduce their debt service, thus freeing resources for social sector expenditure, in particular education and health.

16. We have all agreed as a minimum to provide 100% debt reduction of official development assistance (ODA) and eligible commercial claims for qualifying HIPC countries. We urge those countries that have not already done so to take similar steps, and we underline the need for the active and full participation of all bilateral creditors in providing timely debt relief to HIPCs.

17. We encourage HIPCs that have not yet reached their decision point to quickly undertake the necessary economic and social reforms, including the development of a strategy for overall poverty reduction in cooperation with the World Bank and the IMF. Economic, structural, and social reforms, improved governance, and a strengthened ability to track poverty-reducing expenditures are necessary to ensure the maximum benefit of debt relief. In particular, we call upon those countries involved in military conflicts to lay down their arms, and implement the necessary reforms. We confirm our willingness to help them take measures needed to come forward to debt relief. We pledge to continue working together to ensure that the benefits of debt relief are targeted to assist the poor and most vulnerable.

Nuclear Safety

18. We welcome Ukraine's permanent closure of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 15 December 2000, which was a vital accomplishment in support of nuclear safety.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Satellite Remarks From Genoa, Italy, to a Tax Relief Celebration in Kansas City, Missouri

July 20, 2001

Well, Dick, thank you very much. And I want to say hello from Italy. I'm in Europe today for a summit meeting with the leaders of the world's most industrialized economies, but I couldn't miss this important day for America. Today the benefits of tax relief begin coming home for everyone who pays income taxes in America. Tax relief is now as real as a stamp, an envelope, and a check—first, in the mailbox and very soon in the hands of our American taxpayers.

You know, this really isn't a gift from the Government. This is a refund of your own money, money you've earned and money you'll now be able to spend.

In February I told the American people that our Federal Government was overcharging them. I said the Federal Government was overcharging them, and on your behalf, I demanded a refund. Congress worked with me in a bipartisan way, and now your money is on its way back to you.

You may choose to buy something your family needs. You may choose to pay your bills, reduce credit card debt, or save for the

future. It's your money, and it's your choice. And you can feel comfortable spending your refund check if you want to, because there is more to come. These checks are just one installment of tax relief, the result of lowering the current lowest income tax bracket of 15 percent to a new, lower 10 percent bracket.

Some reductions in tax rates went into effect on July 1st and already evident in lowering withholding of taxes from your paycheck. More reductions are coming in the months and years to come. The child credit will increase this year; the marriage penalty will be reduced; the death tax will ultimately be repealed. It's all part of the tax relief plan passed into law earlier this summer.

For many of you, this refund is coming just when you need it. Over the last few years, energy prices and credit card debt have been rising, and many families have felt the squeeze. These checks will help provide timely relief.

And by helping tens of millions of Americans, we will help our economy. Beginning late last summer and early fall, our economy, especially the manufacturing sector, began slowing. The combination of this tax relief and lower interest rates should help get it moving again.

I thank all of those who have supported this tax relief for the past year and a half, since I first proposed it during my campaign in the State of Iowa. I thank all the Republicans and many Democrats in Congress who joined me to make it a reality. Some of those Members are with you here today, including Trent Lott and House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas. I want to thank those fine leaders.

I also thank Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill for his strong leadership. Of course, I want to thank my friend the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney. No better Vice President has ever existed in the United States. For all those who—[*applause*]. And that's saying something, since I knew another Vice President, by the way.

For all those who feel their taxes and bills are too high, and they could use a little help, help is on the way.

Thank you all very much. It's an honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth here in Italy. I look forward to seeing you when I come home. In the meantime, God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 6:02 p.m. from the Sala Atlantico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 15

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House. Later, he and Mrs. Bush hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

July 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Marie T. Huhtala to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Ann Solberg to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott M. Burns to be Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs in the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his designation of David Curtis Williams as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his nomination of Gen. John P. Jumper to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

July 17

The President announced his intention to nominate Donna J. Hrinak to be Ambassador to Brazil.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: John Nau, Bernadette Castro, Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona, and Robert Young.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Grant D. Aldonas, Donald Cameron Findlay, Paula J. Dobriansky, Lorne W. Craner, and James Andrew Kelly.

July 18

In the morning, the President met with Seeds of Peace program participants on the South Steps of the White House. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to London, United Kingdom, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cynthia Shepard Perry to be U.S. Director of the African Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven A. Williams to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate James B. Lockhart III to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Craig Manson to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey D. Jarrett to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph M. Clapp to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark W. Everson to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Wolf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Earl N. Phillips to be Ambassador to Barbados.

July 19

In the morning, the President met with UK Conservative Party leader William Hague in the Gold Room at Winfield House, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an event for children in the Reading Room of the British Museum. The President then visited the Cabinet War Rooms museum.

In the afternoon, following an arrival ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Later, they went to Chequers, the British Prime Minister's country residence in Aylesbury, England, as guests of Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie.

In the evening, the President went to Royal Air Force Halton station and later returned to Chequers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald E. Neumann to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linton F. Brooks to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Benigno G. Reyna to be Director of the U.S. Marshals Service.

July 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Genoa, Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Turner to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

The President announced his intention to designate Glenn L. McCullough, Jr., as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 17

Jo Anne Barnhart,
of Delaware, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2007, vice Kenneth S. Apfel, term expired.

Daniel R. Coats,
of Indiana, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

John A. Gauss,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology), vice David E. Lewis, resigned.

Marie T. Huhtala,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

Submitted July 18

R. Nicholas Burns,
of Massachusetts, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, vice Alexander R. Vershbow.

Edward William Gnehm, Jr.,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Jeffrey D. Jarrett,
of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, vice Kathleen M. Karpan.

Robert S. Mueller III,
of California, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the term of 10 years, vice Louis J. Freeh, resigned.

Edmund James Hull,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen.

Franklin L. Lavin,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

John Thomas Schieffer,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Australia.

Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.,
United States Army, to be a member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved June 1879 (21 Stat. 37)(33 U.S.C. 642).

Theodore H. Kattouf,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Harvey Pitt,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2002, vice Paul R. Cary.

Harvey Pitt,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2007 (reappointment).

Maureen Quinn,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Qatar.

Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock,
United States Army, to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved 28 June 1879 (21 Stat. 37)(22 U.S.C. 642).

Joseph Gerard Sullivan,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to

be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Johnny Young,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Withdrawn July 18

Harvey Pitt,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2005, vice Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., term expired, which was sent to the Senate on July 10, 2001.

Submitted July 19

Nancy Goodman Brinker,
of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Hungary.

Linton F. Brooks,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration (new position).

Ronald E. Neumann,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Bahrain.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 18

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law S. 560

Released July 19

Announcement: United States and Italy Pledge Joint Research on Climate Change

Advance text of Remarks by National Economic Council Director Lawrence B. Lindsey at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA

Released July 20

Fact sheet: U.S. Proposal To Increase World Bank Grants to the Poorest Countries

Fact sheet: U.S. Leadership on Global Fund To Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 17

S. 560 / Private Law 107–1
For the relief of Rita Mirembe Revell (a.k.a. Margaret Rita Mirembe)

The President's Radio Address

July 21, 2001

Good morning. As you hear this, I am in Genoa, Italy, at an important meeting of the world's most industrialized nations and Russia. Our focus this year is on the poor and struggling nations of the world and what prosperous democracies can do to help them build a better future. This cause is the priority of the United States' foreign policy.

We're a wealthy nation with responsibilities to help others. It is also in our best interest to do so, because we benefit when we have strong and stable partners around the world who trade with us and help keep the peace.

Our discussions here in Europe are centered on some great goals. We want to spread the benefits of free trade as far and as wide as possible. Free trade is the only proven path out of poverty for developing nations. And when nations are shut off from the world, their people pay a steep price.

Despite trade's proven track record for lifting the lives of the poor, some still oppose it. They seek to deny the poor and developing countries their best hope for escaping poverty. Legitimate concerns about labor standards, economic dislocation, and the environment should be addressed and will be. But the developing countries have no need for protectionist policies that would condemn them to permanent poverty.

Yet, trade alone is not enough. Wealthy nations must also work in true partnership with developing countries to help them overcome obstacles to their development, such as illiteracy, disease, and unsustainable debt. This is compassionate conservatism at an international level, and it is the responsibility that comes with freedom and prosperity.

To advance literacy in the developing world, I proposed that the United States increase funding for our international education assistance programs by nearly 20 percent. And we will lead a new effort to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa. We've proposed that the World Bank and other development banks increase the share of their funding devoted to education and to tie this support more directly to clear measurable results. And we have proposed that up to half of all the funds provided by development banks to the poorest countries be provided as grants rather than loans for education, health, and human needs.

Today, many poor nations are benefiting from efforts to relieve them of the crippling burden of massive debt. But debt relief is ultimately a short-term fix. My proposal doesn't merely drop the debt; it helps stop the debt.

A final item of business at our Genoa summit is to launch a new global fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. The U.S. contributes nearly a billion dollars a year annually to international efforts to combat AIDS and infectious diseases, and we stand ready to contribute more to the global fund as it demonstrates its success.

This is a time of great opportunity. What some call globalization is in fact the triumph of human liberty across national borders. We have today the chance to prove that freedom can work, not just in the new world or old world but in the whole world. Our great challenge is to include all the world's poor in an expanding circle of development throughout all the Americas and all of Asia and all of Africa. Such a world will enjoy greater freedom and prosperity and is far more likely to be at peace.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:55 p.m. on July 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France in Genoa, Italy

July 21, 2001

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming by. I'm looking forward to our discussion. The meetings have been very productive here in Genoa. We've discussed a lot of important issues and agreed upon—had some important agreements, starting with the need to advance trade in the new round of global trade discussions.

We also understand that countries such as France and the United States must assume more responsibility, helping nations help themselves, particularly on the continent of Africa. We had a fantastic meeting last night with some of the continent's leaders. President Chirac was most eloquent about Africa and our responsibilities, and world leaders agreed with him, and I did, too.

And as well, I'm very concerned about the violence. It's a tragic loss of life that occurred. It's also tragic that many police officers have been hurt, men and women who have been trying to protect democratically elected leaders and our necessary right to be able to discuss our common problems.

In Washington, DC, Mr. President, I said as clearly as I could, and I'll say it here again, those who claim to represent the voices of the poor aren't doing so. Those protesters who try to shut down our talks on trade and aid don't represent the poor, as far as I'm concerned.

I appreciate the work of the Italian Government, the mayor of Genoa, the good people of this country for providing a secure atmosphere where the G–8, democratically elected leaders, as well as leaders from Africa, Central America, Asia—leaders who represent the poor of the world could come—the poor of the world, by the way, who spoke very clearly and eloquently about the need for nations such as ours to open up our markets, nations such as ours to help develop education infrastructures, nations such as ours to forgive debt——

President Chirac. And health.

President Bush. ——and health, absolutely, and health. So this has been a very productive meeting. It's been productive because we've met and agreed. It's also very productive because it gives me a chance to continue dialog with a friend such as Jacques Chirac.

People may not remember, but even before I became sworn in as President, in between the election, when it finally ended and my swearing-in, the first world leader I met with was President Chirac. I knew him to be a man of principle. He articulated his principles to me then, and he continues to do so, for which I am most grateful.

So Mr. President, thank you for being here. I'm honored to have you.

President Chirac. *Merci.* I must say that I absolutely share the feelings expressed by President Bush, share as concerns the efficiency of the organization of the summit, the efficiency which has been somewhat overshadowed by the events. But it was, indeed, a very positive summit. And it has enabled us to become aware of the problems of populations of Asia and Africa.

Last night at dinner was very instructive. We have spoken with mainly African leaders who have decided to take greater control over their own destiny, and we have pledged ourselves to support them in their desire for sustainable development.

Obviously, we have all been traumatized by the events. I shall not give any judgment, except to say that the elected leaders of our countries have to consider the problems that have brought tens of thousands of our compatriots, mainly from European countries, to demonstrate—to demonstrate their concern, to demonstrate their wish to change. And my last thoughts will be for the people of Genoa, who have been, indeed, as traumatized as we have by the events in the city.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:06 p.m. at the Jolly Marina Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Giuseppe Pericu of Genoa. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7456—Parents' Day 2001

July 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Being a parent is the most important job in the world. As we hold a newborn in our arms or embrace an older adopted child, the promise we make in our hearts to love, protect, and nurture our children stays with us and with them forever. We are eternally linked to the children whom we are blessed to parent and to the generations before us who helped shape our lives.

Both mothers and fathers play a vital role in giving children the best possible start in life. As parents, we provide our children with the love and support they need to grow up to be caring individuals and responsible citizens. The care we express and the values we instill help our children achieve their greatest potential and ultimately will determine the future of our Nation.

Unfortunately, children who lack a strong parental presence in their lives can suffer over both the short and the long term. Study after study has demonstrated that children who grow up without both parents in their home are more likely to end up in poverty, drop out of school, become addicted to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, or go to prison. Single-parented children who avoid these unfortunate outcomes will nevertheless miss out on the balance, unity, and stability that a two-parent family can bring.

Recognizing that strong families make a strong America, I have committed my Administration to help parents do better by encouraging the formation and maintenance of loving families. We have proposed several major initiatives designed to promote responsible fatherhood, strengthen families, and make adoption easier and more affordable, so that every child has a better chance of living in a stable and loving home. We also have achieved widespread support for the historic reform of our public education system that will significantly improve our schools. This improvement is founded on the core principles of my education reform agenda, which include: accountability; flexibility; local control; and more choices for parents.

Government bears an important responsibility to provide excellent schools and educational programs that leave no child behind; but Government cannot replace the love and nurturing of committed parents that are essential for a child's well-being. Many community organizations, centers of faith, and schools offer services and programs to help parents improve their child-rearing skills. As we observe Parents' Day, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the millions of mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive, foster parents, and stepparents, whose selfless love and hard-working efforts are building better lives for their children and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103–362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 22, 2001, as Parents' Day. I urge all Americans to express their love, respect, support, and appreciation to their parents, and I call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 24, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 25.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and an Exchange With Reporters in Genoa

July 21, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to be meeting today with one of America's strongest friends and Allies and one of Europe's strongest and best leaders. I appreciate Gerhard Schroeder's openness, his grasp of

issues that are important, not only to Europe but to the world. I told the press earlier that we've had a very, very positive dialog. We discussed a lot of important issues: how to expand global trade as well as how to assume our responsibilities as wealthier nations to the poor nations in a constructive way. It's been a very good experience, and it's also been a positive experience to be able to again sit down with friends and continue our dialog from days gone by.

So Mr. Chancellor, thank you for being here.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thanks.

President Bush. I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Mr. President and Mr. Chancellor, can you both address whether you've reached any kind of accommodation on global warming and the Kyoto treaty?

President Bush. We have reached an accommodation, and here it is.

Q. Can you talk about it?

President Bush. Yes, I'd be glad to. We both agree to reduce greenhouse gases, and we both agree to continue dialog.

Q. On how—the dialog on how it goes on?

President Bush. Right. And I will explain to the Chancellor that our Nation will come with a strategy. We're in the process of developing one. But I can't be any more sincere than I have been in saying that we need to reduce greenhouse gases, and we'll work a plan to do so.

But I've also been very open with the Chancellor from my very first visit in the Oval Office, that the methodology in the Kyoto accord is something that would harm our Nation's economy. And therefore, we're looking for different alternatives to achieve the same goal.

And I will tell you this, in Sweden, Chancellor Schroeder was very, very strong in his statement about Kyoto and very positive about his position there; on the other hand—was explained to the other leaders that my position, while he didn't agree with it, was one that he understood. And I appreciated very much his leadership there.

Chancellor Schroeder. Certainly, the President is very right in just saying that we do share the same targets here. Both of us are thinking that it is very important that we do substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is very important, indeed. And we will, obviously, have to get into a very intensive dialog about these things. This will have to happen; some things will have to happen as a consequence of it.

Now, obviously, on the tool of Kyoto, as such, we do differ when it comes to the assessment thereof. But obviously, we have done so in a very open, in a very friendly matter, dealing with one another in a constructive way as friends. And I think friends do deal with these things as friends, and we certainly do.

Upcoming Meeting With President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. Do you plan to make a specific proposal to President Putin tomorrow on a strategic framework? Did you see an outline or something?

President Bush. I plan to have a very honest and open dialog with the President that will continue our discussions about how to keep the peace. I intend to share with the German Chancellor the nature of our discussion in the past and, again, what I intend to talk about tomorrow.

I think it's very important for us to continue making progress on whether or not we can agree to a new strategic framework. As well, we will have high-level talks with others in my administration, with the Russians. It's a very positive development, I think, for the world.

I can tell you right now that my relationship with President Putin is better than it was in Slovenia by virtue of the fact that we're spending more informal time together. One of the benefits of these meetings is that we get to see each other at places other than just sitting around roundtables discussing issues. And so, at the receptions, we've been able to have some idle chatter. Some of it may be of interest to you; some of it probably wouldn't be. But nevertheless, we're able to continue a dialog in a very friendly and open way, and I think that's going to be very important for our ability to work together on a lot of issues, particularly that of a new strategic framework.

Q. But do you see discussing things like specific numbers or his plan for joint——

President Bush. I think it's probably best that I talk to him first. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. at the Jolly Marina Hotel. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Genoa

July 22, 2001

President Putin. Good morning. We've just finished a meeting with the President of the United States and discussed the issues on a whole wide range of subjects. First and foremost, I wanted to say with great satisfaction that our meeting was held in a very frank and open atmosphere, and there is no doubt, absolutely, that I can say and confirm that we've maintained, not only, but in many ways strengthened the spirit of Ljubljana.

Naturally, we discussed the issues that were raised at the G–8, issues of security, environment, education, security. And the issue here led us to discuss the world architecture of the 21st century and the way to improve civilization in the future.

I can frankly tell you that this part we discussed together. Just one-on-one with the President, it seemed to me that his thoughts and his mental reasoning is very deep, very profound. We were both very interested in having a continuation of this dialog with the American people, with its leader. Approaches which were stated by the President in the past, without any doubt, are going to be studied by us, and I can repeat once again will be positively accepted.

President Bush and I have analyzed how our recent accords are now being implemented. We've put forth several new steps in terms of setting forth a long-term cooperation which is not subject to any kind of dealmakings but a very good, sound, long-lasting attitude. Today in Russia we have a very positive dynamism, and we have stated that, as well.

The differences in approaches on a couple of topics is still there. However, what is more important is that we are aimed—both of us are aiming at partnership, to look forward, well reasoned, well balanced, carefully weighed approaches and solutions.

Naturally, we discussed the issue of strategic stability. There we spent a lot of time. We talked in great detail. We've reached a most important accord, agreement on the beginning and the schedule for consultations. In Ljubljana we talked about setting up a working group or series of working groups. As you know, in Moscow here, in a few days, Condoleezza Rice will come to visit us, and we will work out, finally, the group structure within the overall interagency structure of foreign ministry, defense ministry, and others.

I have to say that to some extent what was unexpected both for me and, I think, for President Bush, as well, was the understanding that was reached today between us on the issue that the offensive arms and issue of defensive arms will be discussed as a set. We're going to be talking about the mutual striving toward cutting back significantly offensive arms. We're not really ready at this time to talk about the threshold limits or the numbers, themselves, but a joint striving exists and the specialists will get together, and they'll make some recommendations. But we are aiming at moving in that direction.

I told the President of the United States about our proposal, vis-à-vis, the start of consultations on strategic stability issues as a whole. And I think that in the very nearest future, I repeat once again, that our specialists are going to work in this direction. I think they're going to make a lot of progress and be quite successful.

Naturally, we discussed very, very sharp problems in regional issues. We talked about joining our forces in trying to solve some conflicts. We repeat again that the overall dialog on getting our positions coordinated is the very best approach to U.S.-Russian relations.

Bilateral issues were especially stressed, economic cooperation. And I have to say here that we have a common approach towards developing very dynamically in this sphere. We have very good precedents and very good foundations for this.

We also know that our business societies are also very interested in this. We've discussed a series of contacts and the schedule for upcoming contacts in the economic field, talked about our next meeting, the nearest one will be the APEC meeting in Shanghai, and then the President very kindly confirmed his invitation to me to come to the United States, and we talked about that agenda, too.

So that's all I wanted to say as an opening remark.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. First, both of us believe strongly that the summit we just attended was a success, and we want to thank the people of Italy and Genoa for their hospitality.

Secondly, we did have a very constructive dialog—certainly made—made my impressions of Slovenia—confirmed my impressions of Slovenia, that this was a man with whom I could have an honest dialog, that we can discuss our opportunities and have frank discussion of our differences, which we did.

I appreciate so very much President Putin's willingness to think differently about how to make the world more peaceful. He cares deeply about the citizens of his land. I, obviously, care deeply about the citizens of my land. We're young leaders who are interested in forging a more peaceful world.

And along these lines, as the President said, that we're going to have open and honest dialog about defensive systems as well as reduction of offensive systems. The two go hand in hand in order to set up a new strategic framework for peace. And along these lines, as the President mentioned, my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will be visiting in Moscow, the purpose of which is to lay out a specific timetable of discussions between our defense ministers and our foreign ministers.

So as we can continue progress to find common ground in a—to make the world more peaceful, both of us want to seize the moment and lead. And I appreciate this attitude so very much with President Putin.

Secondly, we did talk, spent time discussing economic cooperation. There will be a statement put out after the meeting on both, by the way, the strategic framework discussions as well as the economic cooperation along these lines. Secretary Evans and Secretary O'Neill will be in Moscow next week to discuss a wide range of topics.

But one of the things that is clear and evident is that the President understands the need to create a framework for entrepreneurial activity. As I mentioned in my last press conference, I will mention this again, I am impressed by the fact that he has instituted tax reform, a flat tax. And as he pointed out to me, it is one of the lowest tax rates in Europe. He and I share something in common: We both proudly stand here as tax reformers. And I think the American business leaders who look to Russia will appreciate certainty in the tax code and certainly will appreciate a lower tax rate than in other places.

But we've got a lot of areas for growth and discussion, ranging from international trade to investment opportunities within the Federation.

With that, I will be glad to answer—both of us will be glad to answer a few questions from you. Let's make your questions short, so that we won't leave my wife waiting at the tarmac in Rome. [*Laughter*]

Strategic Stability/Global Warming

Q. You were saying just a little while ago about how strategic stability and space has been discussed. How do you see the biggest difficulties in this dialog? What are the principal differences between the two countries? And how do you see overcoming these differences?

And your proposal on conference, holding a conference in Moscow on the environment, how were the other G–8 partners receiving your invitation to Moscow?

President Putin. As far as the ABM Treaty and the issues of offensive arms, I've already said we've come to the conclusion that two of these issues have to be discussed as a set, as one set. This is no doubt whatsoever; one and the other are very closely tied. Neither one nor the other side should feel it's somehow threatened or constrained.

I felt and continue to feel that these most important kinds of issues—we have to maintain a balance, thanks to which mankind could live in an environment of stability and

relative peace. This is an issue of principle, and that's first.

Second, we share the position of the U.S. President on the need to have large cuts in offensive arms. I've already spoken to this, and together, we're going to move forward in this direction, substantially changing the situation in the world, making it better throughout the whole world, reducing the thresholds of confrontation. Without any doubt, this would ameliorate the climate throughout the whole world. There has to be absolutely no doubt that this is going to happen.

Now, as far as your issue on the international conference in Russia on the ecology or the environment and reducing the dangers to the environment, I can say the following: Prior to coming here to Genoa, I held a meeting with our specialists, with our physicists, our scientists, members of the cabinet who are involved in environmental affairs. And I have to say that in Russia, we have some people, some specialists who are known throughout the world, really big-time specialists, and they told me that even if we fully implement the Kyoto Protocol, fully, this is going to affect the climate as it is today, but the changes to that will be very minor. In other words, the Kyoto Protocol is simply not sufficient to substantially improve the ecology in the world, although the movement that we're moving in is in the right direction.

But I want to say that Russia is still for the Kyoto Protocol. But what's important is that the scientists themselves, political leaders, ecologists, people in society, Government leaders, never, ever got together once. Each of these groups sits there alone and out of their own corner reviews this issue. And the thought was to get everybody together on one common platform.

This was supported very energetically by the President of the United States and by other colleagues. Along with that, President Chirac stressed the need to attract the civilian population, the non-specialists, to have them participate, people from society at large. And for this, I want to thank our colleagues for having supported this.

Thank you very much.

ABM Treaty/Nuclear Arms Reductions

Q. President Putin said several days after your first meeting that Russia would increase its nuclear arsenal—[*inaudible*]. Have you convinced him to scrap the ABM Treaty without building up his nuclear arsenal?

And to you, Mr. President, you just said there is absolutely no doubt that there will be reductions on the Russian side of its nuclear arsenal. Does that mean that you are no longer saying that you will increase your arsenal if the U.S. proceeds with missile defense? Have you changed your position?

President Bush. Well, first, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], let me start by saying how optimistic I am about the possibilities of reaching an accord. One of the things about the person with whom I'm talking, President Putin, is that he has agreed, like I have agreed, to find common ground, if possible. So I believe that we will come up with an accord. Let me say this: I know we'll work hard to an accord, to see if we can't reach an accord about both a new strategic framework for defensive weapons as well as the need to reduce offensive weapons in order to make the world more peaceful.

The only thing I can do is characterize, once again characterize our discussions as open and optimistic and very positive. I was struck by how easy it is to talk to President Putin, how easy it is to speak from my heart, without, you know, fear of complicating any relationship. And I enjoyed listening to what he has to say, as well.

I'm optimistic that we can get something done. And it's with that spirit that we send Condi Rice to Moscow to formalize the process, to answer questions. Inevitably, there will be questions because, after all, what we're talking about doing is changing a mindset of the world. We're basically saying, the cold war is forever over, and the vestiges of the cold war that locked us both into a hostile situation are over. And we're exploring the opportunity to redefine the strategic framework for keeping the peace not that as existed in the past but a strategic framework as we go out in the 21st century. It's an exciting opportunity. And I can tell you that the discussions have been very meaningful.

Mr. President.

President Putin. Thank you. Now, as far as possible answer or response, as you say, from Russia, in the event that one side leaves the ABM Treaty, from the 1972 treaty, then I can say the following: We were talking about the possible kinds and versions of response in the event that one side comes out unilaterally. I was not talking about increasing the missiles. I was talking about how you would substitute single-unit warheads, make them MIRV warheads.

But as we said today—if as we said today and if as we understood from each other today, we are ready to look at the issue of offensive and defensive systems together as a set, we might not ever need to look at that option. But this is one of the subjects of our future discussions.

As a whole we agreed, in general, that in any version, today we can go forward toward reducing offensive arms. I'm telling you this with full responsibility, and I'm telling you that within—this is an issue of the qualitative and quantitative numbers. But this is, of course—we'll let the specialists sit down and talk about those numbers.

G–8 Summit

Q. A question to both Presidents. Please tell us how you assess the Genoa summit results from the point of view of the future G–8s, because you've got all these anti-globalist demonstrators and others.

President Bush. Well, I'm looking forward to future G–8 summits. People should be allowed to protest in a peaceful way. The great thing about freedom is, it provides an outlet for people to express their differences.

Having said that, I believe that which we discussed today and the last couple of days will make the world a heck of a lot more prosperous and peaceful place. The philosophy of free trade and starting a new round of free trade discussions makes eminent sense, not only for those who happen to be prosperous today but for those who aren't.

And all the demonstrators and all the folks have to do is ask the leaders who came from the developing nations. Ask my friend from El Salvador what trade means to him. And so I reiterate what I said before. People are allowed to protest, but for those who claim they're speaking on behalf of the poor, for those who claim that shutting down trade will benefit the poor, they're dead wrong.

President Putin. I have to tell you that the people who are out on the streets, then talked about the issues of the poor countries and their problems, and those who gathered within the framework of the 8 were all taken by one and the same series of issues. In this sense, we can say that we're all of the same mind. But unlike those who chose the extremist ways of expressing their minds, those who worked here tried to find solutions, ways to get to the end solution, specific kinds of solutions, which realistically could affect, I hope, will affect the condition in which the very poorest countries are living in the world today.

That's why I very highly praise the results, the level, and the nature and the character of these discussions. I think we need these kinds of meetings, and I think they will continue. Naturally, we're going to have to pay more attention to the quality of the kinds of decisions that we take and how to implement them fully to the end.

Now as far as the dialog with civil society, one of the fora and one of the ways of discussing is in a civilized fashion. We can only—and one of the ways of doing it is holding the international conference in Moscow in 2003 and talking about the environment.

Thank you.

Strength of the Dollar

Q. Mr. President, I understand that currency issues were discussed at the leaders' summit. I'm wondering, how did you explain the benefits of a strong dollar, since you've already acknowledged that it hurts U.S. exporters, and over here it's putting inflationary pressure on the ECB and stopping them from cutting interest rates?

And President Putin, I'm just wondering how does a strong dollar affect your economy? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, let me reiterate what I said after my World Bank speech. The dollar needs to float in the marketplace, and that the dollar—if the market is allowed to function, the dollar will be at an appropriate level. And there are both, obviously, there are some that want us to artificially—the dollar in our country, and that's not the role,

in my judgment, of the country. The market ought to do that, not the Nation.

And so I continued to assure my friends and allies that we will let the market adjust. I also assured them that we were taking the steps necessary within our country to strengthen our economy.

I was able to herald the fact that the first rebate checks made it into the mail, and I heralded it from a remote location, here in Genoa. And the reason I bring that up is that many of the world leaders are deeply concerned about the slowdown of the U.S. economy and its effect not only on the dollar but also the effect on trade. And I assured them that from a fiscal perspective: One, we're going to hold the line on spending, that we had a budget, and I expect Congress to meet the budget; secondly, that we did reduce taxes substantially and the first wave of tax relief was in the mail; and thirdly, that our Fed, independent of the Government, was making the monetary decisions. And I think people were pleased to hear that we're working hard to revitalize our economy.

President Putin. The United States are the main trade and economic partner for Russia. And this is the main investor in Russia, of all the investors, and one of the main economic and trade partners. So the stability of the U.S. economy substantially affects our economic situation.

As you know, over the last year in Russia we've noticed certain positive trends, and there is no doubt in our minds that we're interested in the stability of the U.S. economy as a whole and their currency. The dollar for us is the most important—the main form of payment in most of our operations.

Thank you.

Situation in the Balkans and the Middle East

Q. Which regional conflicts, in your estimation, are the greatest threat to international security? What were the results when you discussed these issues at the G–8? And what jointly could U.S. and Russia do in this arena?

President Putin. Well, of course, these are the Balkans and the Middle East, above all. I have to say that I'm satisfied by the nature of the results of this discussion. But it seems to me that this time we heard each other—heard each other much more, much better, understand each positions much better in all these conflict areas.

And what's important—I don't know if my colleague will agree with me, but I get the feeling that trust in each other, within the framework of trying to settle these issues, is beginning to arrive. This is very important foundation, trust. So we're going to continue coordinating our efforts both in the Balkans and the Middle East, taking into account the interests of all the parties that are drawn into this conflict.

And on the way toward coordinating our efforts, we have to work out unified approaches. And this—here lies the success. This is very important. Because if we create some kind of cracks or fissures through which you can have leakage of certain extremist forces, it's going to wreck the whole process. So here, getting together, drawing together, here was very positive and a positive nature.

Thank you.

U.S. Global Warming Proposal

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, President Chirac and Prime Minister Chretien both say that you promised to have a global warming package ready for the Marrakech meeting in September. Your staff says that that's not quite true. Who is right, sir? What exactly did you tell the leaders?

President Bush. Well, given the room temperature here I'm not surprised you brought up the subject of warming. [*Laughter*] So I'll try to keep my answer short, for the benefit of all, particularly those of us who must do something in Rome.

Here's what I said: I said my administration has had a full-scale review of the climate issue; that we're in the process of developing a strategy as quickly as we possibly can and one that we look forward to sharing with our friends and allies; a strategy that begins with the notion that we want to reduce greenhouse gases in America; a strategy, also, that takes a realistic look at how best to do so, a look based upon science and a look with the notion that we can have economic growth and sound environmental policy.

I made it clear to our friends and allies that the methodology of the current protocol

is one that, if implemented, would severely affect economic growth in America, and that I believe that it makes sense for those who trade with us to make sure that our environmental policy is one that continues to stimulate economic activity so that trade means something between nations.

The spirit of our dialog was very positive. I guess you could say that I broke the ice during my last trip to Europe, so people understood exactly where I was coming from. There should be no doubt in their mind about our position, that we share the goal, but we believe that—strongly believe that we need to find a methodology of achieving the goal that won't wreck the U.S. economy.

And we're making progress on that. I'm very confident that the leaders appreciated my straightforwardness the last time I came to Europe and my willingness to continue to dialog on this very important issue.

We have a representative at the Bonn summit. I saw her on TV the other day; she made the case very clearly—Paula made the case very clearly about what our position is. And the Europeans are interested in the strategy that we're going to adopt. And when it's formulated, I will present it to them, and I look forward to doing that. And they're going to find out that when I say we're interested in reducing greenhouse gases that we mean it. They're also going to be pleased to hear that it's going to be in such a way that won't damage their largest trading partner, and so will the American people, who want to make sure that there's work and jobs available.

With that, I want to, again, thank my friend. I look forward to future dialog. Thank you all very much for your questions. And again, we thank the good people of Italy for their kind hospitality.

President Putin. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 13th news conference began at 2:52 p.m. at the Palazzo Doria Spinola. In his remarks, he referred to Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. President Putin referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; MIRV, the Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle; and ECB, the European Central Bank. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

July 22, 2001

In keeping with the spirit of our Ljubljana discussions, we welcome the initiative of the American and Russian business communities to provide new impetus to our bilateral trade and investment relations through the creation of the "Russian American Business Dialogue."

We expect the Dialogue to perform three key functions: expand contact between our two business communities; identify areas where laws, regulations and practices impede trade and investment; and provide a forum where business interests could be raised with our respective governments. We seek to promote economic reform, a transparent and predictable investment climate and rule of law, and to work towards the Russian Federation's early accession to the WTO.

The Dialogue will be open to interested American and Russian companies and business associations. We hope thereby to encourage participation by large, medium, and especially small enterprises from a broad cross-section of industry sectors, including, in particular, technology businesses. We welcome the offer of the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and the Russian-American Business Council to steer this effort.

We embrace the offer of the Dialogue organizers to prepare formal reports of the Dialogue for use by the governments of the Russian Federation and the United States. We affirm our commitment to send cabinet level representatives to receive the first formal report of the Dialogue at a meeting of the Dialogue early next year.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin on Upcoming Consultations on Strategic Issues

July 22, 2001

We agreed that major changes in the world require concrete discussions of both offensive and defensive systems. We already have some strong and tangible points of agreement. We will shortly begin intensive consultations on the interrelated subjects of offensive and defensive systems.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Pope John Paul II at Castle Gandolfo, Italy

July 23, 2001

Pope John Paul II. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you on your first visit since you assumed the office of the President of the United States. I warmly greet the distinguished First Lady and the members of your entourage. I express heartfelt good wishes that your Presidency will strengthen your country in its commitment to the principles which inspired American democracy from the beginning and sustained the Nation and its remarkable growth. These principles remain as valid as ever as you face the challenges of the new country opening up before us.

Your Nation's Founders, conscious of the immense natural and human resources with which your land has been blessed by the Creator, were guided by a profound sense of responsibility towards the common good to be pursued in respect for the God-given dignity and inalienable rights of all. America continues to measure herself by the nobility of her founding vision in building this society of liberty, equality, and justice under the law. In the century which has just ended, these same ideals inspired the American people to resist two totalitarian systems, based on an atheistic vision of man and society.

At the beginning of this new century, which also marks the beginning of the third millennium of Christianity, the world continues to look to America with hope. And it does so with an acute awareness of the crisis of values being experienced in Western society, ever more insecure in the face of the ethical decisions, indispensable for humanity's future course.

In recent days, the world's attention has been focused on the process of globalization which has so greatly accelerated in the past decade, and which you and other leaders of the industrialized nations have discussed in Genoa. While appreciating the opportunities for economic growth and material prosperity, which this process offers, the church cannot but express profound concern that our world continues to be divided no longer by the former political and military blocs but by a tragic faultline between those who can benefit from these opportunities and those who seem cut off from them.

The revolution of freedom of which I spoke at the United Nations in 1995 must now be completed by a revolution of opportunity, in which all the world's people actively contribute to the economic prosperity and share in its fruits. This requires leadership by those nations whose religious and cultural traditions should make them most attentive to the moral dimension of the issues involved.

Respect for human dignity and belief in the equal dignity of all the members of the human family demand policies aimed at enabling all people to access to the means required to improve their lives, including the technological means and skills needed for development. Respect for nature by everyone, a policy of openness to immigrants, the cancellation or significant reduction of the debt of poorer nations, the promotion of peace through dialog and negotiation, the primacy of the rule of law—these are the priorities which the leaders of the developed countries cannot disregard. A global world is essentially a world of solidarity. From this point of view, America, because of her many resources, cultural traditions and religious values, has a special responsibility.

Respect for human dignity finds one of its highest expressions in religious freedom. This right is the first listed in your Nation's Bill of Rights, and it is significant that the

promotion of religious freedom continues to be an important goal of American policy in the international community. I want to express the appreciation of the whole Catholic Church for America's commitment in this regard.

Another area in which political and moral choices have the gravest consequences for the future of civilization concerns the most fundamental of human rights, the right to life itself. Experience is already showing how a tragic coarsening of consciences accompanies the assault on innocent human life in the womb, leading to accommodation and acquiescence in the face of other related evils, such as euthanasia, infanticide, and most recently, proposals for the creation for research purposes of human embryos, destined to destruction in the process.

A free and virtuous society, which America aspires to be, must reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception until natural dead. In defending the right to life, in law and through a vibrant culture of life, America can show a world the path to a truly humane future in which man remains the master, not the product, of his technology.

Mr. President, as you carry out the tasks of the high office which the American people have entrusted to you, I assure you of a remembrance in my prayers. I am confident that under your leadership, your Nation will continue to draw on its heritage and resources to help build a world in which each member of the human family can flourish and live in a manner worthy of his or her innate dignity. With these sentiments, I cordially invoke upon you and the beloved American people, God's blessings of wisdom, strength, and peace.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Your Holiness, thank you very much. Mrs. Bush and I are honored to stand with you today. We're grateful for your welcome. You've been to America many times and have spoken to vast crowds. You have met with four American Presidents before me, including my father. In every visit and in every meeting, including our meeting today, you have reminded America that we have a special calling to promote justice and to defend the weak and suffering of the world. We remember your words, and we will always do our best to remember our calling.

Since October of 1978 you have shown the world not only the splendor of truth but also the power of truth to overcome evil and to redirect the course of history. You have urged men and women of good will to take to their knees before God and to stand unafraid before tyrants. And this has added greatly to the momentum of freedom in our time.

Where there's oppression, you speak of human rights. Where there's poverty, you speak of justice and hope. Where there's ancient hatred, you defend and display a tolerance that reaches beyond every boundary of race and nation and belief. Where there's great abundance, you remind us that wealth must be matched with compassion and moral purpose. And always, to all, you have carried the gospel of life, which welcomes the stranger and protects the weak and the innocent. Every nation, including my own, benefits from hearing and heeding this message of conscience.

Above all, you have carried the message of the Gospel into 126 nations and into the third millennium, always with courage and with confidence. You have brought the love of God into the lives of men, and that good news is needed in every nation and every age.

Thank you again, your Holiness, for your kindness and the honor of this meeting.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:46 a.m. in the Papal Library at Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of the Pope. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy in Rome, Italy

July 23, 2001

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Good afternoon, everyone. I am very happy to extend my welcome to President Bush during his first visit to Rome. It's as a friend that I receive him in a free country, a democratic country, that has always been a friend of the United States of America, which, with the

United States of America, has had for over 50 years a very special cooperation based on the feelings of the Atlantic Alliance, the European Union.

Our country is a country that looks to the United States of America with a recognition that must be steadfast, a recognition that derives from a very profound feeling, Mr. President, of those who are aware of the fact that precisely—thanks to your country, to your great democracy, to the young lives that the Americans sacrificed in Italian territory over 50 years ago—Italy ended a very dark moment where totalitarianism had got rid of freedom. And thanks to the sacrifice of the United States and its Allies, we were able to reach democracy, freedom, and we had a period of over half a century in freedom, democracy, and in prosperity.

Therefore, with the feelings of a very great friend, where we recognize the feelings that are at the basis of the American feelings, with the same values that are the basis of your political action, that we receive you, Mr. President. And we, as we know in Genoa, have spent very special moments in Genoa, moments that I will always remember with great pleasure.

And I must tell you that, in Genoa, I admired the way that you opened up towards others. I have to tell you that you conquered American journalists. You conquered everyone, because you were so spontaneous, so natural. It was such a frank way to say things, because yes is yes, no is no.

In politics, we weren't used to seeing all this, and we were always beating around the bush, and we were taking things from the left or the right, up, down, and so on. With President Bush, everything is simple. And at the very end, all the other leaders truly appreciated the manner in which you were pragmatic, you were concrete, and that is how you faced all of the problems.

And I also must add, and here I will end, I, who have already directed a G–8 in Naples 7 years ago, found a new atmosphere, a more positive atmosphere with a greater closeness amongst leaders. And I made this reflection: I said, "It is almost a miracle today, at the beginning of a new century, at the beginning of a new millennium, that having around a table, people looking at each other in their eyes, with faith and with friendship." We have the Prime Minister of Japan, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Germany, and the Presidents of England, France, and Italy, and again, the United States President and the President of the Russian Federation.

Only 13 years ago the world was divided in two. There were two ideologies, a wall in the middle, and we thought that planned and collective economies could be a competitive economy against our system of free markets and free enterprise. How the world has changed.

And therefore, I have to tell you that as a citizen, an anybody, I must say that from Genoa, from the talks with President Bush and the other leaders, just by the way you had these relationships with the other leaders in such a frank and open way, we have greater hope. The world today is much more safe than it was a few years ago. And we can truly build, construct for our peoples, but for other peoples, as well, calling them within the virtuous cycle of trade, of exchanges, as friends, with faith, with confidence. We can definitely build a better world.

And thank you, to history in this sense and in this specific instance, I must say thank you to President Bush.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Perhaps the interpreter got it wrong when she says that my performance at the G–8 conquered the American press. [*Laughter*] If so, I would expect their stories to reflect it from now on. But one thing is for certain: On this, my first trip as President to Italy, I've really enjoyed myself. I can see why so many Americans choose Italy as a place to visit—its fantastic history, beautiful buildings and monuments, and wonderful people.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate your leadership, as well. We share an entrepreneurial spirit. We understand the role of the entrepreneur in our societies. After all, this good man came from humble beginnings to not only build a business enterprise that employs thousands of people but also had the courage to seek political office. And I firmly believe the people of Italy will be well off with my friend as their leader.

And I've got some experience to say that, because I saw him at the G–8. We had meetings where there was nobody else in the room except the leaders of the industrialized world. We had good and honest discussions. But the Prime Minister was a pro, an expert at encouraging dialog and expressing his opinion.

I want to thank the people of Genoa again for the sacrifices they made. I want to thank the law enforcement officials for providing security. I appreciate the Prime Minister and his government for making available the opportunity for those of us who lead our respective nations to come together and have a good, frank dialog, to talk about ways to improve relations amongst ourselves, as well as ways to help those nations not as fortunate as we are. You deserve a lot of credit, Mr. Prime Minister.

Secondly, we've had good discussions today about our bilateral relations. We've got great trade between our nations, and we work together to make sure that trade continues. We've got good military cooperation between our respective lands, and we'll continue to do so. I reconfirmed to the Prime Minister that which I said in NATO, that America came into the Balkans with our friends, and we will leave with our friends. And I appreciate so very much the Italian leadership in the Balkans, not only the general who led our troops at one point in time but, as well, the troops that are still there. Our two nations comprise a large part of the force in keeping the peace.

I also want to say something about the development in Indonesia. The people of Indonesia, by addressing their leadership crisis under their Constitution and laws, have shown commitment to the rule of law and democracy. We hope all parties will work together to maintain peace, support the Constitution, and promote national reconciliation.

We appreciate President Wahid's work the last 2 years in leading Indonesia through its democratic transition. We look forward to working with President Megawati and her team to address Indonesia's challenges of economic reform, peaceful resolution of separatist challenges, and maintaining territorial integrity.

Mr. Prime Minister, once again, thank you for your friendship, and thank you for the friendship of the Italian people with the American people.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you. There were agreements, and we drew the journalists that are going to ask the questions. The name that was given to me is the name, Mr. Dennis Ismore.

Meeting With the Pope/Italy-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, was it a surprise for you to hear today from the Holy Father on his declarations on manipulations of embryos? And how do you intend to take it into consideration as you examine the decision about Federal funds to research, especially in view of what you've said before regarding your decision?

And to Prime Minister Berlusconi, the relationship between Italy and the United States, does it go through Europe, or on what topics do you believe that Italy has a privileged and specific role? Because the communique was not very precise on this.

President Bush. We have the two-question strategy. [*Laughter*] A person is allowed to ask one question, but they manage to convert it to two. I suspect that may be the case with some of the American press, as well.

First, let me say how honored I was to be able to be in the presence of the Holy Father. It was a moment I was looking forward to because of his profound impact on the world. He's an extraordinary man who is, by virtue of his leadership and his conscience and his presence, has not only affected political systems but affected the hearts and souls of thousands of people all around the world. And it's hard to describe—I'm not poetic enough to describe what it's like to be in his presence.

Nor was I surprised to hear his strong, consistent message of life. It's been his message ever since he's been the Holy Father. He's never deviated. He sent a consistent word throughout the church and throughout society that we ought to take into account the preciousness of life.

I hear that message from his cardinals and bishops throughout our country. One of the

things about the Catholic Church that I admire, it's a church that stands on consistent and solid principle. And of course, I'll take that point of view into consideration as I make up my mind on a very difficult issue confronting the United States of America. It's the need to balance value and respect for life with the promise of science and the hope of saving life.

And so I will go back home, after what has been a very successful trip, continue to listen to points of view, and make up my mind when I'm ready to. And when I do, I'll make the case to the American people.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. As far as the question that was asked, I think that the statement comprises all of the sectors where we all have the same views, and therefore, we have the same political identity that derives from the same values, from the same way of looking at things and the events in the world. I think that this is the basis of a cooperation that can be a very tight one, indeed.

As far as the European Union, we know that the European Union wants to have a task force that will cooperate and work with NATO. It asks NATO to provide the elements that the task force in the beginning would not have on its own, but again, with cooperation and working with NATO. And I do believe that this is something positive, because it would not be logical, it would not be possible to continue, for NATO to come in, intervene on its own in all of those situations that arise in the world in order to make sure that they go in to take care of those wounds that become chronic ulcers.

Therefore, I think that it's fair that if Europe wants to become politically strong, that wants to express itself with a single voice, I was saying it should have its own military force. However, I believe that this military force must be fully synchronized with the NATO forces. And it might be able to intervene by itself with preventative agreements with NATO, so that NATO does not have to face every single situation in the world. As far as the United States, it's a very intense trade relationship in both directions.

Last week we signed an agreement for a greater cooperation in technological and scientific research. I believe that this can be useful even in difficult situations, like the situations of the factors that increase the temperature on the planet. I think that every single topic, every single situation should go back to the fundamental agreement that is borne from the historic reasons that I mentioned, and which consolidates itself due to the fact that we have a common basis of values and principles, and today, also due to the human liking and the sympathy that we have that has developed between the President of the Italian Government and the President of the United States.

President Bush. This man is from NBC, Mr. Prime Minister, NBC.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to return to the issue of your decision regarding stem cell research. I was struck by the fact that the Pope specifically condemned the creation of embryonic stem cells for the purpose of research, when, in fact, one central element of what you're grappling with is the research on existing stem cells. Can you elaborate on what you two discussed in that regard? Are there areas that you're considering that he did not address? And I'm not asking you to provide us with what you're going to do, but can you at least share with us what options are out there, what compromises you might be looking at?

President Bush. David [David Gregory, NBC News], I think it's important for the American people to know that I take this issue very seriously, because it is an issue that, on the one hand, deals with so much hope, hope that perhaps through research and development we'll be able to save lives. It's also an issue that has got serious moral implications. And our Nation must think carefully before we proceed. And therefore, my process has been, frankly, unusually deliberative for my administration. I'm taking my time.

I, frankly, do not care what the political polls say. I do care about the opinions of people, particularly someone as profound as the Holy Father. But I will tell you that the first time the subject came up was when he read his statement at the palace, at his summer palace. And my discussions with the Holy Father were more about foreign policy. He was

interested in my view of the world and my discussions with President Putin, for example. He was most interested in what went on at Genoa.

And so his statement was very consistent, a consistent part of the philosophy that the Catholic Church has embraced. But that's the only time it came up, Dave.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—options——

President Bush. Well, I'm thinking about all options, but I'm thinking about them privately. In all due respect to a great—one of several great news organizations, I'd rather not be expressing—laying my options out on the air, because I have yet to reach a conclusion. And when I do, I will lay it out to you. I don't know if you'll be first, but I'll lay it out to the American people.

And the American people will know that this decision has been made in all due deliberations, with sound deliberations, that it's an important decision. And I think people understand that it is that way, and it's important for America to fully understand the ramifications. And time has helped people understand the complexities of the issue. And when I get back, I will continue my deliberations, and when I'm ready, I will lay out my decision.

National Missile Defense

Q. Mr. President, yesterday there was a step ahead made in the relations between Russia and the United States for the defense of missile systems. Don't you think that the United States and President Bush perhaps need a better—a more explicit support from its European Allies in this type of dialog? Are you willing to do this, as opposed to other European countries? It's been talked for about $60 billion to $100 billion of investment for the strategic missile defense. Will you share some of that money with European companies, in investments in technology and, especially, with some of the Italian companies? They're very advanced in that.

Thank you.

President Bush. We did have a major discussion about how best to keep the peace. I was really pleased with the conversation I've had, with President Putin. It was the second such conversation I've had, and we're making good progress toward understanding. And the understanding is that the cold war is over: Russia is not the enemy of the United States and that freedom-loving people should address the true threats of the 21st century. And those threats are, amongst other things, the ability of a rogue nation to have weapons of mass destruction, which could affect the United States or Italy or Russia or anybody else who embraces freedom.

And it seems to me that we must do the research and development necessary, research and development prohibited by the current treaty that codifies the old cold war mentality of distrust. And we have yet to do that. We have yet to fully explore the opportunities and options available to not only the United States but our Allies, as to how to keep the peace.

So it's premature for me to answer not only how much the systems will cost but who will participate. I will tell you this: The spirit of collaboration and cooperation should indicate to our friends and Allies that we're more than willing to cooperate. We've discussed the issue, and I'm so much thankful to my friend for being supportive and forward-leaning when others have been skeptical.

And in the appropriate time, when we figure out the best way to address the true threats, which is the ability to intercept twos—launches of twos or threes that could hold us hostage and affect all our foreign policies—then we will work on the development. And the development of the systems may very well entail cooperation with our friends and Allies. I'm very openminded on this subject.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. As President Bush has just mentioned, in Brussels, during the NATO meeting, I spoke, and then I spoke at Göteborg during the dinner that we shared. And I said that I was in agreement with what President Bush had said very clearly. The world scene has changed. There is no antagonism between Europe and the United States, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other hand. The Soviet Union is something different.

And we're very interested as Europeans with the support of the United States; we look to a progressive journey of the Russian Federation. Maybe tomorrow, the day after, the Russian Federation might even become

part of the European federation, where we have countries that share a common Christian civilization. And I believe that in the future we will also be able to speak of a Russian Federation that becomes part of the Atlantic Alliance.

Our enemies are elsewhere. Potentially, our enemies are elsewhere. Of course, we know that we will need some time before certain countries that do not give us full confidence will be able to build strategic weapons with a range that allows them to go to far-off places like the United States. But undoubtedly, the situation is worrisome, and I believe that it would be logical to preserve the security of Europe and the United States, making sure that we keep an eye on these potentialities, on these dangers.

I think that President Bush was extremely clear when he said that these topics the United States is willing to talk about with the European Allies. On our side, I think that this is something that must be done. We have said this. We will always be next to the United States in order to take part in this discussion, going well beyond the attitudes of certain European states, which still, today, have not, in my opinion, understood how the world has changed and how we should start worrying about the future.

Q. Mr. President, if I could follow up on missile defense. It seems there was a little bit of ambiguity about what happened yesterday. Does the agreement that you reached with President Putin yesterday commit your administration to slowing down or in any way delaying the development of missile technologies and the withdrawing from the ABM Treaty until after the two nations have reached an agreement about both offensive and defensive systems? Or will you just continue to develop these technologies and withdraw from the Treaty when you see fit?

And Mr. Prime Minister, if I could just follow up, how important is an agreement, a formal agreement between Russia and the United States on these matters to Europe-wide support of the U.S. developing these technologies?

President Bush. Since it's your country, I'll give you the last word. I have told President Putin that time matters, that I want to reach an accord sooner, rather than later, that I'm interested in getting something done with him. That's my first priority. The American people, our friends and Allies, and others should take me for my word when I said in the campaign, and since being the President, that I will consult with our friends and Allies, that I will work with Russia. But make no mistake about it, I think it's important to move beyond the ABM Treaty. I would rather others come with us, but I feel so strongly and passionately on the subject about how to keep the peace in the 21st century, that we'll move beyond, if need be.

But first things first, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], and that is to give President Putin and our friends and Allies ample time to discuss, consider, and understand what I'm trying to say. My friend has been quick to grasp the notion about changing the security arrangements in the world. But others who have said that mutually assured destruction will keep the peace in the future—it's worked in the past; therefore it should be around in the future—need some time to understand the full implications about which we're discussing. And I understand that—particularly President Putin, his nation has been bound by the Treaty. It's a Treaty, of course, that—from which either party can withdraw with ample notice. And I can understand why he wants time, and I'm going to give him some time.

But I also want to emphasize to you that time is of the essence. It is time to move beyond. It is time to begin the research and development, which we have yet to do—the research and development, constrained by the ABM Treaty, to determine that which is feasible. And it's important to do so for a couple of reasons.

One, it's important to discard the old cold war mentality. And I explained that to President Putin, and I believe he understands that America is no longer Russia's enemy, that we have a chance to fashion a new strategic framework beyond just missile defenses, a strategic framework that says we'll reduce our own offensive weapons, a strategic framework that says we'll cooperate on security matters, particularly as it relates to terrorist activities, a security relationship where we'll work for safer nuclear storage and safer nuclear energy. It is a different framework,

a different frame of mind that I truly believe will make the world a more peaceful place.

And since I feel it so strongly, if we can't reach an agreement, we're going to implement. It's the right thing to do. It's what I told the American people we're going to do. It's what I've explained to our Allies we're going to do.

But I believe we've got a great opportunity to welcome others into the strategic framework. You saw the President yesterday. I thought he was very forward-leaning, as they say in diplomatic nuanced circles. We signed an agreement. That should say something about the intentions and about how far we've progressed on this issue.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I have to confirm the judgment on the President on this, and I can also bear witness to the fact that during the G–8 Summit, we spoke about this topic. In fact, in a bilateral meeting, I met President Putin and, with the invitation of the other Allies, I, in fact, spoke about the problem of the atomic potential in his country. I began expressing the preoccupation of the Western world vis-à-vis the nuclear stations in Russia, because here we're talking about the maintenance of the old ones and the building codes for new nuclear stations.

President Putin said that he would face this very openly. He spoke to us about their plans for these places, and he also said that he will continue to cooperate with Western technicians as far as the building codes of the new plants. And after that, we spoke, and I must say that I spoke to him directly on the atomic potential. But here I would like to digress.

We also have to understand the physiological aspect for the President and for his people. They come from a past. They were a world power. They had a very strong fall, as far as their economy was concerned. Their global revenue is well below the other countries of the G–7, but they still have that old pride. And above all, they have that atomic stockpile that is still an extraordinary one. It's huge. Therefore, we must be very tactful.

We must take the entire situation into account, the psychological and actual situation. We must proceed with patience on a road, which is the one expressed by President Bush, that cannot be hurried on. But the reactions that we saw from President Putin make us believe that we will be able to cooperate. And I think that we're on the right path in order to reach an agreement that would obviously imply certain modifications in the existing treaty. And I believe that this can all be done without unilateral measures.

On the other hand, President Bush also confirmed the will of the United States of America to talk with the Allies, to not do anything without having a discussion with the Allies first. So I believe that this is an issue that has been well placed and is on the right path.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 14th news conference began at 2:52 p.m. at the Villa Dona Pamphilj. In his remarks, he referred to former President Abdurrahman Wahid and President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Pope John Paul II. Prime Minister Berlusconi referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jacques Chirac of France; and President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy. Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

July 23, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt

the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 23, 2001.

Remarks to United States Troops at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

July 24, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's always a proud moment for the Commander in Chief to see the troops who uphold the values of our country. Especially here, seeing in a foreign land, brings home the true meaning of the sacrifices you make for our freedom.

Thank you, General David, for your kind introduction and your hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here. I also want to recognize the leadership of the Senior NCO Command Sergeant, Major Marvin Hill. [*Applause*]

I want to know what you did, Marvin. [*Laughter*] You got some of the folks kind of excited when I mentioned your name.

We're honored to be here. I realize that on July 4, you had the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. I recognize I don't look quite as pretty, but I am from Texas. And I'm proud to be an American, and I know you are, as well, because we represent a great land, a great land.

I'm also looking forward to having a lunch with some of you in a while. The general mentioned that I like PT—I'm going to eat lightly because I look forward to leading a run up Radar Hill after lunch. Are you ready to go? [*Applause*]

I want you to know that there's no higher honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. America appreciates your service and sacrifices for our country. And I'm here to tell you that.

It's good to be here with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne. You just lived up to your name. [*Laughter*] I also want to thank the members of the United States Army Reserve, the Air Force, the Navy, and Marine Corps and the National Guard units from Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Tennessee. I thank the civilians and contractors who helped build this base.

My first opportunity as President to address America's military forces came at Fort Stewart, Georgia. It's great to be back with the "dog-faced soldiers" of the 3d Infantry. I think I'll repeat what I said there—Hooah!

And finally, I want to thank all our allies who join in this mission: Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. It's a long list. It speaks volumes about why you are so good at your mission. You come from many nations, many cultures, and many continents—just like amongst the U.S. military personnel, many races and many faiths, many traditions represented.

Your diversity and close cooperation, General, in the cause of peace is an example of the people of this region. And it's a rebuke to the ethnic intolerance and narrow nationalism that brought us here in the first place.

As we head into the 21st century, we must not allow difference to be a license to kill and vulnerability an excuse to dominate. We will pursue a world of tolerance and freedom. From Kosovo to Kashmir, from the Middle East to Northern Ireland, freedom and tolerance is a defining issue for our world, and your service here has set an example for the whole world to see.

We're making good progress. Thanks to you and those who served before you, the people of Kosovo are able to buy food and find shelter, go to school and get medical help. Thanks to you, there will be elections here in November, elections where we want to see the widest possible participation. Thanks to you, there are fewer arms flowing into Macedonia and a hope for peace in that land. Thanks to you and the service of our forces throughout the Balkans, the region is growing closer to the rest of Europe. But there's still a lot of work to do.

Civil institutions must be put in place and made stronger. Organized crime must be brought under control. War criminals must face justice. And Kosovo must not be a safe haven for insurgencies elsewhere.

America has a vital interest in the European stability and, therefore, peace in the region. That's why I've recently taken steps to

cut off outside support for the rebels in Macedonia. That's why we need you to keep patrolling the border and cutting off the arms flow.

Each and every day your work is important to people of this region and for peace that NATO is committed to building here. America and allied forces came into Bosnia and Kosovo. We came in together, and we will leave together. Our goal is to hasten the day when peace is self-sustaining, when local democratically elected authorities can assume full responsibility, and when NATO forces can go home.

As well, you not only need to have a clear mission here, but you need to have a Commander in Chief with a clear vision, who sets clear goals for our military. And those goals are to be well equipped and well trained, to be able to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

I know how hard frequent deployments are on you and your families. I know that America owes you a decent quality of life. And those who wear America's uniform deserve America's full support, and you've got it.

I'm going to do something unusual here. I brought with me a piece of legislation, a supplemental spending bill to this year's defense budget. It's been passed by the House, passed by the Senate. Differences were reconciled. So I'm going to sign it here, because it contains $1.9 billion for pay, benefits, and health care. And by the way, the tax cut is real, too.

I'm also pleased that next year's defense budget request includes an additional 2.2 billion for pay and benefits, beyond the supplemental I'm signing here today. And that will include housing as well as an additional 2.3 billion for improved health care. And it's important for the Congress to hear this message. It's important for Congress to start dealing with next year's defense budget now, to not only include the request we made initially but the amendment to the defense bill.

The Congress has got to keep in mind the needs of those who wear the uniform. And I expect quick response from the Members of the United States Congress. When I ran for promise—I promised America that help is on the way for the men and women who wear our uniform. Today I'm proud to say, help is arriving. I'm committed that America does a better job of supporting you all.

For every one of you has dedicated yourself to something greater than yourself. You put your country ahead of your comfort. You've committed your lives to defending our Nation's highest ideals. And thanks to you, the march of freedom continues around the world.

It's an honor to be here. It's a huge honor to be the Commander in Chief. Thank you for your service to a great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. William David, USA, Commander, Task Force Falcon. H.R. 2216, approved July 24, was assigned Public Law No. 107–20.

Statement on Signing the Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY 2001

July 24, 2001

Today I signed into law H.R. 2216, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY 2001," which provides funding for the Department of Defense and other departments.

This important supplemental appropriation provides urgently needed resources to enhance defense readiness and operations and maintenance; to improve the morale of our service men and service women, and their families; to provide needed home energy assistance for low-income families; to aid victims of radiation exposures associated with the Government's nuclear weapons testing program; to provide a U.S. contribution for the global trust fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; and for other purposes.

I commend the Congress for expeditiously providing critical resources needed to improve our support for our men and women in the military while maintaining a strict fiscal discipline. The Congress provided this additional funding within the budget agreement's discretionary spending limits. The resources I requested for the Department of Defense will help our military readiness and help lay the groundwork for further strengthening

after Secretary Rumsfeld's ongoing strategy review.

I applaud the Congress for passing this bill without resorting to the abusive use of the emergency designation. We have seen "emergencies" become a recurring part of the budget process, and become magnets for special-interest, non-essential spending.

I will continue to work with the Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to see that FEMA meets its obligations to perform its extremely important role of disaster relief in a thorough and timely manner.

I hope the bipartisan approval of this bill is a harbinger of improved, more orderly deliberations for the remainder of the FY 2002 appropriations process. The fiscal discipline demonstrated in this Supplemental Appropriations Act, developed with collegiality and in a timely manner, sets a standard for how the Congress should handle spending bills for the next fiscal year.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 24, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2216, approved July 24, was assigned Public Law No. 107–20.

Statement on the Balkans

July 24, 2001

Last month in Warsaw, I spoke about the importance of building a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. I said that this new Europe must include the Balkans. A few years ago, that vision would have seemed fanciful. Today as I meet here with our forces at Camp Bondsteel, that vision is within our reach.

Croatia has become a responsible source of regional stability. The people of Yugoslavia have chosen democracy over dictatorship and have sent their former dictator to The Hague. Albania's recent elections, while less than perfect, were still a step forward in its democratic development. There are moderate governments in Bosnia-Herzegovina willing to work as serious partners with the international community in preparing their country for European integration. For the first time in history, all the governments of the region are democratic, committed to cooperating with each other, and predisposed to joining Europe.

But difficult challenges remain. Civil institutions are weak and vulnerable to corruption. Organized crime is widespread, sometimes hiding behind narrow, nationalistic agendas. There is too much dependence on foreign assistance and not enough foreign investment. And ethnic extremists are still stoking the flames of intolerance and inciting violence, hoping to subvert democracy, redraw borders, or advance criminal pursuits.

The greatest challenge today is in Macedonia, where armed insurgents threaten peace and stability. Some here in Kosovo are trying to help the insurgents. Let me be clear: The United States stands against all who use or support violence against democracy and the rule of law. That's why American forces in Kosovo are interdicting the flow of arms into Macedonia. And that's why I imposed sanctions against individuals and organizations assisting the insurgents. The United States, EU, and NATO strongly back ongoing efforts to find a political settlement—one that addresses the legitimate grievances of the Albanian population while protecting Macedonia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, its political unity, and its democratic future. I call on all parties to maintain the cease-fire. And I call on the elected leaders to work with EU envoy Leotard and Ambassador Pardew to overcome the remaining differences to achieving a settlement that will keep Macedonia at peace and on the road to Europe.

Those here in Kosovo who support the insurgency in Macedonia are hurting the interests of ethnic Albanians throughout the region. The people of Kosovo should focus on Kosovo. They need to concentrate on developing civil institutions that work and a political climate that supports and sustains democracy, the rule of law, ethnic tolerance, and cooperation with neighbors. November's election will be an important step in that direction. We call on all people of Kosovo to participate, so that no one is denied the benefits of democracy. As the people and countries of the Balkans move closer to Europe,

it is only natural that Europe assume increasing leadership and responsibility. I welcome the European Union's commitment to play a leading role in the stabilization and development of the region. I similarly welcome the willingness of our Allies to provide the bulk of the NATO task force poised to collect the insurgents' weapons after a peaceful settlement in Macedonia. The cooperation of the United States, NATO, and the EU in Macedonia is a model that we can build upon in the future.

More than 30 countries—NATO Allies, NATO partners, and other friends—are, together with America, providing forces here in Kosovo. We understand that America's contribution is essential, both militarily and politically. We will not draw down our forces in Bosnia or Kosovo precipitously or unilaterally. We came in together, and we will go out together. But our goal is to hasten the day when peace is self-sustaining, when local, democratically elected authorities can assume full responsibility, and when NATO's forces can go home. This means that we must reorganize and reenergize our efforts to build civil institutions and promote rule of law. It also means that we must step up our efforts to transfer responsibilities for public security from combat forces to specialized units, international police, and ultimately local authorities. NATO's commitment to the peace of this region is enduring, but the stationing of our forces here should not be indefinite.

The American soldiers here at Camp Bondsteel—and at bases and on patrol elsewhere in Kosovo and in Bosnia—symbolize America's commitment to building the better, broader, more peaceful Europe that is within our grasp. We are very proud of our soldiers and of the American diplomats and civil police who work alongside them. Together with our Allies and friends and the people of the Balkans, we are confident that we will reach this common goal.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Military Forces for Stabilization of Areas of the Former Yugoslavia

July 24, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of January 25, 2001, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led implementation force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1357 of June 21, 2001. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 3,800 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 20 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 19,500 personnel. During the first half of 2001, 19 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered in the city of Tuzla. Other U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in

support of SFOR. This includes approximately 500 U.S. military personnel presently deployed to Hungary, Croatia, and Italy in order to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia. Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 25.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

July 25, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome to the White House Members from the Senate and the House, Members who are concerned about American foreign policy, to give them a briefing about my trip to Europe.

I'm going to talk about how we agreed that we need to expand trade, how we also agreed how we need to help nations who are less fortunate than our Nation. I look forward to having a very confidential briefing about my meeting with President Putin and the hope and promise I see for a constructive relationship.

I also am aware that there are some foreign policy matters in the Congress. And I urge Congress to deal fairly with Mexico and to not treat the Mexican truck industry in an unfair fashion, that I believe strongly we can have safety measures in place that will make sure our highways are safe. But we should not single out Mexico. Mexico is our close friend and ally, and we must treat them with respect and uphold NAFTA and the spirit of NAFTA.

I also fully understand that foreign policy is best when conducted in a bipartisan fashion, and I so very much appreciate the chairman, I spoke to the chairman—both chairmen—before my trip overseas this time and before my trip last time overseas. And I take their advice very seriously and counsel very seriously. It helps for us to continue to communicate, particularly when it comes to foreign policy.

So thank you all for coming. I'll be glad to answer maybe one or two questions.

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, on the Patients' Bill of Rights there is some talk that the House Republicans are now planning to schedule a vote later, perhaps as late as September. Is that a recognition on the part of the party and its leadership that you don't have the votes to get what you want on that issue?

The President. I am hopeful we'll get a bill I can sign. And I appreciate so very much the hard work that's going on, particularly now in the House of Representatives, to bring a bill that is fair to patients. There seems to be a—there was a lot of negotiations going on when I was gone, and there still seems to be a lot of talk. And obviously, we'd like to get this bill finished and on my desk and a bill I can sign.

I laid out the principles that would allow me to sign a bill, and I still stand by those principles. But I can report we're making pretty good progress, it seems like.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Oil Prices

Q. Mr. President, OPEC is about to cut production by a million barrels a day. What is that going to do to the already struggling economy?

The President. Steve, it is very important for there to be stability in a marketplace. I read some comments from the OPEC ministers who said this was just a matter to make

sure the market remains stable and predictable. Obviously, if it's an attempt to run the price of oil up, we'll make our opinions very clear and known, that that would hurt America and hurt the marketplace. Our economy is bumping along right now and a runup in energy prices would hurt. And surely, the OPEC leaders understand that. I think they do.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7457—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2001

July 25, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The sounds of war thundered as a furious struggle took place 51 years ago in a country unknown to many Americans. The battleground that was Korea in the years 1950 to 1953 tested the resolve, courage, and commitment of an America barely 5 years beyond the tremendous sacrifices of World War II. Undaunted, America again marshaled her forces to defend a population facing tyranny and aggression.

Freedom for the Republic of Korea was purchased with deep sacrifice and with honor. In 38 months of intense fighting, 33,665 Americans gave their lives in battle. Our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, was awarded to 131 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, more than 90 of them posthumously. Yet the challenge of Korea was not just a formidable adversary, but also a harsh and forbidding climate. The 1.8 million service men and women who served there suffered bitter winters that would claim casualties approaching those inflicted by guns, shrapnel, and bayonets. When the Military Armistice Agreement, effective 48 years ago, silenced the guns on the Korean peninsula, it marked the end of the world's first determined stand against Communist aggression. It signaled the beginning of the Cold War, and foreshadowed the eventual dismantling of global Communism.

Today, the liberties defended there half a century ago are the inheritance of 47 million citizens of a democratic, prosperous, and progressive Republic of Korea. The young Americans who fought and died there kept faith with a just cause, and in so doing, kept faith with the principles and ideals on which our Nation was founded. They immeasurably blessed the Republic of Korea and brought great honor to our Nation as a defender of freedom. Because of these truths, we recognize the Korean War for what it was and is—not a "forgotten war," but a remembered victory.

The Congress, by passing Public Law 104–19 (36 U.S.C. 127), has designated July 27, 2001, as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2001, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies and interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on July 27, 2001, in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., July 27, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Memorandum on the Charter for Coordinator of United States Assistance to Europe and Eurasia

July 25, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Charter for Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia

The United States has a vital stake in a stable and secure Europe and Eurasia. Maintaining effective support for the expanding free market and promoting the democratic transformation of the formerly Communist societies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union remain among our highest foreign policy priorities. Over the past decade, bilateral assistance programs under the "Support for East European Democracies (SEED) Act" of 1989 and the "Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets (FREEDOM) Support Act" of 1992 have played an important role in advancing democratic and economic reforms in the formerly Communist countries of the region. Other projects funded through legislation, such as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993, have advanced our denuclearization and nonproliferation objectives.

Despite remarkable progress in many countries, the ultimate success of reform efforts across the region is by no means assured. This fact, combined with budget realities that constrain the level of funding for our bilateral assistance to the region, makes it imperative that our assistance be as targeted, relevant, and efficient as possible.

To achieve maximum coordination of efforts that promote such reforms and policies within the executive branch, I hereby designate Ambassador William B. Taylor, Jr., to serve as the SEED Program Coordinator, in accordance with section 601 of the SEED Act, and to continue serving as Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to the Newly Independent States (NIS), in accordance with section 102 of the FREEDOM Support Act.

Ambassador Taylor's responsibilities will include:

1. designing an overall assistance strategy for each SEED and FREEDOM Support Act country;
2. overseeing program and policy coordination among United States Government agencies;
3. pursuing coordination with other countries and international organizations;
4. ensuring proper management and oversight by agencies responsible for implementation of assistance programs; and
5. resolving policy and program disputes among United States Government agencies.

Ambassador Taylor will also act as Chairman of the Assistance Working Group of the interagency Europe-Eurasia Policy Coordinating Committee.

In fulfilling these duties, Ambassador Taylor will preside over the allocation of U.S. assistance resources. He will direct and coordinate the interagency process of development, funding, and implementation of all United States Government bilateral assistance, trade, and investment programs related to the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries.

To enable Ambassador Taylor to carry out these responsibilities effectively, the Departments of Defense, the Treasury, Justice, State, Commerce, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Energy; the Agency for International Development, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Peace Corps, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Trade and Development Agency, Export-Import Bank, and all other executive departments and agencies with activities related to bilateral assistance and export and investment activities in the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries are directed, to the extent permitted by law, to bring all programs and budget plans for such assistance and activities to Ambassador Taylor for review before submission to the Office of Management and Budget, and before implementation. Ambassador Taylor

shall ensure that all such plans are consistent with Administration priorities and policies. Heads of such entities shall designate an appropriate official to assist Ambassador Taylor in accomplishing the objectives of this mandate.

Ambassador Taylor will work with the U.S. Ambassadors to the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries to strengthen coordination mechanisms in the field and increase the effectiveness of our assistance and export and investment programs on the ground. Assistance activities in the field will be coordinated by Ambassadors or their designate.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Remarks on Signing Legislation Honoring Senator Paul Coverdell

July 26, 2001

Ours is a city here full of memorials, full of symbols of America's gratitude for service. And today we come together to honor one such man who dedicated his life to service, a life who left us far too soon.

Nancy, welcome. I want to thank you and your family members for being here. I want to thank Trent and Members of the United States Senate. One reason he didn't ask you to speak is, he was afraid you were going to go on too long, Phil. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Senator Miller. I thank the Georgia delegation for coming, Members of the Congress. It's good to see the former Speaker; thank you for being here, as well.

I appreciate John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, for being here, and Elaine Chao, members of my Cabinet. I'm so honored that members—former Directors of the Peace Corps are here, including the current Acting Director, Chuck Baquet. Thank you for being here, as well. I thank Michael Adams, the president of the University of Georgia, for being here. And I want to thank my Ambassador-designee to the Vatican, Jim Nicholson, for being here, as well.

Paul Coverdell was a man of unusual abilities and striking character. He spoke with candor when others might hide the unpleasant truth. He was wise and reasonable in a city that often lacks both virtues. He was a man of principle who understood our political system's essential need for compromise. He was respected by both allies and adversaries.

And the causes to which he dedicated himself drew all his energy and thought and effort and commitment. He understood every parent's hopes for a quality education, so he pressed for tax-free savings accounts for education expenses. Today his idea is law. And today we rename those accounts for him, the Coverdell Education Savings Accounts.

He had a great heart and compassion for others, and that could be seen in his imaginative and strong leadership of the Peace Corps. As the Corps' first post-cold-war Director, he had a vision for a new era and the leadership to bring those dreams into being. So today, in his honor, we rename the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters. And we also rename the Peace Corps World Wise School program, the Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools programs.

Paul was a champion of science and medical research. Wherever Americans push the frontiers of knowledge, they're advancing in the spirit of Paul Coverdell. And so, I applaud Senator Miller for his leadership in the decision to name the University of Georgia's new health science building for Paul.

You know, Paul and Nancy were frequent visitors to my folks' house in Maine. They were such good friends that Mother got them to plant roses. She's a pretty tough taskmaster. [*Laughter*] You can imagine old Paul out there digging away, mother yelling, "More dirt!" [*Laughter*] The hole would be dug and Mother saying, "You put the rosebush in there." At any rate, we get to now see the roses, and we think of Paul. The flowers bloom only a short time, but like the roots of those bushes, his memory lasts a long time. And the fruits of his labors, we will see for a long time coming.

I've spoken today of honoring Paul. The truth is, he honored us by his selfless service. We're lucky to have known him.

It is now my honor to sign the bills honoring a great man.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:14 a.m. in the Indian Treaty Room in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Coverdell, widow of Senator Coverdell; Senator Phil Gramm of Texas; and former Speaker Newt Gingrich. S. 360 and S. 1190, approved July 26, were assigned Public Law Nos. 107–21 and 107–22, respectively.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Earley and an Exchange With Reporters

July 26, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome the next Governor of Virginia to the Oval Office. This man is going to win because he knows a couple of truths: One, that it's important to let people keep their own money—I appreciate your strong stance on holding the line on cutting the car tax in Virginia—and secondly, he has prioritized education, and he knows full well that if you have a Governor who knows how to lead, you can set clear spending priorities. And so I believe Mark has got the right issues, the right vision, and the right skill to be a great Governor for Virginia.

Secondly, here in Washington, we're making progress on some key issues. I've been meeting with Members of the Congress on the Patients' Bill of Rights; I will continue to do so throughout the day. Secondly, I had a very good visit with Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum on the faith-based initiative, a positive discussion about how to get the bill fashioned so it moves through the Senate, and then, of course, be combined with the House version.

The Members agree—at least, the two Members that came to see me agree with how important this initiative is. It's important to set aside politics and focus on helping people. And the faith-based initiative does that. And again, I want to repeat how appreciative I am that Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum took time out of their day to come and visit.

Soon-to-be-Governor Earley is going to say a few remarks. I'll answer a couple of questions afterwards.

[*At this point, Mr. Earley made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thanks, Mark. You're going to win.

Yes, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

China's Release of American University Scholars

Q. Mr. President, why do you think China agreed, finally, to release the two scholars? And, to you, what does it say about the relationship between the U.S. and China?

The President. Well, I would hope that part of it is because of the pressure our Government has put on China. I spoke directly to Jiang Zemin on this very subject, about the humane treatment of U.S. citizens and/or legal residents. Perhaps China is beginning to realize that, as she begins to deal with Western nations, she's going to have to make better decisions on human rights.

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Are you not giving up on Patients' Bill of Rights being voted on before the August recess? And do you feel that your influence, especially with Republicans in the House, is diminished from what it was?

The President. I think we've had a pretty good 6 months, when you think about it. I've signed a lot of legislation. Today, for example, I signed the legislation naming the education savings accounts after Paul Coverdell. That's a piece of legislation that had languished in the past; it's now law.

I signed tax cuts. I signed some regulatory relief. I am very pleased with the cooperative spirit in the Congress. And I do believe that we can get a good Patients' Bill of Rights. I think the Members of Congress have taken me seriously when I said there is a—I want a bill.

But there are some things that are unacceptable to me. And the most unacceptable thing to me is that there be a piece of legislation that encourages lawsuits and discourages American citizens from being able to afford health insurance. I am deeply worried about any legislation that will cause people to have less health insurance. I refuse to accept that legislation.

Now, having said that, I've been in some serious discussions today. We're trying to find some common ground on getting a bill that I can sign, and I believe we're making progress.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, Iraq tried to knock down a U–2 plane today. Do you fear that they have enhanced their ability to knock out allied planes, and what can you do about it?

The President. Well, we're going to keep the pressure on Iraq. The no-fly zone strategy is still in place. We are in—plus, I'm analyzing the data from the incident you talked about. I look forward to finding out all the facts. But there's no question that Saddam Hussein is still a menace and a problem. And the United States and our allies must put the pressure on him.

That's why I brought up to Mr. Putin in Genoa, the need for us to work in concert at the United Nations, to make sure that we have a sanction policy that will work.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. The sanction Lieberman mentioned today—there's some outright opposition to faith-based, and he thought that could be eased, and some other people said that could be eased if there's some change in the language on discrimination. Is that something that you would consider doing to get the faith-based through?

The President. Well, we're going to work with the Senate to get a good bill out. There are some other concerns that he brought up, and I told him we'd be willing to work with him, without compromising on principle. He understood that. He and I share the same principle about the need to rally faith-based organizations in our community.

And one of the principles is, we should never undermine the civil rights laws of the United States. And I believe it's very important that the civil right—the whole spirit and law of the civil rights legislation be intact.

Immigration

Q. Mr. President, on the immigration proposal that you're weighing, sir, is there some reason that only Mexican workers should be considered? What about those from other countries?

The President. Well, we'll consider all folks here. Let me make this very clear to people, that there was—a word was creeping in the vernacular about this issue, called amnesty. I oppose blanket amnesty. The American people need to know that. I do believe, though, that when we find willing employer and willing employee, we ought to match the two. We ought to make it easier for people who want to employ somebody, who are looking for workers, to be able to hire people who want to work.

And I know we can do so in a humane way that treats people with respect. Obviously, the Mexican issue is at the forefront because we're preparing for my first state visit with my friend Vicente Fox. But I'm openminded. I'll listen to all proposals that people have in mind.

Let me make another point on Mexico. It is wrong for the Congress to discriminate against Mexican trucks. And I urge the Senate to reject an amendment to the transportation bill that would clearly discriminate against Mexican truckers. Our Mexican counterparts and friends need to be treated just like the Canadians are treated. We ought to accept the spirit of NAFTA.

And so whether it be people or trucks or businesses, I solidly reject discrimination against people who are here, of all origins, particularly Mexico. And the reason why Mexico's on the front burner, as far as the immigration issue, of course, is because of the initiative that Vicente Fox and I outlined, an initiative that encourages discussions, headed up by—it's Colin Powell and John Ashcroft and their counterparts—and by the way, an initiative that is making good progress on making sure relations with our neighbor to the south are strong and cohesive and there's a strategy that works and respectful. And we're making good progress, and the American people ought to be proud of that.

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thank you all.

Oval Office

Q. New furnishings?

The President. Yes, they are. Thank you for noticing. The couches—Mrs. Bush deserves a lot of credit.

Q. The rug?

The President. No, the rug is temporary. The rug will have the—we're in the process of weaving a new rug. And each President, as you probably know, since you've been around here some—well, a long time—each President designs his own rug. I've designed mine, and it's now being woven and will be here in about 3 months. And I look forward to——

Q. The Alamo up on the wall is not an indication of how you feel in the White House right now, is it?

The President. I feel great. Listen, I think we've had one of the most constructive first 6 months of any Presidency, and we're making great progress on a lot of issues. No, I've always—a dictatorship would be a heck of a lot easier; there's no question about it. But dealing with Congress is a matter of give and take. The President doesn't get everything he wants; the Congress doesn't get everything they want. But we're finding good common ground.

And I also want to remind you all, we're making great progress when it comes to fiscal sanity and the budget. I appreciate so very much the supplemental that got passed. I signed it in Kosovo. It was a supplemental that came out clean. And I thank the leadership in the Senate, particularly Senator Byrd, as well as those in the House—Congressman Young—for moving a clean supplemental. That was unheard of in recent history.

There's going to be some struggles over the budget, no question about it, as appropriators perhaps try to bust the budget. But they're going to find somebody who's going to hang tough on the budget. And I want to remind people that the reason some are struggling to find money to spend is because the economy has turned down. That's why. The budget projections are less than anticipated because of a slowdown in the economy. And by cutting taxes, we did the right thing to reinvigorate the economy. And do you know who knows that best? The American people.

Thank you for coming.

News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Q. You're not a dictator, but you are a conqueror. [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, I just hope it reflected in the stories. Actually, did you know that the guy, when questioned, the interpreter misinterpreted what he said. He said that it was clear to the American press that President Bush conquered the leaders, as opposed to conquering the American press. No one conquers the American press, of course. [*Laughter*]

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Earley. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Navajo Code Talkers

July 26, 2001

Thank you very much. Today America honors 29 Native Americans who, in a desperate hour, gave their country a service only they could give. In war, using their native language, they relayed secret messages that turned the course of battle. At home, they carried for decades the secret of their own heroism. Today we give these exceptional marines the recognition they earned so long ago.

I want to thank the Congress for inviting me here, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Senators Campbell, Bingaman, and Johnson and Congressman Udall for their leadership. I want to thank Sergeant Major McMichael—distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Washington, DC.

The gentlemen with us, John Brown, Chester Nez, Lloyd Oliver, Allen Dale June, and Joe Palmer, represented by his son Kermit, are the last of the original Navajo Code Talkers. In presenting gold medals to

each of them, the Congress recognizes their individual service, bravely offered and flawlessly performed.

With silver medals, we also honor the dozens more who served later with the same courage and distinction. And with all these honors, America pays tribute to the tradition and community that produced such men, the great Navajo Nation. The paintings in this rotunda tell of America and its rise as a nation. Among them are images of the first Europeans to reach the coast and the first explorer to come upon the Mississippi. But before all these firsts on this continent, there were the first people. They are depicted in the background as if extras in the story. Yet, their own presence here in America predates all human record. Before others arrived, the story was theirs alone.

Today we mark a moment of shared history and shared victory. We recall a story that all Americans can celebrate and every American should know. It is a story of ancient people called to serve in a modern war. It is a story of one unbreakable oral code of the Second World War, messages traveling by field radio on Iwo Jima in the very language heard across the Colorado plateau centuries ago.

Above all, it's a story of young Navajos who brought honor to their Nation and victory to their country. Some of the Code Talkers were very young, like Albert Smith, who joined the Marines at 15. In order to enlist, he said, "I had to advance my age a little bit." At least one Code Talker was overage, so he claimed to be younger in order to serve. On active duty, their value was so great and their order so sensitive that they were closely guarded. By war's end, some 400 Navajos had served as Code Talkers; 13 were killed in action, and their names, too, are on today's roll of honor.

Regardless of circumstances, regardless of history, they came forward to serve America. The Navajo code itself provides a part of the reason. Late in his life, Albert Smith explained, "The code word for America was, 'Our Mother.' 'Our Mother' stood for freedom, our religion, our ways of life, and that's why we went in." The Code Talkers joined 44,000 Native Americans who wore the uniform in World War II. More than 12,000 Native Americans fought in World War I. Thousands more served in Korea, Vietnam, and serve to this very day.

Twenty-four Native Americans have earned the highest military distinction of all, the Medal of Honor, including Ernest Childers, who was my guest at the White House last week. In all these wars and conflicts, Native Americans have served with the modesty and strength and quiet valor their tradition has always inspired.

That tradition found full expression in the Code Talkers—in those absent and in those with us today. Gentlemen, your service inspires the respect and admiration of all Americans, and our gratitude is expressed for all time in the medals it is now my honor to present.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:41 p.m. in the rotunda at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, USMC, who represented the U.S. Marine Corps.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

July 26, 2001

Eleven years ago today, people from across America gathered to celebrate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), one of the Nation's most important civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA opened up the true promise of America to people with disabilities who, for far too long, have found impediments to getting an education, getting a job, or just getting around.

I am proud that my father saw the need for a comprehensive law to liberate the energies and talents of people with disabilities, and who worked with the Congress to make the ADA a reality.

Much has been accomplished in the past 11 years. Attitudes are changing and barriers are coming down all across America. Employers now provide a range of "accommodations" to ensure that employees with disabilities can keep their place in the wage-earning world, resulting in unprecedented economic opportunities. And, outside of the workplace,

the promise of the ADA, coupled with the entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector, has enabled people with disabilities to enjoy much greater access to a wide range of affordable travel, recreational opportunities, and life-enriching services.

Because of the ADA, people with disabilities are gaining equal access to public sector services. And the public sector has rallied to the ADA's goals. From improving access at town halls and courthouses to providing accessible parking to assistive listening devices at public meetings, States and local governments have developed some of the most innovative and meaningful responses to the ADA. In addition, my Administration is committed to full and effective implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which will help ensure that people of all abilities can access government information and online services. My Administration is working closely with State and local governments to move people with disabilities out of institutions and into community-based settings, going above and beyond the requirements of the Supreme Court's landmark Olmstead decision.

In fact, the message of the ADA is being heard all around the world. Over 40 countries, from Australia to Uganda, now have laws prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities—many of them inspired by the ADA.

Although we have accomplished much because of the ADA, our job is far from done. People with disabilities are far more likely than other Americans to drop out of high school or to suffer from poverty and unemployment. They are far less likely to own a home, to use a computer to explore the Internet, or to vote.

Earlier this year, I proposed the New Freedom Initiative. It is the next step in securing the promise of the ADA. The New Freedom Initiative will help ensure that Americans with disabilities can access the best technologies of today and even better technologies in the future. We will expand educational opportunities and accessible transportation and take steps to fully integrate people with disabilities into the workforce. We will expand housing opportunities and improve access to churches, mosques, synagogues, and civic organizations. And we will fully enforce the ADA while working in partnership with businesses, States, and local governments to promote the highest possible degree of voluntary cooperation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was an unprecedented step forward in promoting freedom, independence, and dignity for millions of our people. On this, the 11th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I remain committed to tearing down the remaining barriers to equality that face Americans with disabilities today.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 26, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Memorandum on Funding for Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

July 26, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–22

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to $27 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs, including those of refugees, displaced persons, conflict victims, and other persons at risk due to the situations in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, and Afghanistan. These funds may be used, as appropriate, to provide contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations, and as necessary, for administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Of the $27 million hereby determined, not more than $5 million shall be reserved on a contingency basis in order to allow for

immediate United States response to unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to arrange for the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Plan Colombia

July 26, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e) of Public Law 106–246, I hereby transmit a report detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2001 in support of Plan Colombia.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 26, 2001.

Remarks to the National Future Farmers of America Organization

July 27, 2001

Well, thank you all for coming. I look forward to discussing an incredibly important topic, and that's agriculture and what it means to America. It's important for folks up here in Washington to listen to Senators like Chuck Grassley and Blanche Lincoln, people who come from the farm areas, Phil Crane, who understand that agriculture is an incredibly important part of our economic future. But agriculture also is an important part of American life, because it represents the great values of America.

So I want to thank you all for coming. My fellow Texan, I appreciate that fine introduction. [*Laughter*] Trent's from Throckmorton. It's a rural part of our State. But rural Texas is incredibly a part of the State of Texas, but rural America is an incredibly important part of America, as well, and we must never forget that.

I want to thank Jennifer Edwards, as well, for being here. I want to thank all the officers for coming. I want to thank again the Members of Congress for being here to discuss with all of us how we make sure American agriculture thrives as we head into the 21st century. I mean, after all, we're talking about national security. It's important for our Nation to be able to grow foodstuffs to feed our people. Can you imagine a country that was unable to grow enough food to feed the people? It would be a nation that would be subject to international pressure. It would be a nation at risk. And so when we're talking about American agriculture, we're really talking about a national security issue.

Well, one way we can help is something we've already done, and that is to eliminate the death tax, so that farms and ranches can be passed from one generation to the next, so that people don't have to liquidate their prized possession, their most singular important asset, in order for a young son or daughter to become a farmer or a rancher. And we did just that, thanks to the Members of the United States Senate here and thanks to the Member of the Congress who are here. It was a tough vote for some, but it was the right vote for American agriculture, to get rid of the death tax.

And given the economic news of the day, the tax cut was—looks more and more wise. I mean, after all, there's a new report out that shows that over the last four quarters, economic growth has been slow. It hasn't been up to standard. The economy is puttering along. It's not nearly as strong as it should be. And what the tax cut does—by sending money back to the American working people, it provides an incredibly important boost to economic vitality and economic growth.

Now, there's a lot of talk about the amount of money available to spend here in Washington. Make no mistake about it: The appropriators are looking for money. And it may not be as much as they want to spend, because the economy has slowed down. And this tax cut is incredibly important for revitalizing the economy of America, and it was the right thing to do.

A second thing we can do to make sure folks in the agricultural sector have got a

bright future is to work to enhance trade, trade all around the world. I want America's farmers and ranchers feeding those who are hungry, those who need foodstuffs. We're the best in the world at growing product. Our farmers and ranchers are not only some of the hardest working people in the world, but we're better at it than everybody else is, too. And therefore, we ought to work hard to open up all avenues, all markets, so we can feed people.

And that includes—necessary to do that, we've got to make sure the President has what's called trade promotion authority. That gives me the ability to negotiate trade agreements on behalf of the American people, submit it to the Senate to be ratified, up or down.

I don't have that authority. It lapsed, unfortunately. I'm one of the few Presidents never to have had that authority. I'm asking Congress to give it to me for the good of the American people, for the good of the agricultural sector, so that I can use my efforts to knock down the trade barriers, the protectionist tendencies around the world that prevent our products from getting into markets.

I'm pleased to report, for example, that we are making some progress. There was a big debate—I'm sure you heard about it—as to whether or not China ought to be allowed into what's called the World Trade Organization. I argued vociferously that they should be, because I believe a country that trades with the rest of the world is a country more likely to embrace freedom.

I also know that by opening up Chinese markets to American foodstuffs, it will be beneficial to American farmers. And my Trade Representative, our Nation's Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, has made great progress in negotiations with China, opening up their markets to U.S. foodstuffs, to our products.

I used to say, during the debate, to try to make it clear to people where I was coming from—maybe it's the west Texan in me—I said, "We want to be feeding the Chinese. We want our American farmers to be growing the products that the Chinese use to eat." And that's what, to me, trade means.

And so, we need to work with Congress to get a trade promotion authority bill out pretty darn quickly. And my pledge to the people of America, particularly in the agricultural sector is, American agriculture will not be viewed as a secondary issue for me.

There's a lot of folks out there who are somewhat skeptical when a U.S. President talks about trade and agriculture. You know why? Because agriculture has always been a secondary issue. They'll negotiate all the other important subjects, but when it comes to agriculture, say, "We'll just leave it the way it is. We won't work to knock down the barriers that prevent U.S. products from going into other markets." Those days are over with. Agriculture will be the cornerstone of our international trade negotiations. We'll use what's called single undertaking negotiation to keep agriculture at the forefront of our negotiating policy, and the reason is simple: We're good at it, and we ought to work hard to promote products that we're good at growing or good at raising.

Another important part of making sure that your future is bright is that the education systems all around America work. One of the things I took great pride in, in the State of Texas, is an education reform package for all of the people that go to school in Texas that said, "We expect results." I will tell you this: If you're in the agricultural sector, you're judged by results. You're judged by the size of the crop you grow. You're judged whether or not you can plow the straight line. You're judged by whether you're not any good. It's a results-oriented world, and that's what education ought to be, as well.

And there's a fundamental reason why: Because we don't want anybody left behind, is why. And if you don't measure, how do you know whether somebody is being left behind? If you don't hold people accountable for results, how do you know whether or not some children cannot read or write and add and subtract? And I darn sure want to know.

Laura, my wife, the First Lady, is having a seminar, series of seminars about how to introduce the sound science of education into curriculum all around the country. It says, "Look, let's have some common sense about our education curriculum. Let's make sure it works before we insist that we use

it." And that's what we need to do in education. We need to have strong accountability.

Again, I want to thank the Members of the Senate and the House who are here, who support an education package that's going to reform schools all around the country. But make no mistake about it: I haven't forgotten where I came from. Inherent in the education reform package is a strong belief in local control of schools. I don't think the schools ought to be run out of Washington. You know why? Because we're different. School districts in Texas were different. And they're a heck of a lot different, I can assure you, from, you know, places like Vermont and New Hampshire. I mean, it's just a different world, and therefore we've got to have strong local control of schools, coupled with strong accountability, to make sure our education systems work for everybody, urban and rural alike.

And finally, before I come out and shake a few hands, if you would like to, I do want to remind you all that one of the things that makes this country so unique is our values system, the values of hard work, family, faith, values that sound pretty much like the heartland of America to me.

We're winding down the legislative session here, and I hope, a week from tomorrow, the Congress takes off and gives all of us a break. [*Laughter*] And I'm heading back to the heartland. I'm going back to Crawford, Texas, where Laura and I have got some property. A fellow runs some cows on our country. I love to go walking out there, seeing the cows. Occasionally, they talk to me—[*laughter*]—being the good listener that I am. [*Laughter*] But it's important for all of us in Washington to stay in touch with the values of the heartland, because they're values that really are unique. It basically says that values—a value system of basic, inherent values that override politics and different demographies and different religions—it's what makes America so unique and great.

I've just come back from overseas. I'm so proud to represent this great Nation overseas, because we're a nation that can bring people from all walks of life together, a nation that says, "You're free to worship any religion you want," and yet we're bound by common values. You should never be afraid of embracing the values you find in the heartland of America, the values you bring to Washington, DC; you should never walk away from those. They're important. It's important to keep them as priorities in your life, because the strength of our Nation exists in the value system that we oftentimes find on America's farms and ranches, the value that—of worship and faith, the value of the importance of family, the values of hard work, the values of taking a risk, the values of understanding that if you own a farm or a ranch, every day is Earth Day. Every day is an important day if you're stewards of the land. Those are incredibly important values that you all embrace in your organization.

And finally, let me tell you, America is a country that needs your help. It needs your help by you all living good—setting good examples for others. It needs your help. All of us can be leaders in individual ways by making right choices, for starters, by being responsible for the decisions you make in life.

But there's something else you can do, too. Our society—there are some people in our society who hurt. And we can change America one soul at a time. If you find somebody in need, help them out. If you've got a neighbor who needs some compassion, take time to help your neighbor understand, somebody loves him. If you've got a friend who maybe is lonely and hopeless, put your arm around him or her; become a mentor; become a pal. They may not be the coolest kid in class, but reach out to somebody in need. And you'll be amazed at what happens.

My job is to rally what I call the armies of compassion, the people all across America who say, "How can I love somebody just like I'd like to be loved myself?" And the great strengths of the country lay in the fact there are millions of people who are helping somebody in need. They don't need a Government law; they don't need somebody doing this, that, or the other. What they need is to follow their hearts, and that's what I ask you to do.

I'm honored to be able to receive you here in the Nation's Capital. It's a huge honor to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. And thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Trent McKnight, president, and Jennifer Edwards, secretary, National Future Farmers of America Organization.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 20

In the evening, the President participated in discussions and a dinner with representatives from G–8 nations and from Africa, Asia, and Latin America at the Palazzo Doria Spinola in Genoa, Italy.

July 22

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Rome.

July 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of Pope John Paul II. In the afternoon, he returned to Rome.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception and dinner hosted by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy at Quirinale Palace.

July 24

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. In the afternoon, they traveled to Rome, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

July 25

The President announced his intention to nominate Gaddi H. Vasquez to be Director of the Peace Corps.

The President announced his intention to nominate Randall S. Kroszner to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kimberly Terese Nelson to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Environmental Information.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Daub to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Advisory Board.

July 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia. Later, he met with Representative Charlie Norwood, and then with Senators Joseph Lieberman and Rick Santorum in the Oval Office concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Erik Weihenmayer, the first visually impaired person to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Also in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Edward Kennedy concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard J. Warren as a member of the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission.

July 27

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Representative Charlie Norwood concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights. Later, he met with Senators Max Baucus and Charles Grassley in the Oval Office concerning trade promotion authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Melvin F. Sembler to be Ambassador to Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Louis Kincannon to be Director of the Bureau of the Census at the Department of Commerce.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations

to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 23

Christopher William Dell,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola.

Patricia de Stacy Harrison,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs), vice William B. Bader.

Submitted July 25

Bruce Cole,
of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of 4 years, vice William R. Ferris, term expiring.

Patrick M. Cronin,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Thomas H. Fox, resigned.

Joseph M. DeThomas,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nils J. Diaz,
of Florida, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2006 (reappointment).

Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr.,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Susan Gaffney, resigned.

James Gilleran,
of California, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision for the remainder of the term expiring October 23, 2002, vice Ellen Seidman, resigned.

Marianne Lamont Horinko,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Timothy Fields, Jr., resigned.

P.H. Johnson,
of Mississippi, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority (new position).

Patrick Francis Kennedy,
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Donald Stuart Hays.

Michael E. Malinowski,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Arlene Render,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 22

Transcript of a readout by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meeting with President Putin of Russia

Announcement: U.S. Accomplishments—Genoa Summit

Fact Sheet: Russian-American Business Dialogue

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

Released July 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Delegation to Peruvian Inauguration

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 24

H.R. 2216 / Public Law 107–20
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2001

Approved July 26

S. 360 / Public Law 107–21
To honor Paul D. Coverdell

S. 1190 / Public Law 107–22
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the education individual retirement accounts as the Coverdell education savings accounts

Week Ending Friday, August 3, 2001

The President's Radio Address
July 28, 2001

Good morning. This past week our country marked the 11th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I'm proud that it was my father who signed that landmark legislation into law. And all Americans can take pride in the changes the ADA has brought into the lives of millions of citizens with disabilities.

Because of that law, Americans with disabilities have gained greater access to public places; they have more options in choosing their homes, using public transportation, traveling, and staying in hotels. Many have joined the workforce, thanks to reasonable accommodations made by their employers. This has made our country a fairer society, more considerate and welcoming to all our citizens.

As people with disabilities find more opportunities to use their gifts and talents, we also become a stronger, more productive nation. Some barriers remain, however, and as long as they stand, our work is unfinished.

In February I announced a plan called the New Freedom Initiative to expand even further the opportunities available to people with disabilities. This initiative will help more Americans with disabilities enter the workforce by improving transportation or making it easier to work from home. It will encourage private companies to develop new assistive technologies, like computer monitors for people with visual impairments, infrared pointers for people who cannot use their hands to operate a keyboard, and lighter wheelchairs to increase mobility. And my New Freedom Initiative will help community groups, churches, synagogues, mosques, and civic organizations to improve access for people with disabilities.

Many of these groups are trying their best to meet the requirements of ADA, and we will help them. We must also work to ensure that people with disabilities are not arbitrarily isolated or kept apart. I recently signed an Executive order requiring Federal agencies to work with State and local authorities to allow people with disabilities to move out of institutions and into community settings. I've also instructed the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to fully enforce title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensuring that no one is unjustifiably institutionalized.

My administration is also committed to requiring all Federal agencies to make sure that their Internet sites are more accessible for people with disabilities, both inside and outside the Government. We have made significant progress in advancing the New Freedom Initiative. But some of these reforms will require the Congress to provide the resources we need to fully implement the New Freedom Initiative and fulfill the promise of ADA.

All of these efforts will build on the progress we have made as a society since the Americans with Disabilities Act became law. During the last 11 years, we have opened the doors of opportunity to millions of people with disabilities, and together, we can ensure that everyone with a disability enjoys the respect that all citizens deserve.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:13 a.m. on July 27 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

July 30, 2001

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I am honored to be here for the 25th anniversary of NOBLE. And I want to welcome each of you to Washington.

I also thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk about a powerful tool to help you all do your job. And that tool is stronger communities and the willingness for our society to welcome faith-based and community-based programs at the grassroots level, all aimed at teaching our children right from wrong; all aimed at making sure there's hope in every neighborhood throughout America.

I want to thank Ida very much for her brief but meaningful introduction. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Leonard Cooke and Maurice Foster, as well.

I've got to say something about Hubert Bell. [*Applause*] Maybe I'd better not, Hubert. It sounds like you're doing pretty good. [*Laughter*] But Hubert was really a part of our family for a long period of time, and we appreciated his service and sacrifice. He protected my mother and dad, for which, of course, not only is their loyal son grateful, but so are they. And it's great to see you, Hubert.

Also riding with me today is a fine man who I, fortunately, convinced to serve our country as the Deputy Attorney General, from the State of Georgia, Larry Thompson. Larry, thank you for your service, as well.

You've always got to say something nice about the police chief in the community in which you live—[*laughter*]—just in case. [*Laughter*] In my case, just in case the liiver drives a little too fast. [*Laughter*] But Charles, thank you for your leadership. I first saw that in action during the inauguration, and he did a fantastic job, and so did the men and women who wear the uniform here in the Nation's Capital. Thank you for your service.

It's also a pleasure to be here today with many of the founding members of NOBLE and its membership. Thank you for giving me a chance.

NOBLE is one of America's most effective police organizations and a voice for justice around our great Nation. And I want to thank you for that. I want to thank you for serving as a conscience in many communities in America.

It's also an important part of law enforcement, the history of law enforcement in America. Until the sixties, few African-Americans could dream of wearing the policeman's uniform and badge. Even those given the authority of the badge sometimes did not get the respect they deserve. I'm told about a man named James Cherry in 1964 who became the first uniformed black officer in Jackson, Tennessee. And on his first house call to the home of a white resident, a woman opened the door and looked at him and said, "I don't want you. I want the real police."

Fortunately, times have changed in America. Fortunately, when Officer Cherry shows up to the door today, people are saying, "Thank you, Officer, for coming to help me. Thank you for your service." Folks in this country have realized law enforcement depends upon the participation of fine African men and women all across America. And I want to thank those officers for the commitment and the risks they take on a daily basis.

And we owe you something in return. We owe you something in return for your service, and that's justice. And that's why I've asked the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General to examine racial profiling. It's wrong in America, and we've got to get rid of it.

Law enforcement is one of the great callings in our society; it really is. It's a noble profession. It's also one of the great success stories of the past decade. Last month the Justice Department reported that violent crime fell almost 15 percent last year alone, the largest drop ever recorded. Across America, law enforcement is doing its job, and crime is in retreat.

Some examples of success have captured the attention of the Nation. When Superintendent Richard Pennington of the New Orleans Police Department was appointed in 1994, New Orleans was rated the most violent city in America. And the truth of the matter is, the police department had serious,

serious problems. The chief began by reforming the department, itself. He used the latest technology to track crime and built trusting relationships between the department and neighborhoods all throughout New Orleans.

Today, 7 years after his arrival, the people of New Orleans respect the police department because violent crime is down 75 percent in that city. A leader can make a difference, Chief Pennington, and you have done so. And by working hard in the neighborhoods, the police department has earned their respect. And that's important.

My administration must offer more than just praise, however. We must promote policy that provides active support for police officers around the country. We've begun already with Project Safe Neighborhoods. I don't know whether you know this or not, but the NOBLE officers helped write the program, helped come up with the strategy that says that we need to develop local partnerships all across America to enforce gun laws on the books. We need to spend more resources and energy in a coordinated way that says to people, if you carry—illegally carry a gun, there is a consequence; that if you think you can act out your frustrations by illegally carrying weapons and/or illegally using them, there's only one consequence: That's arrest and jail.

And so we've put $550 million aside for 2 years, that says, let's have a focused, concerted effort. Let's focus our time and energy and efforts on ferreting out those who hold others hostage in our society, and stand side by side with the police officers all across America—arrest and prosecute and incarcerate those who illegally carry and use guns. It's a mission we must do to make our neighborhoods more safe. And I want to thank NOBLE for helping write and devise the strategy that in my heart of hearts I know is going to work.

But we must have goals beyond just punishment. We must, at the deepest level, embrace our youth instead of fearing them. It starts with making sure we've got good education systems all around America. An educated child is one much less likely to commit a crime.

And we're making pretty good progress here in Washington. We've got a bill passed out of the House and a bill passed out of the Senate, and one of these days, they may get together and put one on my desk—and the sooner, rather than later. The sooner, rather than later, because it's time to get some legislation out so that the local school boards and local districts can start the plan.

And let me tell you the crux of the bill. I think you'll appreciate this. It challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations. It challenges the notion that there are certain children in our society who can't possibly learn, and therefore, let's just move them through. Let's just say, "If you're 10, you're supposed to be in the fourth grade, and if you're 13, we'll put you here, regardless of what you may or may not know." Those days have got to end.

What we've got to start asking of each child is, "What do you know? And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we will make sure you do, early, before it's too late." See, I believe every child can learn. And I believe our society must focus on accountability to make sure they do. And so we've got a good piece of legislation that starts with setting high standards, challenging that soft bigotry. It says, local people ought to be running the schools around America. One size does not fit all. But it also says that if you receive help, you must show us whether or not you're teaching our children to read and write and add and subtract. And if they were—and if they are, there will be thousands of hallelujahs. But if not, you must change what you're doing because no child in America should be left behind.

Besides learning to read and write and add and subtract, it's so essential that our children learn values that defeat hostility and aggression, the values that will bring dignity and direction to their lives. We want to help them make decisions based upon character and conscience and integrity, not the fear of punishment.

We must prevent crime by reclaiming lives of those who may have lost hope. And I believe we can do so in America. And I believe we've got a great chance to start here in Washington, DC. It starts with making sure that responsible adults are involved in the

lives of our children. These children need consistent, committed love that breaks down walls of distrust. They need a sense of belonging and respect from someone other than the local gang leader. These things are most often done by parents, no question about it. But sometimes, we must encourage mentors and ministers and faith healers to become actively involved in the lives of these young children.

There are so many stories, all around America. Frankly, these stories exist not because of government but because somebody is talking to a higher authority; somebody has heard the call to love a neighbor like he or she would like to be loved themselves.

I think, for example, of the program in Chicago called From Gangs to Grace. It works out of the New Life Covenant Church, which sits right in the middle of gang territory. The program was formed 3 years ago by former gang members whose lives were torn upside down because of drugs. One of them, a fellow, was named Pedro Munez. He spoke eloquently about the program. He says, "My vocabulary has changed, and I don't curse anymore. I treat my family with respect. I just treat everybody with respect now."

A young man who has learned the value of respect is going to be a better man. He's going to honor his father and mother. He's going to treat young women as he should treat them. He's going to live up to his responsibilities. He'll serve to be a good example. There's no limit to what comes when you change one heart, one young man learning to learn because of the virtue of respect.

Most effective police programs in America have learned the value of working with charities and churches and synagogues and mosques on youth development and crime prevention. Most of you have learned that strong communities and strong values make your work a lot easier. Most of you have been involved in the so-called faith-based initiative way before I proposed it to the United States Congress, and I understand that. As a matter of fact, much of the work that you have done that proceeded me here has become the basis for meaningful legislation.

It's legislation that says to the United States Congress, let us fund the faith-based organizations all across America. Let's give them a chance to compete for Federal dollars. Let's not lock them out just because they have the word "faith" in front of their program. After all, faith-based initiatives and programs can change people's hearts. And when they change people's hearts, they change people's lives. And a changed life is much more likely to be a person—peaceful, respectful person.

We should not fear faith in our society. We should not fear welcoming community groups that not necessarily have been sanctioned by Government, that exists as—apart from Government. We should welcome them. These are the soldiers in the armies of compassion. These are the people whose calling exists because of the church or the synagogue or the mosque, but people who are intent upon helping young people make the right choices in life.

You know, it's amazing, as I travel around the country I hear from people at the grassroots level who have gotten the message. Sometimes it seems like, to me, the word hadn't quite gotten up to Washington, DC, and it's time for Congress to pass legislation to rally the faith-based programs, so they can stand side by side with those folks in the community who are trying to bring peace and law and order, the people who wear the uniform.

A bill came out of the House of Representatives the other day, and I had a good meeting with Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum, talking about making sure that the faith-based initiative continues its momentum. It's the right thing to do for America. It is the next step beyond welfare. It is a way to recognize there are still people who are hopeless, people who need help. And it's making sure the American Dream extends its reach in all neighborhoods.

We must call upon all folks, all people who are willing to help change lives in a positive way. Listen, this is a great country, and the reason it's a great country is because it's full of so many decent and honorable and loving citizens. It's a great country because there's love in a lot of people's hearts. It's a great country, and we must rally the greatness of the country, and that's our people. And it's a great country, as well, because there are

thousands of people who are willing to serve a concept greater than themselves in life. And there's no greater concept in life than to try to bring peace to neighborhoods. There's no greater concept than to take risk, like the men and women who wear the uniform do on a daily basis.

And so I'm here to thank you for your work. I'm here to tell you, this is a Government that stands by your side, a Government that understands that an educated child is going to make your job a lot easier, but a Government that also understands that as we rally the community- and faith-based programs—interface with people—it's going to make America a much more compassionate and decent and hopeful land.

Again, I'm so honored that you invited me here. Thank you for hearing me out, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the Marriott Ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ida L. Gillis, national president, Maurice Foster, executive director, Leonard G. Cooke, national vice president, and Hubert T. Bell, Jr., special assistant to the president, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; and Charles H. Ramsey, chief of police, Washington, DC.

Videotape Remarks to the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree

July 30, 2001

Hello, Boy Scouts, and thanks for this opportunity to send a word of greeting to your National Jamboree. Let me also thank General Colby Broadwater and the fine men and women of Fort A.P. Hill for hosting this event.

I'm so sorry the weather didn't allow me to join you in person, but I wanted to say a few words to the Scouts and Scoutmasters who have come to this jamboree from all across the country.

You know, next month I'll be going to my ranch in Crawford, where I'll work and take a little time off. I think it is so important for a President to spend some time away from Washington in the heartland of America. And whenever I go home to the heartland, I am reminded of the values that build strong families, strong communities, and strong character, the values that make our people unique.

It is those values that are such an important part of Boy Scouts. And I want to thank the adults here who have shown good values, who have taken the responsibility upon yourself to build the wisdom and character of our young people. And the Scoutmasters of America accept this responsibility every day. I want to thank all the Scoutmasters who set a good example and help Scouts learn the values that give direction to their lives.

When you join a Scout troop and put on the Boy Scout uniform, you, too, make a statement. Like every uniform, yours is a symbol of commitment. It is a sign to all that you believe in high standards and that you are trying to live up to them every single day. As you do that, you bring credit to the Scout uniform and credit to your country. And I want you to know your country is proud of you.

Many of you have been to Washington this past week, maybe for the first time. You know, it's interesting, one of my predecessors, President Gerald Ford, saw Washington for the first time a few years after he became an Eagle Scout. Back then, in the thirties, Scouts helped collect food and clothing for people suffering from the Great Depression.

In our own time, you all have taken the lead in the fight against drug abuse. In Texas, Boy Scouts were among the first to take up a reading challenge that I set. All across America, Boy Scouts are doing good turns daily. And every time you do a good turn, this becomes a better country. There are needs in every community, and those needs can be met one heart, one soul at a time.

You can make a difference for America by the life you lead and the lives you serve. Times and challenges change, yet the values of Scouting will never change. Scouts of any era would recognize every word that you live by today, because those words have always defined Scouting. The goodness of a person and of the society he or she lives in often comes down to very simple things and words found in the Scout law. Every society depends on trust and loyalty, on courtesy and kindness, on bravery and reverence. These

are the values of Scouting and these are the values of America.

What you have learned in Scouting will see you through life. In good times and difficult ones, the Scout motto will always help you: ''Be prepared.'' And whatever you do, the Scout oath will always guide you: On your honor, do your best.

I thank every Scout and Scoutmaster for being a part of this great organization and for being a part of this successful jamboree. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the Map Room for later transmission to the jamboree in Bowling Green, VA. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Receiving the Report of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform

July 31, 2001

Thank you, all. Please be seated. After the last election, two former Presidents and a panel of distinguished Americans—from both political parties, I might add—gathered to consider ways to improve America's election system. And they have produced an impressive report. Today I accept their report and recommend the key principles drawn from the report as guidelines for meaningful reform.

I want to welcome President Jimmy Carter back to the Rose Garden and to the Oval Office. President Gerald Ford could not be with us today, but he is well represented by House Minority Leader Bob Michel. Thank you for being here, Mr. Leader.

I want to thank Phil Zelikow for being the executive director of the Commission. I want to thank all the Commission members who are here, and I appreciate the Attorney General for being here, as well. Thanks for coming, John.

Our American democracy is really an inspiration to the world. Yet, the work of improving it is never finished. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford—two men who took part in another close election, I might add, and who went on to have a close friendship—have come together to produce recommendations for modernizing the electoral system.

I want to thank the University of Virginia's Miller Center and the Century Foundation, as well. Mr. Carter and Mr. Ford recruited a Commission of 20 distinguished Americans from both parties and every region of the country. I respect the members so much that I appointed one of them to become the Ambassador to Japan, Howard Baker.

The others continued to take testimony. They held hearings in four States, listened to dozens of witnesses, and consulted widely with State and local officials. They identified some important concerns. For example, the overeagerness of the media to report the outcome of the elections. [*Laughter*]

Some voting methods have much higher error rates than others. And citizens with disabilities or limited proficiency in English can encounter obstacles to the exercise of their democratic rights.

The Commissioners brought a broad diversity of personal experience to bear. Seven Commissioners, in addition to President Ford and President Carter, have been elected to office, themselves, and have seen Americans' voting procedures up close and personal. Other members have had experience enforcing our Nation's civil rights and voting rights laws. Others are experts in constitutional law and the mechanics of government. This Commission's idealism is reinforced by deep practical experience.

The Commissioners offer many recommendations to strengthen our electoral system. Those recommendations are grounded in four fundamental principles, which I heartily endorse and recommend to the Congress.

First, our Nation must continue to respect the primary role of State, county, and local governments in elections. In 2000 more than 100 million Americans cast votes in more than 190,000 polling places under the supervision of 1.4 million pollworkers. Our Nation is vast and diverse, and our elections should not be run out of Washington, DC.

Second, the Federal Government can have a limited but responsible role in assisting States and localities to solve their problems

with election administration so that our voting technology and practices respect the value of every eligible vote.

Third, we must actively and vigorously enforce the laws that protect the voting rights of ethnic and racial minorities, of citizens who do not speak English fluently, and of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Let me say, by the way, how pleased I am that the Commission occasionally cited the great State of Texas for its good work.

Fourth and finally, we must act to uphold the voting rights of members of the armed services and of Americans living abroad. We must safeguard absentee ballots against abuse, and we must ensure that those Americans who risked their lives to defend American democracy are never prevented from participating in American democracy.

These are some of the core principles underlying the Commission's report, and they are principles that should guide us all. I commend the Commissioners for their statesmen-like work. They have risen above partisan emotions, put forth practical suggestions for improving democracy, and the United States Congress should listen to them and follow their lead.

It is now my honor to call back to the podium a man who has been here quite often in the past, the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Representative Robert H. Michel.

Remarks on Signing an Executive Order on Energy Efficiency and an Exchange With Reporters

July 31, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. Mr. Secretary, Larry Lindsey, thank you for being here today. I'm signing an Executive order fulfilling a promise that I made that our Federal agencies must lead the way for energy conservation.

One of the ways that our Nation wastes energy is through what they call vampire devices. These will be a battery charger, cell phone chargers, computer systems that we—we really think we're not using energy when plugged in but, in fact, are. And so we've set what we call a 1-watt standard throughout the Federal Government, that we expect our agencies to be ridding themselves of the vampires and using energy conservation devices.

The Secretary of Energy has agreed to lead this project, and I'm so thankful for it. The Federal Government can be good stewards of our resources, and we fully intend to be.

There's an energy bill working its way through Congress which will encourage new technologies that will help save energy, that will call for research and development to make sure that we're wise about how we use the scarce resources we have in America. But it's also a bill that recognizes that, while on the one hand we must conserve, we also must find additional sources of energy, such as natural gas. And that's why I think it is very important for Congress to pass a balanced energy plan, one that includes the capacity to drill for, explore for, and find natural gas throughout our entire country, including Alaska. And I'm confident we can do so in an environmentally friendly way.

I urge the Members of the House of Representatives to support the energy bill that will include allowing for there to be a small amount of exploration in ANWR, that will yield a lot of energy on behalf of the people of America.

And so it's now my honor to sign this Executive order and look forward to working with the Secretary, to show the Nation—to show the Nation how best to use technologies to conserve energy.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, the President signed the Executive order.*]

I'd be glad to answer a few questions. Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], you look like you have something on your mind. [*Laughter*]

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, do you have a deal on a Patients' Bill of Rights bill now with Congressman Norwood? Can you tell us what the outlines of that might be?

The President. Well, Congressman Norwood came into my office and he said, ''Mr.

President, would you like to talk about the possibility of reaching an agreement on a Patients' Bill of Rights?'' I said, ''You bet.'' After all, in a speech I gave early in my administration, I not only outlined the principles of a bill that would be unacceptable, I more importantly said I would like to see a piece of legislation that protects consumers and doesn't reward lawyers.

So he brought some ideas right here in the Oval Office. He felt like he needed to go back and discuss them with some of the bill sponsors, Senators, and other Members of the House of Representatives. I'm hopeful that he will shake the hand of accommodation that I put out for him, and I believe there's room for compromise, and I'm more than willing to try to do so with him.

We don't have a specific deal yet, David, to answer your question, but we're making good progress.

Q. What are you offering that you think will be acceptable?

The President. I'm offering to sign a bill and not veto it. And that's pretty powerful incentive for someone to try to come up with an agreement. I will not sign a bill that I think will end up tossing people out of health insurance. And if we have too much litigation, if we encourage lawsuits, costly lawsuits, it could drive up the health care for people; it will drive people off the health care rolls; and it will make it very difficult for small-business people to afford health care; and I'm deeply concerned about that.

National Commission on Federal Election Reform Report

Q. Mr. President, today you received the election reforms report from President Carter and President Ford. If those reforms had been in place already, for the last election, do you think you'd be sitting in this room today?

The President. It would have been a landslide. [*Laughter*] Who knows? But I do appreciate the report. I most appreciate that President Carter, himself, delivered the report to me. Former Congressman Michel, on behalf of President Ford, was here. I walked right out of the Oval Office, having gotten briefed, and stood in front of the American people, and said, ''This is a very good report.''

And there is a lot of positive things in it, including making sure that America's networks don't prejudge elections by calling them too early. And there are a lot of other reforms in there that make sense. I urge Congress to take a good, close look at them.

I think it's very important to note that one of the principles involved in the Carter-Ford report was that the elections really are local; that the Federal Government should enable and help local jurisdictions develop practices that make sure every vote matters, practices that make sure that our voting rolls and registers are up to date—you know, that people aren't registered three or four times across a State, that people who are eligible to vote are those who are the ones who should be voting.

But I was impressed by the report. I thought it had a lot of very serious recommendations. And I hope Congress takes it seriously.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Mr. President, House Republican leaders say that they don't have enough votes for fast track, so they're going to have to delay action until September. Why is it proving so hard to get fast track?

The President. Some people in America don't believe in free trade. Some folks believe that a protectionist policy would be best for our country's economy and the workers. I strongly disagree.

I think trade offers promise for people who want to find work. Trade is important to enhance the growth of small businesses. Trade is important in our own hemisphere. Trade has been important to make sure we've got good relations with Mexico. After all, we want our neighbors to do well; it's a neighborly way to think. And if Mexico and Canada do well, America will do well, as well. So trade is important. Trade is an important—it's also an important part of making sure the world is more free.

But there are some who resist trade because they don't see its benefits. And my job, and the job of those of us who strongly see the benefits and know the benefits of free trade will continue to work hard until we get

a piece of legislation that enables the President of the United States to make sure that America is involved in the world, that we don't miss out on opportunities for the working people of America to find jobs, that we don't miss out on the opportunities for our farmers and ranchers to find markets to feed people. We're the best in the world at growing crops.

And we need to make sure that our farmers and ranchers have the capacity to sell their product in overseas markets. It's to the benefit of our economy. It's a benefit to the people who take risk in America. I believe we'll get a trade promotion authority bill out. Whether or not we get it done before August is, obviously, you know, up in the air. But I believe when it's all said and done, that Congress will realize the benefits of free trade for the people of America.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. What is your view of the kind of targeted attack the Israelis carried out on Hamas today? And do you plan to step up your involvement in the Middle East?

The President. I spoke to King Abdullah of Jordan this morning. I was very much involved, continue to remain actively involved in the process. And step one, in order to get to Mitchell, is to break the cycle of violence.

As I told the King, His Majesty, all of us—all of us—have got to work together to convince both parties to stop the cycle. And, obviously, we've got a lot of work to do. But it is important to get to Mitchell. But the first step in getting into Mitchell is for there to be significantly reduced violence, and that's not the case right now. And so all the world must continue to say to both sides, break the cycle of violence, and then we can get into the Mitchell process.

Obviously, I'm—I wish the levels of violence were lower than they are today. A couple of weeks ago it looked like we had made progress, and then the violence spiked. That means the United States will continue to stay actively involved and urging there to be calm and urging both parties to resist the temptation to resort to violence.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. The President also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Executive Order 13221—Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices

July 31, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95–619, 92 Stat. 3206, 42 U.S.C. 8252 *et seq.*), as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) (Public Law 102–486, 106 Stat. 2776), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to further encourage energy conservation by the Federal Government, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices.* Each agency, when it purchases commercially available, off-the-shelf products that use external standby power devices, or that contain an internal standby power function, shall purchase products that use no more than one watt in their standby power consuming mode. If such products are not available, agencies shall purchase products with the lowest standby power wattage while in their standby power consuming mode. Agencies shall adhere to these requirements, when life-cycle cost-effective and practicable and where the relevant product's utility and performance are not compromised as a result. By December 31, 2001, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration, shall compile a preliminary list of products to be subject to these requirements. The Department of Energy shall finalize the list and may remove products deemed inappropriate for listing.

Sec. 2. *Independent Agencies.* Independent agencies are encouraged to comply with the provisions of this order.

Sec. 3. *Definition.* ''Agency'' means an executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105.

For the purpose of this order, military departments, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102, are covered by the Department of Defense.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 31, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., August 1, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on August 2.

Statement on House of Representatives Action To Prohibit Human Cloning

July 31, 2001

The moral issues posed by human cloning are profound and have implications for today and for future generations. Today's overwhelming and bipartisan House action to prohibit human cloning is a strong ethical statement, which I commend. We must advance the promise and cause of science but must do so in a way that honors and respects life.

Notice—Continuation of Iraqi Emergency

July 31, 2001

On August 2, 1990, by Executive Order 12722, President Bush declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iraq. By Executive Orders 12722 of August 2, 1990, and 12724 of August 9, 1990, the President imposed trade sanctions on Iraq and blocked Iraqi government assets. Because the Government of Iraq has continued its activities hostile to United States interests in the Middle East, the national emergency declared on August 2, 1990, and the measures adopted on August 2 and August 9, 1990, to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond August 2, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Iraq.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 31, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., July 31, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on August 1.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

July 31, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iraqi emergency is to continue in effect beyond August 2, 2001, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis between the United States and Iraq that led to the declaration on August 2, 1990, of a national emergency has not been resolved. The Government of Iraq continues to engage in activities inimical to stability in the Middle East and hostile to United States interests in the region. Such Iraqi actions pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on the Government of Iraq.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 31, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

July 31, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 31, 2001.

Remarks to the National Urban League Conference

August 1, 2001

Thank you all very much. Well, Hugh, thank you very much. I'm honored to be introduced by such a good man, and an important leader for our country.

I want to thank the leadership of the National Urban League for inviting me. For those of you who don't live here, I welcome you to the Nation's Capital. You've come here to hold America to its founding promises of justice and opportunity. There are many items on that agenda, from economic empowerment, election reform to criminal justice reform. Right before we came in the hall I had the opportunity to visit with this organization's fine leadership, and my pledge to them and my pledge to you is, I'll work together with you to do what's right for America.

Here in Washington we are reaching a moment of decision on one issue, an issue that is urgent in every urban neighborhood, the issue of education. So this morning, among the Nation's most influential urban leaders, I want to speak about the essential choices facing our Congress and our country when it comes to the reform of our public schools.

Again, I thank my friend Hugh Price for the invitation. I thank him for his diligence. I thank him for his leadership. I want to thank Ken Lewis, as well. I appreciate so very much Leland Brendsel. I want to thank Ken Blackwell, the secretary of state of Ohio, and Joe Rogers, the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, who are here. I appreciate so very much the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, serving our Nation.

You know, when it came to picking the Secretary of Education, I didn't—wasn't interested in picking a theorist or a philosopher; I was interested in picking a doer. And this man has successfully run the Houston Independent School District. He raised the standards, challenged the status quo when there's failure. That's what he and I are both going to do now that we're in Washington, DC.

I also appreciate so very much Larry Thompson, the Deputy Attorney General, for joining us, as well. Thank you, Larry. Where are you, Larry? Somewhere out there.

The men and women of the Urban League know how important our schools are, how much good they can do in the life of a child, and how much is lost when they fail. You've seen both. The mission of the National Urban League is to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

And successful schools have always been central to that mission. An equal society begins with in equally excellent schools. But we know our schools today are not equal. The failure of many urban schools is a great and continuing scandal. Rarely in American history have we faced a problem so serious and destructive on which change has come so slowly.

The most basic educational skill is reading. The most basic obligation of any school is to teach reading. Yet, earlier this year, we found that almost two-thirds of African-American children in the fourth grade cannot read at basic grade level. For white children, that figure is 27 percent. The gap is wide and troubling, and it's not getting any better. That gap leads to personal tragedy and social injustice. In America literacy is liberation, and we must set all our children free.

The ability to read is what turns a child into a student. First we learn to read, and then we read to learn. When this skill is not taught, a child has not failed the system; the

system has failed the child. And that child is often put on a path of frustration and broken confidence.

For too long, many schools have been content to blame their failure on parents, on poverty, on circumstances beyond their control. Year after year, children without schools are passed along in schools without standards. Some see this social promotion as an act of compassion. It is, in fact, a form of discrimination, the soft bigotry of low expectations. That bigotry has young casualties, and that bigotry must end.

Listen to the experience of one young girl from New York. She said, ''In the fifth grade I missed maybe 90 days of school, and they passed me with no problem. In the sixth grade I missed maybe 100 days, and they passed me with no problem. I don't even remember taking the exam,'' she said. ''They just kept passing me along. I ended up dropping out in the seventh grade. I basically felt that no one cared.''

That young woman learned one lesson in school: No one cared. At least no one who could help. Millions of children carry that same lesson throughout their lives, and we owe them better. We owe all our children the pride and promise of learning. We must return the spirit of ambition and achievement to all our public schools.

The Urban League is reaching toward that goal by highlighting student achievement, by focusing on early literacy, by encouraging every child to read and rise. And our Government must have those same priorities.

Education is a local responsibility; yet, improving our public schools is a national goal. And all of us must do our part.

For nearly 40 years, our Federal Government has tried to improve education with money alone. We invested $158 billion in title I programs, with great intentions and no measurable result. We've been pumping gas into a flooded engine. Just as faith without works is dead, money without reform is fruitless.

Yet, today, after decades of frustration, we're on the verge of dramatic reform. Schools must have the resources they need, and I support more spending. Local folks must be in charge of local schools, because they're closest to the children and their challenges. But most of all, we need true accountability, the center piece of reform. Consequences for school officials must be determined by proven results for children. Those in authority must show responsibility. The purpose of education, after all, is not jobs for adults; it's learning for students.

Accountability is an exercise in hope. When we raise academic standards, children raise their academic sights. When children are regularly tested, teachers know where and how to improve. When scores are known to parents, parents are empowered to push for change. When accountability for our schools is real, the results for our children are real.

I know this because I've seen it. In Texas, when we first introduced accountability measures, only 56 percent of African-Americans fourth graders could pass our State reading test. Today, 83 percent of those students pass the tests. African-American eighth graders in Texas are writing better than their peers in any other State.

Our Texas State tests require and measure progress amongst every minority group. And the great news is, we've gotten progress amongst every group in Texas. We saw, supposedly, hopeless schools make major progress. We saw students who had been written off find the self-esteem of real accomplishment.

We saw how determined reform can confound the cynics and the skeptics. Accountability can work in all of America. And our Federal Government must take the side of meaningful reform. Our Government must speak for disadvantaged children who are often overlooked and underestimated.

I'm an activist for high standards. I'm an activist for accountability. My administration has set a great goal. We will lift the load of low expectations so that all children will rise. The United States Congress now shares this goal. Our plan passed both the House and the Senate with big bipartisan majorities. Our national debate has come a long way. But in the short distance we have left, there are some vital decisions to be made.

Our landmark education reform is now in what they call a conference committee. We're coming down to the wire. We've got

to finish strong and make sure the accountability measures are right.

So today I'm urging the Congress to act quickly and to act wisely on three major issues. First, we must begin where the need is greatest and focus on the lowest performing schools. The bar for adequate school performance must be rigorous, achievable, targeted to all groups, and raised gradually.

No one should ask that all our goals be met overnight. These goals must be met over time. If, after 3 years, nothing changes for students in a failing school, their parents must be given other options, like a transfer to a better public school or private tutoring.

Now, it's well known I would have preferred those options to include funds to attend a private school. Many in Congress, unfortunately, disagreed. Yet, we all agree that schools which persistently fail must be radically restructured.

Some of my allies in reform want to require dramatically improved performance—immediately, everywhere. I appreciate aiming high, but setting impossible expectations means setting no expectations. The undoable never gets done. If we identify all schools as failures, we won't be able to focus on the greatest needs. If goals are unrealistic, teachers will become discouraged instead of challenged, harassed instead of inspired. By confronting the worst problems, we direct our energies and send a message of reform heard throughout the entire system.

Second, States must choose their own tests. But within a State, those tests must be comparable from place to place and year to year. Right now, a State and its districts can use different tests, and that's okay by me. But there has to be a way to compare the results of those tests to one another. If State accountability systems count easy tests from some districts and hard tests from others without a method to compare them, parents won't really know who's making progress and who's falling behind. Unless there's a fair and consistent measurement among schools, there can be no accountability.

Thirdly, we must have independent evidence that State tests are rigorous and State tests are real. Fortunately, we already have a proven way to get the independent evidence we need, the National Assessment of Educational Progress or the NAEP. NAEP is not new. Over 40 States now participate. It's not a national test, and we certainly don't need one. But we do need a national report card, and NAEP serves that purpose. We need an objective check on State accountability systems, so we need the NAEP for every State.

You know, not long ago, accountability was controversial. Today, the concept is widely shared. But to make a difference in the lives of children, it must be more than a concept. Accountability must be tough, yet realistic and workable. The Congress has some work to do before we reach that goal, and the time is running short.

We're now in August. In 35 days, school starts in New York City; 34 days, schools open in Oakland, California. In Kansas City, Missouri, children report for class in 26 days. Principals and teachers need to make their plans for changes that will come immediately and for changes that will come next year.

We're asking a lot of our schools and our teachers and our students. They have a big job ahead of them, and so do we, here in Washington. And now is the time, Congress, to get the job done.

Two years ago, when I spoke to the Urban League Conference in Houston, my reforms for America's schools were just a set of proposals. And now, these proposals are within weeks of becoming reality. I'm thanking the Urban League for your support, and I ask you to continue to work with Congress to make sure they become the law of the land. I ask you to join me in building a system of education worthy of all America's children, so that every child has a chance in life, and not one single child, in the greatest land on the face of this Earth, is left behind.

Thank you all for having me, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Hugh B. Price, president and chief executive officer, Kenneth D. Lewis, vice chairman of the board of trustees, and Leland C. Brendsel, trustee, National Urban League. The President also referred to title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No.

103–382), which amended title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Remarks on the Patients' Bill of Rights

August 1, 2001

The President. Today I'm very pleased to announce that Congressman Norwood and I have reached an agreement on how to get a Patients' Bill of Rights out of the House of Representatives.

Charlie started on this issue 6 years ago. He's worked diligently to protect Americans, patients, from wrongdoings. I appreciate so very much his spirit, because I share the same concerns. And now after long hard labors, we've reached an agreement on how to amend his bill, that will meet the principles that I outlined.

When I first came to Washington, I gave—right after I came to Washington, I gave a speech that talked about the principles necessary for a Patients' Bill of Rights. In that speech, I wanted a bill—a bill that was good for patients, a bill that allowed for people to be able to air their grievances, a bill that did not encourage frivolous lawsuits.

Charlie also shares the deep concern—I'll let him express his own concerns—but there's no question that he, himself, wanted to get a bill. He was practicing the art of what is possible. It's a spirit we need more of in Washington: people who come to this city with the intent of doing what's right, the intent of having accomplishment, the intent of not playing—you know, bickering over politics and getting intransigence because you don't get everything you want.

And so after a lot of labor and a lot of hard work and a lot of discussion, we shook hands in the Oval Office, about 10 minutes ago. And Charlie is going to head up to the Hill. I've spoken to the Speaker. And he's going to take—we're going to work on the language of the agreed upon amendment. And it'll give the Members something positive to vote for.

I want to thank Charlie Norwood for his hard work, for his—the southern gentlemen that he is—for his willingness to work with the White House. It's a good signal for a lot of folks in Capitol Hill.

Now, Mr. Norwood.

[*At this point, Representative Charlie Norwood briefly discussed the agreement, saying it would protect patients by ensuring that people could choose their own doctor, that a patient who was harmed would have recourse in some type of court setting, and that there would be good, independent, external review.*]

The President. Get to work up there on the Hill, Charlie. Thank you very much. I appreciate—[*inaudible*]

Thank you, all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House.

Statement on Northern Ireland

August 1, 2001

This morning I telephoned Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern to state my strong support for the package of proposals their governments released today to the political party leaders in Northern Ireland.

I believe the package is fair and that it charts the way forward in areas central to the Good Friday agreement. The package allows the people of Northern Ireland to sustain devolved government and establish a police service with broad public support. It provides further steps for normalizing the security presence in Northern Ireland and assuring the stability and integrity of the Good Friday agreement's political institutions. The proposals also recognize that a commitment to democratic governance and normalized security requires all parties to renounce violence and deal decisively with paramilitary weapons. Consequently, substantial progress on decommissioning is an essential part of today's package.

In my conversation this morning, I commended the Prime Ministers for their continuing leadership on behalf of peace. I reiterated to them that the United States stands ready to help in any way that the governments and the parties find useful. I now urge all parties in Northern Ireland to reflect

carefully on today's proposals and to do everything in their power to make permanent the progress of the past 3 years by taking the next steps to implement the Good Friday agreement.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders on Education Reform Legislation

August 2, 2001

Listen, thank you all for coming. It's my honor to meet with the Senate conferees and the chairman of the Education Committee in the House and, of course, the Secretary of Education to discuss the Conference Committee on Education and the education reform package and how best to—what I can do to help move the bill and to work with the Members to get a—to continue the spirit of reform that was a part of the Senate bill and the House bill.

Today one of the things that I hope the Nation notices is that the NAEP is out, the national assessment statistics. And one of the things—one of the powerful statistics is that States that use strong accountability systems, States that measure, States that say every child could matter are the States that perform best when it comes to teaching children the basic skills, in this case, math. It so happened to be that one of those States was Texas; the other was North Carolina.

But it is a strong message to the advocates for reform who sit here in the Oval Office, strong message for the Members who doubt whether or not accountability is important, that accountability is crucial for reform. And after all, we're all united in making sure every child can learn in America and no child, not one child is left behind.

So I want to thank the Members for coming. I'm hopeful that we can get a bill on my desk as soon as possible. I know that's the intent of the two chairmen. And when I do—when it is, and when I sign it, it will be really good for the public education of the country.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to NAEP, the National Assessment of Education Progress. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Patients' Bill of Rights

August 2, 2001

Today's action brings us an important step closer to ensuring that patients get the care they need and that HMOs are held accountable.

I appreciate the bold leadership and hard work of Speaker Hastert, Congressman Norwood, Congressman Fletcher, and others for their efforts to make patient protections a reality for all Americans after years of gridlock.

As this bill heads to the conference committee, I remain committed to extending the hand of cooperation to all who share a commitment to achieving real results for better health care for every American.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting on the Administration's Agenda

August 3, 2001

Good afternoon. The Vice President and I are pleased to welcome the Cabinet to the Rose Garden. Together with Congress, we are proving that a new tone, a clear agenda, and active leadership can bring significant progress to the Nation's Capital. We are ending deadlock and drift and making our system work on behalf of the American people.

Six months ago I chose a distinguished Cabinet, took a solemn oath, and promised to fight for the things close to my heart. My administration pledged to bring stability and high standards to Washington and to lead for the sake of all Americans.

Six months later I'm proud of my Cabinet and the White House staff, who have worked with such energy and have brought integrity to their jobs. I'm grateful for the good will shown by Congress, and I am pleased with the progress we have made together, progress that touches every American family.

We acted quickly to pass the first major tax cut in a generation to help families in an economic slowdown and to help rebuild the momentum of our economy.

Both Houses of Congress have passed major education reform legislation, which will bring a new passion for excellence to America's public schools. We have broken 6 years of gridlock in the task of protecting patients from arbitrary medical decisions made by bureaucrats. The House has passed a bill to promote the work of mentoring groups, homeless shelters, and drug treatment facilities. And I have had positive discussions with leaders in the United States Senate on this matter.

The House has also passed an energy plan that addresses current needs. We have put our foreign policy on sound footing. We are strengthening our relationships with our allies and moving to build a world that trades more freely.

We have taken the first steps toward revitalizing and transforming our military so it can meet the threats and challenges of the future. Today the Senate joined with the House to provide our farmers with $5.5 billion of emergency help. We passed a budget resolution that, for the first time in recent memory, has been respected, not ignored. And we are on our way to the second largest surplus in history, as well as paying down a significant amount of U.S. debt.

On this path, we are headed for a year of strong, meaningful legislative achievements. And I want to express my thanks for every legislator who made tough decisions, every legislator who chose long-term progress over short-term political gain.

There's much more to do. In September the second stage of our work begins, and I will be guided by a few goals. First, we must finish the work we have begun. On the topics of education and the disadvantaged, our Nation has needs that will not wait. Americans, come September, will be watching. They want us to be principled, not partisan. They want us to look for agreement instead of looking for fights and arguments. Americans know obstructionism when they see it, and when necessary, I will point it out.

Second, the Congress must live within the generous limits of our budget. Irresponsible spending is a threat to our economy and a threat to the essential functions of our Government. I will protect Medicare, Social Security, and our Armed Forces. And I will protect the American taxpayers. The Congress, through its budget resolution, has given its word on spending. So far, Congress has kept its word, and it must continue to do so.

Third, within a limited budget we must have an active, compassionate Government. Beginning in September, I'll be proposing creative ways to tackle some of the toughest problems in our society. We must take the side of parents trying to raise responsible, motivated, and moral children. We must help disadvantaged Americans find opportunity and ownership and the tools to succeed in our free economy. We must show that our welcoming society values the ideals and contributions of immigrants. We must challenge Americans to be citizens, not spectators, in the renewal of their neighborhoods and their cities.

In a few days, I'm headed home to the heartland to listen to the American people and to talk about the values that unite and sustain our country. Members of Congress are going home, as well. When we all come back in September, so many accomplishments are within our reach, and I look forward to the work ahead.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:21 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks in a Ceremony Honoring Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong

August 3, 2001

The President. Please be seated. It's my privilege to welcome you all to the White House and to welcome my friend, a true champ, a great American, Lance Armstrong. America's incredibly proud of Lance, and I know two people who are really proud of him as well, that's Kristin, his wife, and young Luke. Thank you all for coming, as well.

We're also honored to have Chris Fowler of ESPN here. I'm so—thank you for coming, Chris. I was telling Chris a little earlier, it's one of the programs I can watch on TV

that doesn't say anything about me at all. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress and the Senate who are here. I see a lot from the Texas delegation here that are sure proud of you.

You all know the Tour de France is perhaps the most physically demanding event in sports. It lasts 3 weeks, stretches over 2,100 miles, and is often run in both sweltering heat and real cold weather. In the end, the race is won or lost in the mountains during 5 days of climbs that are incredibly steep and hazardous. That's when the heart is tested, and that's when Lance Armstrong excels. In the hardest part of the race, Lance reveals an unbending will, uncommon determination, and unquestioned courage. He has shown that courage in sport. He has also shown that courage in life.

Just a few years ago, Lance was diagnosed with cancer. He was weakened by chemotherapy treatments and told he had a 50–50 chance of living. He has done more than survive: He has triumphed.

One observer commented that when you survive cancer, the French Alps start to look like speed bumps. [*Laughter*]

Lance's story from cancer diagnosis to a third straight victory in the Tour de France is one of the great human stories. It is a story of character, and it's a story of class.

Germany's Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour de France champion, is Lance Armstrong's chief competitor. The two of them were leading during a critical stage of this year's Tour de France when Ullrich lost control of his bicycle, missed a turn, and ended up in a ditch. When Lance saw what happened, he slowed down in order to allow his chief competitor to recover. It was, as Lance said, the right thing to do. We need more citizens who know to do the right thing. Lance Armstrong—the guy's something else, isn't he?

Lance Armstrong is a vivid reminder that the great achievements of life are often won or lost in the mountains, when the climb is the steepest, when the heart is tested. There are many children in this audience who are showing similar determination in their fight with cancer and other serious illnesses. You face tough challenges, and you embrace life day by day. You're showing courage on your own journey, and all of us are inspired by your example, as well.

Ladies and gentleman, it is my honor to present to you a son of Texas, a great American champion, and an extraordinary human being: Lance Armstrong.

[*At this point, Mr. Armstrong made brief remarks and presented the President with a bicycle and yellow Tour de France jersey.*]

The President. Thank you all for coming to the White House. May God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Luke David Armstrong, son of Lance Armstrong. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Armstrong.

Statement on Senate Action on the "Emergency Agricultural Assistance Act of 2001"

August 3, 2001

The Senate today took wise and prompt action to help America's farmers. This vote is a victory for our Nation's farmers at a time when they need it the most. I praise the Senate for agreeing to the House bill and look forward to signing this helpful measure into law.

Statement on Bringing War Criminals to Justice

August 3, 2001

I welcome today's transfer to the U.N. International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of three military officers accused of war crimes by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This decision, like similar decisions by the Governments in Croatia and Yugoslavia, shows that the democratic governments of the region are taking seriously their international obligations and the need to make a break from the violence and atrocities of the past.

I also welcome the decision of the Tribunal convicting General Radislav Krstic of genocide in the 1995 massacre of Muslims from Srebrenica. I welcome and fully support the Tribunal's judgment. Those who commit war crimes must face justice. As I said in Kosovo, we must not allow difference to be a license to kill and vulnerability an excuse to dominate.

These two important steps advance the cause of justice but also help to consolidate peace and promote rule of law. They bring closer to reality our vision in which the countries of the Balkans are part of a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

Statement on Signing the ILSA Extension Act of 2001

August 3, 2001

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 1954, the ''ILSA Extension Act of 2001.'' This Act provides for a 5-year extension of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) with amendments that affect certain of the investment provisions.

I believe that we should review sanctions frequently to assess their effectiveness and continued suitability. A new provision in this bill mandates a report on the impact of certain actions taken pursuant to the Act. I approve of this statutorily mandated requirement to periodically assess the effectiveness of sanctions and to recommend whether the Congress should terminate or modify the Act. The Act also continues the President's power to waive sanctions in the national interest.

My Administration shares the Congress' deep concerns about the objectionable policies and behavior of Iran and Libya. We are addressing these concerns in a number of ways. In particular, we are strengthening our efforts with other countries, whose cooperation is essential to pursuing the most effective approaches to solving the problems of proliferation and terrorism addressed by ILSA.

Libya must address its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions. These relate to the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and require Libya to accept responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, disclose all it knows about the bombing, renounce terrorism, and pay appropriate compensation. Cooperative action by Libya on these four issues would make it possible for us to begin to move toward a more constructive relationship.

With respect to Iran, we continue to have serious concerns over its support for terrorism, opposition to the Middle East peace process, and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. I hope that the Iranian people's recently expressed desire for a freer, more open, and more prosperous society will give our two countries an opportunity to identify areas where our interests converge, and where we can work together constructively for our mutual benefit.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 3, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1954, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 107–24.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 30

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted an ''In Performance at the White House'' program in the East Room, which was videotaped for television broadcast on September 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Emil H. Frankel to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Read Van de Water to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs.

July 31

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with King Abdullah II of Jordan concerning the continued violence in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Senate Republican Policy Committee luncheon at the Capitol.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Serge Mombouli of the Republic of the Congo, Wolfgang Ischinger of Germany, Izben Williams of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Ellsworth I.A. John of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

August 1

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations from the Oval Office with Prime Ministers Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Bertie Ahern of Ireland concerning the Northern Ireland peace process.

Later, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina concerning Argentina's economy.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, where he attended meetings at the Pentagon concerning Defense Department reviews, and later returned to Washington, DC.

August 2

The President announced his intention to nominate Pamela Hyde Smith to be Ambassador to Moldova.

August 3

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan congratulating the Prime Minister on his upper house electoral victory. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain concerning Argentina's economy.

The White House announced that the President will participate in a Habitat for Humanity building project in Waco, TX, next week.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 31

John L. Brownlee,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Robert P. Crouch, Jr., resigned.

Brian E. Carlson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

Paul K. Charlton,
of Arizona, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of 4 years, vice Jose de Jesus Rivera, resigned.

Todd Peterson Graves,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen Lawrence Hill, Jr., resigned.

Michael G. Heavican,
of Nebraska, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas Justin Monaghan, resigned.

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter,
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

William Walter Mercer,
of Montana, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of 4 years, vice Sherry Scheel Matteucci, resigned.

Thomas E. Moss,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years, vice Betty Hansen Richardson, resigned.

John N. Palmer,
of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Portugal.

Mattie R. Sharpless,
of North Carolina, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic.

Martin J. Silverstein,
of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

John W. Suthers,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas Lee Strickland, resigned.

John F. Turner,
of Wyoming, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, vice David B. Sandalow.

Anna Mills S. Wagoner,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Walter Clinton Holton, Jr., resigned.

R. Barrie Walkley,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

Fred L. Dailey,
of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Gordon Clyde Southern.

Grace Trujillo Daniel,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Clyde Arlie Wheeler, Jr.

John J. Danilovich,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Gilbert G. Gallegos,
of New Mexico, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years, vice Janie L. Jeffers.

Kent R. Hill,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Donald Lee Pressley, resigned.

Leslie Lenkowsky,
of Indiana, to be chief executive officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Harris Wofford, resigned.

Cranston J. Mitchell,
of Missouri, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years, vice Timothy Earl Jones, Sr.

Mary E. Peters,
of Arizona, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, vice Kenneth R. Wykle, resigned.

Marie F. Ragghianti,
of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years, vice Michael Johnston Gaines, term expired.

Edward F. Reilly,
of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years (reappointment).

Marvin R. Sambur,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Lawrence J. Delaney.

Submitted August 1

Timothy Mark Burgess,
of Alaska, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Charles Bundy, resigned.

Marian Blank Horn,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years (reappointment).

Charles F. Lettow,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice John Paul Wiese, term expiring.

Harry Sandlin Mattice, Jr.,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Carl Kimmel Kirkpatrick, resigned.

Robert Garner McCampbell,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel G. Webber, Jr., resigned.

Paul J. McNulty,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Helen Frances Fahey, resigned.

Michael W. Mosman,
of Oregon, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of 4 years, vice Kristine Olson Rogers, resigned.

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice J. Rene Josey.

Submitted August 2

Susan W. Brooks,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Judith Ann Stewart, resigned.

Leura Garrett Canary,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of 4 years, vice Charles Redding Pitt, resigned.

Colm F. Connolly,
of Delaware, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware for the term of 4 years, vice Carl Schnee, resigned.

Thomas C. Gean,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Kinloch Holmes III, resigned.

Raymond W. Gruender,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Audrey G. Fleissig, resigned.

Roscoe Conklin Howard, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of 4 years, vice Wilma A. Lewis, resigned.

David Claudio Iglesias,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of 4 years, vice Norman C. Bay.

Charles W. Larson, Sr.,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen John Rapp, resigned.

Matthew Hansen Mead,
of Wyoming, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of 4 years, vice David D. Freudenthal, resigned.

Michael J. Sullivan,
of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of 4 years, vice Donald Kenneth Stern, resigned.

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Jon Ernest DeGuilio, resigned.

Drew Howard Wrigley,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice John Thomas Schneider, resigned.

M. Christina Armijo,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, (new position).

Lawrence J. Block,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Eric G. Bruggink, term expired.

Karon O. Bowdre,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, vice Sam C. Pointer, Jr., retired.

David L. Bunning,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice William O. Bertelsman, retired.

Karen K. Caldwell,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice Henry R. Wilhoit, Jr., retired.

Claire V. Eagan,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, vice Thomas Rutherford Brett, retired.

Kurt D. Engelhardt,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice Morey L. Sear, retired.

Stephen P. Friot,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Wayne E. Alley, retired.

Callie V. Granade,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, vice Alex T. Howard, Jr., retired.

Joe L. Heaton,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Ralph G. Thompson, retired.

Larry R. Hicks,
of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada, vice Johnnie B. Rawlinson, elevated.

Jeffrey R. Howard,
of New Hampshire, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, vice Norman H. Stahl, retired.

William P. Johnson,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, vice John E. Conway, retired.

Terrence L. O'Brian,
of Wyoming, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Wade Brorby, retired.

James H. Payne,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma, vice Billy Michael Burrage, retired.

Danny C. Reeves,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, (new position).

Submitted August 3

Scott M. Burns,
of Utah, to be Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs, office of National Drug Control Policy (new position).

Joseph M. Clapp,
of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (new position).

Thomas B. Heffelfinger,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years, vice Byron Todd Jones, resigned.

Patrick Leo Meehan,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Michael Rankin Stiles, resigned.

Elsa A. Murano,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety, vice Catherine E. Woteki, resigned.

Marcelle M. Wahba,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Margaret M. Chiara,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of 4 years, vice Michael Hayes Dettmer, resigned.

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Mark Timothy Calloway, resigned.

James Ming Greenlee,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years, vice Calvin D. Buchanan, resigned.

Terrell Lee Harris,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Veronica Freeman Coleman, resigned.

John L. Howard,
of Illinois, to be Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals for a term of 6 years, vice Barbara Jean Mahone, term expired.

Frederico Juarbe, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, vice Espiridion A. Borrego.

Jackson McDonald,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

Mark W. Olson,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of 14 years from February 1, 1996, vice Alice M. Rivlin, resigned.

John Malcolm Ordway,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Stephen Beville Pence,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of 4 years, vice Steven S. Reed, resigned.

Gregory F. Van Tatenhove,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of 4 years, vice Joseph Leslie Famularo, resigned.

Susan Schmidt Bies,
of Tennessee, to be member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 1998, vice Susan Meredith Phillips, resigned.

Jay S. Bybee,
of Nevada, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Randolph D. Moss, resigned.

B. John Williams, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, vice Stuart L. Brown, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina

Released July 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on legislation to shore up Social Security through personal accounts

Released August 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on a roadmap for tripartisan Medicare legislation

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judges

Released August 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action on the nomination of Mary Gall to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico

Announcement of the nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama

Announcement of nomination of U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Eastern District of Kentucky

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the District of New Mexico

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judge for the Northern/Eastern/Western District of Oklahoma

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Western District of Oklahoma

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge

Released August 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on newly introduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen Medicare for seniors and for future retirees

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to New York City on September 24–26 to participate in the opening of the United Nations General Assembly

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 3

S. 468 / Public Law 107–23
To designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "James C. Corman Federal Building"

H.R. 1954 / Public Law 107–24
ILSA Extension Act of 2001

Week Ending Friday, August 10, 2001

The President's Radio Address

August 4, 2001

Good morning. This week in Washington we made dramatic progress on health care, and today I want to extend that progress one step further.

On Wednesday I shook hands with Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia, agreeing to strong patient protection legislation. Representative Norwood is the chief congressional champion of that issue. And together, we broke 6 years of legislative gridlock.

The next day the House of Representatives, based on our agreement, passed a good bill to give patients the care they deserve without encouraging frivolous lawsuits. The legislation protects every patient in all 50 States when a health plan wrongly denies or delays needed care. Patients are guaranteed a quick independent review of their case and new Federal remedies to hold their health plans accountable. They get a strong new set of rights in our health care system without driving up the cost of health insurance and discouraging employers from offering coverage.

This legislation is welcome news for patients. And I want to continue this momentum. Today I'm announcing a new initiative to expand health insurance for the uninsured by making the Medicaid program more accessible. Medicaid is designed to provide low income Americans with medical insurance. It has a noble purpose and some serious challenges.

Medicaid spending is rising dramatically, but the number of low income Americans without insurance remains high. Clearly, this important program needs reform. Yet, States have great difficulty reforming their Medicaid programs because of complex and cumbersome Federal requirements. It is hard for States—much too hard—to navigate the confusing and inconsistent Federal approval process.

Today we are changing that. My administration will adopt new rules that empower States to propose reforms tailored to the needs of their citizens. We will act on proposals quickly without making States wait for months or years for an answer.

In return for this flexibility, we will ask the States to help ensure that their programs broaden coverage for low income Americans. When States are free to try new approaches, the results are encouraging. Just a few months ago, New York State, led by George Pataki, asked for and got permission to try a new idea to cover more people with the same dollars. As a result, as many as 619,000 more New Yorkers will soon have health insurance.

In our new system, we will inform States in advance of the criteria for responsible Medicaid reform. If they meet those conditions, the Federal Government stands ready to help expand health insurance coverage to those who need it most—no uncertainty and no runaround.

The goals of Medicaid are too important to get bogged down in a bureaucracy. My administration cares about results, about getting Americans broader and better medical coverage. And on issues from Medicaid to patient protection, we are seeing results for the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:55 a.m. on August 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 4. In his address, the President referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Waco, Texas

August 7, 2001

President's Vacation

Q. What are you doing?

The President. It's nice to be home, for starters. This is my home; this is where I intend to live after I'm the President. It's good to be back with the people who elected me the Governor of Texas. I'm working a lot of issues, national security matters. I've got some decisions to make—as you know, working on immigration policy, state visit with the President of Mexico.

But I'm getting a lot done, and it's good to be on my ranch. It's good to be home.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Any closer on stem cell research decision?

The President. I'll be making that decision when—I'll be making that announcement when I'm ready to make the announcement.

President's Vacation

Q. How do you deal with the heat here in this area? It's awfully hot.

The President. This is Texas. I know a lot of you wish you were in the East Coast, lounging on the beaches, sucking in the salt air, but when you're from Texas and love Texas, this is where you come home; this is my home. We built a house in the Crawford area; it'll be the house where I live in for the rest of my life. I like my own home, and I don't mind the heat——

Q. Are you taking any naps in the afternoon, sir?

The President. ——as a matter of fact, I'm going to get Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News] to come and run with me.

Q. Any time you're ready.

The President. Want to go for a heat run?

Q. Sure. How about this afternoon?

The President. It may be a little too hot, Stretch.

Q. Are you taking any naps in the afternoon, sir?

The President. I'm working, enjoying myself, getting a lot done on the ranch, too. One of the things I find to be, you know, helpful, is to get outdoors. Washington, DC, is a fine place, and I'm honored to be working in the Oval Office, staying in the compound there, but I'm the kind of person that needs to get outdoors. I like to be outdoors; I like to work outdoors. It keeps my mind whole; it keeps my spirits up. I think it's important for people to get outside and to work.

And I'm making a lot of improvements on the ranch, and I find that to be—I find that to be a good part of keeping me a balanced person.

I'm reading a lot. I just finished "In the Heart of the Sea," by Philbrick. It's a book about the whaler *Essex.* It's a really interesting book. Now I'm into the Adams book by McCullough.

Q. How do you like it?

The President. I like it.

Q. I heard it's a good read.

The President. It is a good read. It's an interesting book. I'm particularly paying attention to that part about John Quincy Adams. You might remember, Quincy and I have got something in common.

Q. How does the heat here compare to the heat of Washington, politically? [*Laughter*]

The President. Politically? Well, I'm amongst friends in Texas. I think the people of Texas know me; they know what I'm like; they know I can make decisions; they know I'm a person who stands on principles. I really don't worry about polls or focus groups; I do what I think is right. And so there's no political heat here. I'm amongst friends, and it doesn't matter whether they're Democrats or Republicans here in Texas. The people and I got along really well. In Washington, it's a lot more partisan. People up there just like to dig in and fight. You know, Bob Bullock and I showed that you don't have to fight to get things done. Bob Bullock was the old Democratic Lieutenant Governor.

And I think eventually, over time, if I stay persistent, that we'll erode that intransigence in Washington, DC—you know, where people say, "Let's try to score political points; let's don't try to come together and work for what's right." But we'll see. We made a lot of progress the first 6 months—a lot more than a lot of people thought we could do.

Yes, Stretch?

President's Round of Golf

Q. Walking or riding?

The President. Stretch, probably ride, since I want to save my legs for a good run.

Q. What's the rule on mulligans today?

The President. No mulligans—except on the first tee. [*Laughter*] That's just to loosen up. You see, otherwise—most people get to hit practice balls. But as you know, I'm walking out here; I'm fixing to go hit—tight back, older guy, I hit the speed limit on July 6th. [*Laughter*]

Q. Who are you golfing with?

The President. I'm golfing with my friend David Sibley. There he is right here, Senator Sibley, the man who helped write the patients' bill of rights in Texas and the man who went to testify in Washington to say those who claim that the Ganske-something-something bill was like the Texas bill were wrong. More like the Texas bill is the Norwood bill, as amended—which I will sign when we get it out of conference.

Right, Sibley?

State Senator David Sibley. That's it.

The President. Okay, got get lost. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President played a round of golf.*]

The President. You know, word about the President is supposed to win hasn't gotten here yet. [*Laughter*]

Q. How did it go?

The President. We came in second place.

Q. In a two-man race?

The President. Very good. [*Laughter*]

State Senator Sibley. Actually, we split.

The President. We had a lot of fun.

Human Cloning

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the Italian scientist that wants to clone a human being this fall?

The President. As you know, I supported the anticloning legislation in the Congress. And I'll be making a statement about my views on how life and science should interface when I'm ready.

Iraq

Q. Also today, apparently the Iraqis fired upon some allied planes in the no-fly zone, and we bombed, apparently, some of the sites there. What do you have on that?

The President. I've been briefed on it. As you know, our military can make decisions as they see fit to protect our pilots. Unless, of course, it's close to Baghdad, in which case it requires my approval. The missions that took place were fully in accordance with established allied war plans.

As I said, Saddam Hussein is a menace. He's still a menace, and we need to keep him in check, and will.

Q. Are they ratcheting it up, though? We've had a lot of incidents lately.

The President. No—are they, the Iraqis? He's been a menace forever, and we will do—he needs to open his country up for inspection, so we can see whether or not he's developing weapons of mass destruction.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Some of our allies in the Middle East, Egypt and Jordan, are increasingly calling for a stronger U.S. presence and role.

The President. Well, I told—I spoke to the King the other day, King of Jordan, and I told him that we're very much involved; our administration is in contact with the Israelis and the Palestinians on a regular basis. We will continue to do so. It is important for both sides to break the cycle of violence. And we have laid out a framework to get to Mitchell. And once into Mitchell, hopefully, sanity will prevail. But we haven't gotten into Mitchell yet, and we can't get into Mitchell until violence stops.

But our administration—I talked to Condi this morning, we're in touch with—constantly in touch, you know, our Ambassador went to see Prime Minister Sharon yesterday. And we'll be having—we'll continue with high-level contacts with both sides. I spoke to—I've written a letter to Prime Minister Mubarak today—President Mubarak, today, and——

Q. What did you tell him?

The President. Well, I told him we're still very much engaged in the process, obviously, that we take violence very serious in the Middle East. The Middle East is one of our top foreign policy—peace in the Middle East is a top foreign policy priority and that we need

to work together to convince both sides to break the cycle of violence.

See you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:17 a.m. at Ridgewood Country Club. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and authors Nathaniel Philbrick and David McCullough. The President also referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. A reporter referred to Italian fertility doctor Severino Antinori. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Participants in Habitat for Humanity's "World Leaders Build" in Waco, Texas

August 8, 2001

Thank you, all. Please be seated, before you melt. [*Laughter*] Mel, thank you very much. Laura and I had the honor of welcoming Mel and Kitty to our little slice of heaven last night in Crawford, Texas. He's doing a fabulous job. I don't know if you know the story about Mel Martinez, but as a young boy, his parents put him on a boat from Cuba, hoping that he could find freedom—and did, and now is a Cabinet Secretary in the Cabinet of the 43d President, and he is doing a fabulous job on behalf of America. And Mel, it's a lot cooler here in Texas than it is in Tampa, Florida. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here with Laura. She is—I know most of my Texas friends know this was going to be the case, but she is a great First Lady. I want to thank the Gowan family for your hospitality. I asked him about that New York Yankee hat. [*Laughter*] He said it was the only one he could find. [*Laughter*] Either that or he was showing off for the national press corps. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank, as well, the Evans family, Bubba and Destini and Gladys. I told Bubba, if he wanted some advice, it's always to listen to his mother, something I understand quite well. [*Laughter*] But Bubba and Destini promised Laura and me that they're going to go to college. They're going to use that home as a place to study. You're now on record, Bubba. [*Laughter*]

Tom, it's good to see you again, sir. Thank you for coming down from Washington today. I had the honor of welcoming Jimmy Carter to the Oval Office the other day, and he asked me about the international home build, and I said I was going to participate—in God's country. [*Laughter*] He said, "I didn't realize you were going to be in Georgia." [*Laughter*] I said, "No, Texas." [*Laughter*] And so it's an honor to be participating today along with President Carter, who is in South Korea, and other world leaders all around the globe.

I want to thank my fellow Texans who are here, as well. I particularly want to thank David Ward, and I want to thank the Baylor University Habitat for Humanity crowd. It's one of the oldest in the country. I think it's the first Habitat for Humanity college building program, and I want to thank the Baylor students who are here today and those who have kept the tradition alive up to now.

I'm glad to welcome the Governor. It's good to see you, Gov, I'm glad you're here. I played golf with my State senator, David Sibley. You're supposed to play: President wins. [*Laughter*] I guess you know me too well. I know you better now. [*Laughter*] It's good to see you and Pam. It's good to see Kip and Dianne, thank you all for both coming over. I miss you. I miss the—they're both members of the State house. Sibley is in the Senate.

Dealing with the United States Congress is an interesting experience compared to dealing with our legislature. It seems like people there want to harden their positions pretty quickly because they're, a lot of times, more interested in politics than they are in good policy. I want to assure you all I'm working hard to change that attitude. I'm trying to erode the old bias, the old prejudice of putting politics ahead of what's right for America. I think we're making good progress. I do miss the days when Democrat and Republican could sit down together here in Texas and work things out.

I was telling David yesterday that we're making some pretty good progress on the Patients' Bill of Rights by focusing with people to find common ground. It's an experience

he and I had together. I gave him some pretty good lessons on how to get positive things done.

It's great to have the statewide officeholders here, members of the supreme court—Phillips and Enoch, thank you all for coming. And new judge, too—thank you, Judge, for being here. We've got one-third of the court here. [*Laughter*] Almost enough for a quorum. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the railroad commission for being here: Garza, Williams, and Matthews, it's good to see all three of you. You're looking pretty darn good, in spite of the fact that I know you're working hard. It's also good to see Greg Abbott and David Dewhurst. Thank you all for coming, as well; we're honored that you're here. I appreciate you taking time to be here.

One of the things I love to remind people around our country is that the great strength of America is not in our government. It may be in the form of government but not in the halls of government. The great strength of America is in the hearts and souls of citizens all around our country. And we have a chance to see that today here in Waco, Texas, people who have heard the universal call to help a neighbor in need and have come out in 100-degree temperature to do so, people that understand that owning a home is part of the American Dream. Owning something is what America is all about. The ability to own a piece of property, regardless of who you are or how you were raised or where you're from, is the thing that really has made America so unique and so different.

But the thing that makes it more interesting to people from around the world is that we've got hundreds of citizens who are willing to help those who may not be able to afford a house to be able to move into a house. It's the beauty of America.

You know, I've told the people of the Nation's Capital there that I was coming back to the heartland to herald the values of the heartland, the values that make America so different and so unique. And one of those values is neighbors helping neighbors. It's a value that has existed for a long period of time. But no President should ever take that value for granted. And so that's why Laura and I are so honored to thank the volunteers who are here and to remind our fellow Americans that, if we're interested in a decent tomorrow for every citizen, if we want the American Dream to extend its reach in every community, that all of us must work hard in our communities to help a neighbor in need.

One of the most interesting initiatives that we have proposed is a Faith- and Community-Based Initiative. There's great debate in Washington about the process, the legalities of the initiative. What my administration talks about is, the results of the initiative. If a faith-based program helps a family find a home, then we ought to welcome it and nourish it. And Secretary Martinez talked about how we're going to do that, by putting more money in our budget.

If a faith-based initiative helps someone kick drugs or alcohol, we ought to welcome that initiative and welcome that program and say to the folks who are involved, "Government stands squarely on your side." In our society, we should not fear faith and the power of faith and the volunteers who are motivated by faith. We need to welcome it. And as far as I'm concerned, the Federal Government will be a welcoming agency, will put money up to allow faith-based programs to compete, side by side, with secular programs, all aimed at making sure America is the greatest country possible for every single citizen.

And it's going to happen in this country. I've had the honor of traveling the world for our country. I went to Europe. And we're different in a positive way; we're unique in an incredibly positive way. It's important for our Nation to never lose sight of that. And for those who worship in houses of faith, regardless of their religion, whether it be Christian or Muslim or Jewish, and you want to help a neighbor in need and you want to access grant money, as far as I'm concerned, please come on. Please come on and hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved, yourself.

We're making great progress in Washington changing the tone of our country. We're making great progress reminding people that the values of the heartland are the values that make America unique and different.

I want to thank all the volunteers here in Waco, Texas, and all the volunteers all across this State and all across our Nation who, on a daily basis, make this country so wonderful and so different. I also want to thank my fellow Texans for coming out to give me a warm welcome. It's great to see you all again.

May God bless Texas, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the home of Otis and Thresa Gowan, which was a Habitat for Humanity project 11 years ago. In his remarks, he referred to Kitty Martinez, wife of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel R. Martinez; Gladys Evans and her children Edwinn "Bubba" and Destini, whose home the President helped build; Diana Ward, board chair, Waco Habitat for Humanity; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Pam Sibley, wife of State Senator David Sibley; State Representatives Kip Averitt and Dianne White Delisi; Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips, and Justices Craig T. Enoch and Wallace B. Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court; Chairman Michael L. Williams and Commissioners Tony Garza and Charles R. Matthews, Texas Railroad Commission; and Greg Abbott and David Dewhurst, candidates for Texas Lieutenant Governor.

Exchange With Reporters Following the "World Leaders Build" in Waco, Texas

August 8, 2001

President's Construction Injury

Q. Mr. President, how's your finger?

The President. It must be a slow news day if you're worrying about my finger.

Q. Let's see it.

Q. Does it hurt much?

The President. Hurt? [*Laughter*] No. As I said, I dropped a little blood for voluntarism.

Q. From a hammer or a nail?

The President. It's the real world. It's part of keeping one's perspective. Washington's a wonderful place, but it's not exactly the real world, if you know what I mean.

President's Vacation

Q. Some of these folks say you're—when you're in Texas—you're taking too long of a vacation.

The President. They don't understand the definition of work, then. I'm getting a lot done. Secondly, you don't have to be in Washington to work. It's amazing what can happen with telephones and faxes.

Q. What are you doing the rest of the day?

The President. Karen Hughes is coming over. We're working on some things. And——

Q. Any in particular?

The President. She'll be over here; we'll work on a few things that matter.

Q. Oh, come on, you can tell me.

The President. I'm working on some initiatives. You'll see. There will be some decisions that will—I'm here, and we'll be announcing them as time goes on.

Stem Cell Research/National Security Issues

Q. Stem cell next week, maybe?

The President. It's a possibility.

Q. Where do you want to make that decision? Where do you want to announce it? Have you decided?

The President. I've got a lot of national security concerns that we're working on—Iraq, Macedonia, very worrisome right now. Kind of a blowup last night, and yesterday it looked like we had a peaceful resolution. It's now in doubt. Urge all—we're urging all the parties to get back to the table and renounce the violence. The Secretary of Defense and I are working on some projects. There will be some announcements.

Q. Have you thought about the kind of forum you'd like to announce the stem cell—what do you think would be appropriate?

The President. You're trying to get me to talk about it. My answer is still the same as it was the last 2 months.

Q. If I keep trying, you might slip.

The President. Well, I might—[*laughter*]—but I'm getting better disciplined than that. That was during the campaign that you caused me to slip. Now that I've figured you out—[*laughter*].

All righty, listen, it's good to see everybody. I hope everybody is enjoying themselves here. It's not that hot compared to Washington.

Q. That's actually true.

The President. What?

President's Run

Q. [*Inaudible*]—before you run?

The President. When it gets to be 100. We ran yesterday around noon, which was good. And I'm probably not going to run today.

Q. Does the heat slow you down?

The President. A little bit, but the wind—there's wind on the prairie, and we go down the canyons. It's pretty cool down there.

Upcoming Travel

Q. Mr. President, any plans to go back to Austin anytime soon?

The President. No, not this trip. Laura is going down, I think, to see some friends, but I'm not going. I'm going to Denver and Albuquerque next week, be going to Milwaukee, another city that we haven't announced yet after Milwaukee. [*Laughter*] Hint. [*Laughter*] And then giving a speech in San Antonio.

President's Vacation

Q. Tell us why you like the heat down here.

The President. I like the State. I love Texas; it's my home. And as I explained to people yesterday, this is where we're going to live. And just because my office is in Washington, doesn't mean my home is not still in Texas. I love the people. I love the culture. I told the people in Midland when I left, I said, "We may have changed address, but my heart will still be in Texas." And you probably realize that we haven't spent much time in our new home, and there's kind of a settling-in period. And this is part of the adjustment to our new home, and the house is adjusting to us. And our builder is adjusting to our phone calls to come over and fix—parts of the new home. [*Laughter*]

Look, I'm sure it's going to be 95 in DC when we get back there in September, late August. I don't make my decisions based upon the temperature; I make my decisions based upon where I can get my job done and the fact that I'd like to be back in Texas. And I'm never going to leave Texas. This is where I like to go. Some people like to go to the East Coast; some people like to go to the West Coast; I like to come to Texas. It's where I rest. It's where I do my work. It's where I see my friends. And that's just me, and people are going to have to adjust to it.

President's Construction Injury

Q. Sir, did you hit your finger while you were hammering?

The President. I may have hit it, or somebody may have hit it. I'm not telling. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've got good hand-eye coordination.

The President. You noticed—did you see that? Seven pounds per nail.

Q. Is that right?

The President. Yes.

Want a picture? All right, let's do it. We've got to get a family picture.

So how long have you been in this house, for 12 years? It's a beautiful home. You've got a new neighbor, Gladys. I volunteered Bubba to come and mow the lawn. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:55 a.m. in front of the Gowan family home. In his remarks, the President referred to Habitat for Humanity homeowners Otis Gowan III, and his wife, Thresa, and their neighbors Gladys Evans and her son, Edwinn "Bubba," whose home the President helped build. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters at the Coffee Station Restaurant in Crawford, Texas

August 8, 2001

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. I've got some of the local farmers here; I'm going to explain to them the 5.5 supplemental I'm signing here pretty soon. Emergency supplemental for——

President's Vacation

Q. How does it feel to be here with the people of Crawford?

The President. It's great to be here with the people of Crawford.

Q. What did you order, sir?

The President. I ordered a cheeseburger and some onion rings. And I'm not sharing any with you. [*Laughter*]

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], you order something up. You're getting paid too much money anyway.

Q. I'll have a bite of your cheeseburger. How's that?

Q. Sir, did the sign make you decide to come inside?

The President. What did it say?

Q. Did the sign outside make you decide to stop?

The President. I didn't see it. What did it say?

Q. It said, "George and Laura, come by."

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. No. What made me decide to stop was the wonderful people who own the place—and the cheeseburger. [*Laughter*]

One of the things that I'm talking about here is how hard it is for a lot of these farmers to make a living. And one of the things about the farm program that we've got to make sure happens is that when there's emergency aid, like the bill I'm going to sign here next week, it gets to the farmers who are farming.

A lot of times that money goes to people who aren't farmers. We want to make sure it goes to help the farmers who are actually farming the land. There's a lot of medium-sized farmers that need help, and one of the things that we're going to make sure of as we restructure the farm program next year is that the money goes to the people it's meant to help.

I'm also going to tell them that part of the supplemental—some folks tried to increase the supplemental, but that money wasn't going to the farmers. The extra money they tried to put on that would have busted the budget wasn't going to farmers; it was going to other matters. And what I'm interested in is, giving payments to the people that, like the corn farmers here at the table, that are working hard to make a living.

Having said that, now we can eat. [*Laughter*]

President's Vacation

Q. [*Inaudible*]—are you going running this afternoon?

The President. I'm not going to run today, but I'll get you out there one of these days. I'm not going to run today.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:40 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Maureen Reagan

August 8, 2001

Laura and I are deeply saddened to learn of Maureen Reagan's death. Maureen was a devoted, caring daughter and mother. She fought tirelessly to increase funding for Alzheimer's research and raise public awareness of the disease. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen's husband, Dennis, their daughter, Rita, and the entire family.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Jerusalem

August 9, 2001

I deplore and strongly condemn the terrorist bombing in downtown Jerusalem today. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the American people are with the victims of this terrible tragedy and their families.

Nothing is gained through cowardly acts such as this. The deliberate murder of innocent civilians is abhorrent to all, a threat to peace, and inconsistent with the parties' signed agreements to put aside violence. Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat must condemn this horrific terrorist attack, act now to arrest and bring to justice those responsible, and take immediate, sustained action to prevent future terrorist attacks.

I urge the parties to return immediately to the cease-fire commitments they have previously made and to renew effective security cooperation so this kind of terrorism will not happen again. The United States stands ready to assist the parties in this effort, as it has in the past, but the effort must begin with the parties acting to fulfill their obligations under the Tenet work plan.

The United States remains committed to implementation in all its elements of the Mitchell Committee Report, which provides

a path to return to peace negotiations based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and the Madrid Conference. To get to Mitchell, the parties need to resume effective security cooperation and work together to stop terrorism and violence.

I call upon the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and Israel to demonstrate foresight and responsibility by choosing the path toward a better future for their people.

Address to the Nation on Stem Cell Research From Crawford, Texas

August 9, 2001

Good evening. I appreciate you giving me a few minutes of your time tonight so I can discuss with you a complex and difficult issue, an issue that is one of the most profound of our time.

The issue of research involving stem cells derived from human embryos is increasingly the subject of a national debate and dinner table discussions. The issue is confronted every day in laboratories as scientists ponder the ethical ramifications of their work. It is agonized over by parents and many couples as they try to have children or to save children already born. The issue is debated within the church, with people of different faiths, even many of the same faith, coming to different conclusions. Many people are finding that the more they know about stem cell research, the less certain they are about the right ethical and moral conclusions.

My administration must decide whether to allow Federal funds, your tax dollars, to be used for scientific research on stem cells derived from human embryos. A large number of these embryos already exist. They are the product of a process called in vitro fertilization, which helps so many couples conceive children. When doctors match sperm and egg to create life outside the womb, they usually produce more embryos than are implanted in the mother. Once a couple successfully has children, or if they are unsuccessful, the additional embryos remain frozen in laboratories. Some will not survive during long storage; others are destroyed. A number have been donated to science and used to create privately funded stem cell lines. And a few have been implanted in an adoptive mother and born and are today healthy children.

Based on preliminary work that has been privately funded, scientists believe further research using stem cells offers great promise that could help improve the lives of those who suffer from many terrible diseases, from juvenile diabetes to Alzheimer's, from Parkinson's to spinal cord injuries. And while scientists admit they are not yet certain, they believe stem cells derived from embryos have unique potential.

You should also know that stem cells can be derived from sources other than embryos, from adult cells, from umbilical cords that are discarded after babies are born, from human placentas. And many scientists feel research on these types of stem cells is also promising. Many patients suffering from a range of diseases are already being helped with treatments developed from adult stem cells. However, most scientists, at least today, believe that research on embryonic stem cells offer the most promise because these cells have the potential to develop in all of the tissues in the body.

Scientists further believe that rapid progress in this research will come only with Federal funds. Federal dollars help attract the best and brightest scientists. They ensure new discoveries are widely shared at the largest number of research facilities and that the research is directed toward the greatest public good.

The United States has a long and proud record of leading the world toward advances in science and medicine that improve human life. And the United States has a long and proud record of upholding the highest standards of ethics as we expand the limits of science and knowledge. Research on embryonic stem cells raises profound ethical questions, because extracting the stem cell destroys the embryo and thus destroys its potential for life. Like a snowflake, each of these embryos is unique, with the unique genetic potential of an individual human being.

As I thought through this issue, I kept returning to two fundamental questions: First, are these frozen embryos human life and, therefore, something precious to be protected? And second, if they're going to be

destroyed anyway, shouldn't they be used for a greater good, for research that has the potential to save and improve other lives?

I've asked those questions and others of scientists, scholars, bioethicists, religious leaders, doctors, researchers, Members of Congress, my Cabinet, and my friends. I have read heartfelt letters from many Americans. I have given this issue a great deal of thought, prayer, and considerable reflection. And I have found widespread disagreement.

On the first issue, are these embryos human life? Well, one researcher told me he believes this 5-day-old cluster of cells is not an embryo, not yet an individual, but a preembryo. He argued that it has the potential for life, but it is not a life because it cannot develop on its own. An ethicist dismissed that as a callous attempt at rationalization. "Make no mistake," he told me, "that cluster of cells is the same way you and I, and all the rest of us, started our lives. One goes with a heavy heart if we use these," he said, "because we are dealing with the seeds of the next generation."

And to the other crucial question, if these are going to be destroyed anyway, why not use them for good purpose, I also found different answers. Many argue these embryos are byproducts of a process that helps create life, and we should allow couples to donate them to science so they can be used for good purpose instead of wasting their potential. Others will argue there's no such thing as excess life and the fact that a living being is going to die does not justify experimenting on it or exploiting it as a natural resource.

At its core, this issue forces us to confront fundamental questions about the beginnings of life and the ends of science. It lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages.

As the discoveries of modern science create tremendous hope, they also lay vast ethical minefields. As the genius of science extends the horizons of what we can do, we increasingly confront complex questions about what we should do. We have arrived at that brave new world that seemed so distant in 1932, when Aldous Huxley wrote about human beings created in test tubes in what he called a "hatchery." In recent weeks, we learned that scientists have created human embryos in test tubes solely to experiment on them. This is deeply troubling and a warning sign that should prompt all of us to think through these issues very carefully.

Embryonic stem cell research is at the leading edge of a series of moral hazards. The initial stem cell researcher was at first reluctant to begin his research, fearing it might be used for human cloning. Scientists have already cloned a sheep. Researchers are telling us the next step could be to clone human beings to create individual designer stem cells, essentially to grow another you, to be available in case you need another heart or lung or liver.

I strongly oppose human cloning, as do most Americans. We recoil at the idea of growing human beings for spare body parts, or creating life for our convenience. And while we must devote enormous energy to conquering disease, it is equally important that we pay attention to the moral concerns raised by the new frontier of human embryo stem cell research. Even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

My position on these issues is shaped by deeply held beliefs. I'm a strong supporter of science and technology and believe they have the potential for incredible good, to improve lives, to save life, to conquer disease. Research offers hope that millions of our loved ones may be cured of a disease and rid of their suffering. I have friends whose children suffer from juvenile diabetes. Nancy Reagan has written me about President Reagan's struggle with Alzheimer's. My own family has confronted the tragedy of childhood leukemia. And like all Americans, I have great hope for cures.

I also believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator. I worry about a culture that devalues life and believe as your President I have an important obligation to foster and encourage respect for life in America and throughout the world. And while we're all hopeful about the potential of this research, no one can be certain that the science will live up to the hope it has generated.

Eight years ago, scientists believed fetal tissue research offered great hope for cures and treatments, yet the progress to date has

not lived up to its initial expectations. Embryonic stem cell research offers both great promise and great peril. So I have decided we must proceed with great care.

As a result of private research, more than 60 genetically diverse stem cell lines already exist. They were created from embryos that have already been destroyed, and they have the ability to regenerate themselves indefinitely, creating ongoing opportunities for research. I have concluded that we should allow Federal funds to be used for research on these existing stem cell lines, where the life and death decision has already been made.

Leading scientists tell me research on these 60 lines has great promise that could lead to breakthrough therapies and cures. This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos that have at least the potential for life.

I also believe that great scientific progress can be made through aggressive Federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult, and animal stem cells which do not involve the same moral dilemma. This year, your Government will spend $250 million on this important research.

I will also name a President's council to monitor stem cell research, to recommend appropriate guidelines and regulations, and to consider all of the medical and ethical ramifications of biomedical innovation. This council will consist of leading scientists, doctors, ethicists, lawyers, theologians, and others and will be chaired by Dr. Leon Kass, a leading biomedical ethicist from the University of Chicago. This council will keep us apprised of new developments and give our Nation a forum to continue to discuss and evaluate these important issues.

As we go forward, I hope we will always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience. I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one.

Thank you for listening. Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. at the Bush Ranch.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Bethesda, MD, where he had his annual physical examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital. In the afternoon, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX, and later returned to Crawford.

The White House announced that the President will send U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick to Indonesia on August 10–11 to meet with President Megawati.

August 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX, and later returned to Crawford.

August 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson concerning the President's decision on stem cell research. In the afternoon, he had a telephone conversation with Dr. Leon Kass of the University of Chicago, also concerning the President's decision on stem cell research.

August 10

The President announced his intention to nominate Ralph Leo Boyce to be Ambassador to Indonesia.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Ong to be Ambassador to Norway.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 6

Announcement: HHS To Give States New Options for Expanding Health Coverage: New Initiative Promotes State Innovations To Expand Access for the Uninsured

Released August 7

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Ambassador Robert Zoellick to Indonesia

Released August 9

Fact Sheet: Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released August 10

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Northern Ireland

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes and OMB General Counsel Jay Lefkowitz on the President's decision on stem cell research

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 11, 2001

Good morning. This week I made a decision on a complex and difficult issue, the Federal role in embryonic stem cell research. Based on preliminary work, scientists believe these cells, which may have the ability to replace diseased or defective human tissue, offer great promise. They could help improve the lives of those who suffer from many terrible diseases—from juvenile diabetes to Alzheimer's, from Parkinson's to spinal cord injuries.

While stem cells come from a variety of sources, most scientists, at least today, believe that research on stem cells from human embryos offers the most promise because these cells have the potential to develop into all the tissues of the body.

This research offers great hope for treatments and possible cures. Research on embryonic stem cells also raises profound ethical questions because extracting the stem cell destroys the embryo and thus destroys the potential for life.

Some argue this small cluster of cells is not yet a human life because it cannot develop on its own. Yet an ethicist argued, this is the same way you and I started our lives. "One goes with a heavy heart if we use these," he said, "because we are dealing with the seeds of the next generation."

At its core, this issue forces us to confront fundamental questions about the beginnings of life and the ends of science. It lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages. As the genius of science extends the horizons of what we can do, we increasingly confront complex problems about what we should do.

In recent weeks we learned that scientists have created human embryos in test tubes solely to experiment on them. This is deeply troubling and a warning sign that should prompt all of us to think through these issues very carefully. We recoil at the idea of growing human beings for spare body parts or creating life for our convenience. I strongly oppose cloning. And while we must devote enormous energy to conquering disease, it is equally important that we pay attention to the moral concerns raised by the new frontier of human embryo stem cell research. Even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

Embryonic stem cell research offers both great promise and great peril, so I have decided we must proceed with great care. As a result of private research, more than 60 genetically diverse stem cell lines already exist. They were created from embryos that have already been destroyed, and they have the ability to regenerate themselves indefinitely, creating ongoing opportunities for research. I have concluded that we should allow Federal funds to be used for research on these existing stem cell lines where the life and death decision has already been made.

Leading scientists tell me research on these 60 lines has great promise that could lead to breakthrough therapies and cures. This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos that have at least the potential for life.

I also believe that great scientific progress can be made through aggressive Federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult, and animal stem cells, which do not involve the same moral dilemma. This year the Government will spend $250 million on this important research.

As we go forward, I hope we'll always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience. I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:40 a.m. on August 10 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Memorandum on Waiver of Sanctions for the Export of Select U.S. Munitions List U.S.-Origin Helicopter and Armored Personnel Carrier Spare Parts and Ammunition From the United States to Pakistan

August 9, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–23

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Sanctions for the Export of Select U.S. Munitions List U.S.-Origin Helicopter and Armored Personnel Carrier Spare Parts and Ammunition from the United States to Pakistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and consistent with Title IX of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–79), I hereby waive the application of the restrictions contained in sections 101 and 102 of the Arms Export Control Act, as they have been applied under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, and determine and certify to the Congress that the application of such restrictions would not be in the national security interests of the United States:

> With respect to Pakistan, insofar as such restriction would otherwise apply to the sale of certain specified U.S.-origin helicopter and armored personnel carrier spare parts and ammunition to Pakistan for use in its deployment in Sierra Leone in support of UN peacekeeping operations.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination and certification to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 13.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Meridian, Texas

August 13, 2001

Terrorist Attack in Israel

Q. How are you doing, sir?

The President. I'm doing great, thank you.

Q. What's your response to the suicide——

The President. I'll see you at the ranch—my response to what?

Q. The latest suicide bombing in Israel.

The President. Ask me at the ranch. We're going to have a little press avail after I sign the bill.

President's Round of Golf

Q. How's it going?

The President. Really good.

Q. How's your swing?

Q. No flaws?

The President. You saw it—needs a little work.

Q. Don't we all.

The President. I'm glad you asked who's winning the contest. Team sport.

Q. Is this a rematch?

The President. Yes, it is.

Q. And who won last time?

The President. Tie. If I hit every shot good, people would say I wasn't working. [*Laughter*]

Q. I thought the President always wins.

Terrorist Attack in Israel

The President. About time you learned something.

On Israel, the Palestinians—we will never get to Mitchell until the leadership works to reduce and stop violence. These terrorist acts, which are despicable, will prevent us from ever getting into the Mitchell process.

My administration has been calling upon all the leaders in the Middle East to do everything they can to stop the violence, to tell

the different parties involved that peace will never happen, and so long as terrorist activities continue, it will be impossible to get into Mitchell or any other discussion about peace under the threat of terrorism. Secretary Powell was in touch with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Sharon; we delivered that message consistently.

Q. What more do you think you can do?

The President. Well, Europe and moderate Arab nations must join with us to continue to send a consistent message that there will be no peace unless we break this cycle of violence. And the United States is doing everything in our power to convince the parties, but I want to remind people there must be the will. The people in the area must make the conscious decision to stop terrorism. And we're going to continue——

Q. But can the Israelis continue to show moderate restraint or——

The President. I appreciate the fact that they do show a moderate restraint. Sometimes they haven't, and sometimes they have. But what's important is that we say to all the parties that if there's a desire for peace—or at least a discussion of peace or the desire to get in Mitchell, the first thing that must happen is—is that we must stop violence.

Q. But do you have confidence in Arafat that he can stop the terrorist acts?

The President. I think he can do a lot more to be convincing the people on the street to stop these acts of terrorism and the acts of violence. I said in the Oval Office it is very important for Mr. Arafat to show a 100-percent effort, to do everything he can to convince the different parties on the West Bank and in Gaza to stop the violence. And we recognize that there could be isolated incidents of terror, but these—this is a continuing terrorist campaign, and we've got to stop. I will invite the respective parties to come and see me at the appropriate time.

Q. Sir, what about your response to people who say that your administration isn't doing enough to stop the escalation of violence there?

The President. We have been engaged in the Middle East ever since I got sworn in. Ours is the administration that sent George Tenet to the Middle East to lay out a platform for discussions amongst security forces to bring peace to the region. We wholeheartedly endorse the Mitchell report. We have spent, on a near daily basis, talking to the different parties, urging them—because there's nothing that an administration can do if there's no will for peace.

And we're obviously working with the leaders to try to convince them to take the necessary steps to send a signal to the people on the streets that peace—we want peace. We want at least discussions towards peace, if not in a final agreement.

We've got a long way to go, I recognize that. And it's so important for there to be the will, the desire. It requires two parties to make the conscious decision that we're going to do everything we can to stop terrorism, and our administration and my Government is working hard to send that message. We're on the phone almost on a daily basis to the respective parties.

Q. Do you see the will on either side, sir?

The President. Well, sometimes we see the will on the other side, and sometimes that cycle overcomes the will. There's a lot of people in the Middle East who are desirous to get into the Mitchell process, but first things first. These terrorist acts and the responses have got to end in order for us to get the framework—the groundwork, not framework—the groundwork to discuss a framework, to lay the—all right.

Q. Have you made any calls yourself, sir?

The President. I've made a lot of calls over—you mean the last couple of days? No, I haven't, not over the last couple of days. Secretary Powell did—I'm, of course, very aware of how the conversations went.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:53 a.m. at the Bosque Valley Golf Club. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Signing Agriculture Economic Assistance Legislation in Crawford, Texas

August 13, 2001

Please be seated. Thanks. I want to thank you all for coming. And I have the honor of signing a piece of legislation that was passed out of the House and the Senate in record time. It's a piece of legislation to provide economic assistance to the ag communities all across America. It's $5.5 billion in total. This money is on top of the monies in the 2001 farm bill. And it's necessary. It's necessary for our ranchers and our farmers.

First, I want to thank my neighbors for coming. This is, I guess, maybe the first bill signing ceremony ever in Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*] I don't think it will be the last. It's a meaningful piece of legislation for this part of the country because a lot of people make their living on the farm and on the ranch. And we want our families to be on the farms and ranch. After all, farm families represent the best of America. They represent the values that have made this country unique and different: values of love of family; values of respect for nature—I always tell people that every day is Earth Day when you own your farm, when you're working the land—values in understanding that there's some things beyond our control, that the Almighty controls the weather, sometimes in ways we like, and sometimes in ways we don't like; values of hard work; values of the entrepreneurial spirit; and values of private property. These are really important values that make America different and America unique, and values that we need to keep intact.

I'm worried about the fact that the ag economy suffers, because agriculture is a part of our national security mix. If we can't grow enough food to feed our people, we've got a problem. It will complicate our foreign policy, needless to say. Well, we've got to make sure our ag economy stays strong and healthy, and this supplemental is a way to help do that.

And so I want to thank you all for coming. I was hoping it would start raining in the middle of this little talk—[*laughter*]—and then I could take credit for it.

I think one of the things, as well, that I really appreciate about the Crawford area is the fact that there is a concept of neighborliness. People say, well—I go downtown, and I have a nice burger the other day with some people, and they say—they walk up and say, "I'm your neighbor." That's an important concept for our country because a neighbor means more than just somebody living next door to somebody else. A neighbor means that there's somebody around willing to help somebody.

I tell people all the time that the great strength of this country is in the fact that we've got such loving and decent people all across America who, when they find a neighbor in need, are willing to help out, are willing to help that neighbor. And that doesn't require any Government law; you can't pass a law that says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor," or, "You will be neighborly." That's because America is full of just such decent people.

And so I want to welcome my neighbors, and I want to thank you all for coming. And it is my honor now to sign this piece of meaningful legislation that should make the lives of the people who farm and the people who ranch much better off.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at noon at the Bush Ranch. H.R. 2213, approved August 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107–25.

Exchange With Reporters Following the Agriculture Economic Assistance Legislation Signing Ceremony in Crawford

August 13, 2001

Stem Cell Research/Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, some people in Congress are talking about passing legislation to allow stem cell research on embryos that are still in fertility clinics——

The President. I've said all I'm going to say for a while.

Q. Would you veto legislation like that?

The President. The statement I laid out is what I think is right for America. And any

piece of legislation that undermines what I think is right will be vetoed.

I don't know if you all know, but they signed a bill in Macedonia today, an agreement to work out the language, as well as the policing, and it's a good sign. But now they need to lay down their arms so we can implement the peace.

Visit of President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. Did you get any feedback from Mr. Rumsfeld's meeting with Mr. Putin?

The President. I haven't talked to him yet.

It's right here that Mr. Putin is going to come, right to Crawford, Texas, one of these days. I'm sure he'll love it.

Q. Where are they going to stay?

The President. We haven't worked out the logistics yet. [*Laughter*] Got any recommendations? Oh, where he's going to stay? He'll stay here. I thought you said where are "they" going to stay, meaning the thousand press that follow. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, there was a pause in the exchange.*]

President's Vacation

Q. So what are you going to do for the rest of the day?

The President. Got a lot of friends coming in—and then get ready for my trip. Got some speeches to give tomorrow and Wednesday, in New Mexico. I've got to figure out what I'm going to say.

Stem Cell Research

Q. One more question on stem cells, if I may?

The President. You can ask it, but I've already answered it.

Q. Well, I'll ask and——

The President. I answered it Thursday night, when I gave an address to the Nation.

Q. But sir, since then, some pro-life activists have said that you're——

The President. You know something? I gave the statement I thought was right. I spent a lot of time on the subject. I laid out the policy I think is right for America, and I'm not going to change my mind. I'm the kind of person that when I make up my mind, I'm not going to change it.

There are going to—people have got all kinds of opinions. I gave mine, and I gave it to the country. And it's a policy that's well thought out. Understand that there's a moral issue—moral issue, plus there's a chance that we can save people's lives. And I've laid out the path to do that.

President's Nature Trail

Q. How did you scratch your arms up?

The President. You know, I'm glad you noticed that. [*Laughter*] Working. Working. No, brush.

Q. Nature trail?

The President. Got the nature trail. One of these days we need to take you back there, so you can see it. It's beautiful.

Q. I'm free today.

Q. I'd love to go back there.

The President. It's beautiful. You won't believe it. As a matter of fact, this place, when you head out that way, there's a lot of canyons and creeks in the middle fork. You saw some of it when we crossed today, what it looks like when you get up in there.

Q. What's the trail like? Is it a loop or——

The President. No, no. Oh, my running trail?

Q. No, no, the nature trail.

The President. Oh, the nature trail is just built up into this canyon, this box canyon that's got a big overhang so that when the water is running, it's like a waterfall. We built a pathway up in there so that it's accessible to a lot of people.

Q. Place to bring guests, to go running?

The President. You can't run. I mean, it's the end of a canyon. You can run down there, then you walk up in there, and it's beautiful.

Q. What does building a trail entail? I mean, are you pulling out trees or are you——

The President. No, no. It means just building—getting old telephone poles and lying them on the ground, then filling in the dirt so that you——

Q. So you have this sort of pathway?

The President. Pathway, it's a pathway is what it is.

Argentine Economy

Q. Mr. President, do you favor additional loans to Argentina?

The President. We're watching the Argentinean situation every single day. Larry Lindsey and Paul O'Neill and the appropriate folks are meeting on it every single day. And one of the things I said that I thought we could do—first of all, we sent John Taylor down there, and he met with President de la Rua, had a very good visit.

He delivered our administration's message, which is, they've got to implement the reforms that they recently passed through their legislature. One of the things we—and so we're exploring all options as to how to make sure that the message goes out that we've got—that we're watching the situation very carefully, that we urge Argentina implement reforms. As they do so, they will gain the confidence not only of our country but of a lot of folks who are concerned about it.

I spoke to King Juan Carlos of Spain the other day. He is very concerned. Spain has got more at stake in Argentina than even the United States does. And I told him that we're watching it, and we're very careful about it. And our hope is that the Argentineans will earn the confidence of the investor community by making—by implementing the legislation they passed.

But we're keeping an open mind on all options.

Nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Q. Any chance you might have an announcement for us soon on the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

The President. Last time I hinted about doing something, everybody got the wrong message, and some of the flock were led astray. [*Laughter*] So I'm not going to hint anymore.

Q. Thank you. [*Laughter*]

The President. I know none of you—it was no misinformation at all.

President's Vacation

Q. No, I was asking if you're missing Washington?

The President. Am I?

Q. Yes.

The President. You know, I like Washington a lot. But I also like here. I tried to explain to the people that are following me around that this is my home. You know, some people say, "Well, this is a vacation spot." Actually, this is our house and home; this is where we will live.

And I'm the kind of person that really values home, and I like my house. And Laura loves it, as well. So we really enjoy being here.

But I've got a job to do. Once this period of time ends and once Congress starts heading back to Washington, I'll start heading back, myself. In the meantime, we're getting airborne tomorrow, as you know. We're going to Colorado and New Mexico, and I've got a few other trips—a couple of other trips.

Q. Hint? [*Laughter*]

The President. No more hints.

Q. I think that was a hint. [*Laughter*]

The President. But I'm going to be moving around some, and it's good. One of the things I'm doing is heralding the values of the heartland. You know, it's important for folks to get outside of Washington, DC.

Washington is a great town; it's got a lot going on. Obviously, there's a lot of action when the Congress is meeting. But the strength of the country is in our heartland. And tomorrow I'm going to be talking about character education—same in New Mexico. I'm also going to be talking about small-business ownership. Today I talked about the agricultural sector. It's what makes America great, and I think it's important for me to get out amongst the people as best as a President can.

American Values

Q. I don't mean to sound flip, but are those values that you like to extol less prevalent on the coast and more prevalent——

The President. No, not at all. Listen, the values are very prevalent throughout America. It's just that my house is not on the coast; my house is in Texas. I'm a Texan. This is where I was raised; this is where I'm going to retire; this is where I'll pass away, in Texas.

There's a lot of people, wonderful people that live on the coast of the country. They've got great family values; they care just as much about teaching children right from wrong as anybody else. California is one of the huge agricultural States. Don't get me

wrong; I happen to be here; this is where we're anchored.

To me, to be out on the land helps a President keep perspective. You know, I haven't been a President all that long, but I can assure you, perspective is important. Get used to it, because this is where I'm coming back to, as well.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Thinking of a telecommute, sir?

The President. Actually, we have that potential and have used it since I've been here, where I've gotten on a video conference with some of my staff, and it works great. But no, I need to be there in Washington, obviously. We've got enough of a staff here to keep me busy. But when Congress comes back, I'll be there ready to welcome them and encourage them to get moving on some legislation.

One piece of legislation they'll be working on is the new farm bill. Another piece of legislation they need to get moving is the education bill. We've got a great opportunity to get a faith-based initiative going. We got it out of the House and had a good meeting with Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum on how to get the bill moving out of the Senate.

We got a Patients' Bill of Rights, finally, for the first time. It looks like we're making some progress on a Patients' Bill of Rights. It's going to be in conference when we get back, so we've got a lot of work to do, and I look forward to Congress getting the job done.

Q. Are you anticipating some battles with the Senate?

The President. Oh, I never anticipate battles. [*Laughter*] I'll stand my ground and do what I think is right. That's what the people elected me to do. I'm confident, if there is the willingness to work with the White House in the Senate, we'll get a lot done. If people go up there just wanting to fight, then not much will get done, but we've already had that period. It's time to get rid of that business, out of Washington, and let's have a spirit of cooperation.

I'm confident we'll get a lot done, and I believe we will. So I go back to Washington with a can-do attitude, that we can do a lot of good for the American people and at the same time, by the way, make sure we've got a good budget that doesn't get busted by folks that feel compelled to appropriate beyond the confines of a budget.

Most Americans expect—when you set a budget, expect people to meet the budget. And that's what I'm going to expect, as the President. I'm going to say, "Look, you all come back, and here's your budget. Don't spend beyond the budget." That will help the country, that will help our economy recover, by the way, by showing some fiscal discipline.

I've got to go. I've given you a lot more than you deserve. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:04 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, the President referred to President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina. H.R. 2213, approved August 13, was assigned Public Law. No. 107–25. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on a Trail Tour and an Exchange With Reporters in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

August 14, 2001

The President. One of the things it's important for people to understand, that through good management of our forests we can prevent forest fires. I appreciate Secretary Norton's work on this. I want to thank you all for helping show America that we can do a better job of maintaining our natural resources.

We can thin these out and make them less prone to fire, and that's what we're going to see happen right now. I appreciate you giving me a chance to come by.

Superintendent Jones. And we're very proud of your support for the national parks.

The President. I'm a big supporter. We've got $5 billion—nearly $5 billion in the budget for 5 years to make sure these parks are accessible to all Americans. Fran is in charge of the national park system. She is very smart and capable.

Director Mainella. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been named. [*Laughter*]

Director Mainella. Thank you. I knew that. [*Laughter*]

The President. But we're excited to be here. This is a beautiful part of the world. I'm not only going to talk about how to make sure we maintain our parks in a smart, capable way, like you're doing, but I'm also going to talk about the need to teach our children good lessons of character.

And one way—and there's no better place to do this—I want to thank the Y for inviting me here to herald a program. All kinds of communities have character around the country, and this is a unique community of character.

When I was a kid growing up, a lot of my buddies used to come up to Estes Park from Houston, Texas. I guess you've had families coming since 1909.

Superintendent Jones. Yes. And Texas still has a large membership here with us; we get a lot of Texans. We love them.

The President. That's good.

Superintendent Jones. In fact, after Colorado, Texas——

The President. I've never been here.

Q. To Estes Park?

The President. Never have, no. I can see why a lot of people come, though; it's beautiful.

Q. We can come more often, sir.

The President. See, he's been in Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*] I'm not saying he's the biggest griper about the choice of where I go to work in the summer. He'll like it—get used to it. [*Laughter*]

Director Mainella. Do you know that you're the first President in almost 70 years to be here at Rocky Mountain National Park?

The President. I did not know that, Fran, thank you.

Director Mainella. And we really appreciate that. And it's really a statement of your commitment to our national park system.

The President. I am a big believer in the park system. We've got a lot of maintenance backlog, and we've got to take care of it. I know Fran has been doing—Gale, we're going to make a strong commitment to our parks. It's a really important part of the American scene.

Director Mainella. Thank you.

The President. And again, I want to emphasize the fact that through good forest management we can do a better job of containing fire. And I know there are some in our country that want to just, you know, let the forests fall apart. We're not going to let that happen in this administration. We're going to maintain them, and we're going to make sure that, if there is a fire, it does as little damage as possible.

You're going to see a part of the strategy right here. Gale was with the western Governors this past week, and we've come up with a very good strategy. It enforces—reinforces our commitment to working with the States and the local jurisdictions to make sure we've got sound, smart environmental policy. Not all the wisdom in the world is in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*] Some in Washington think that, but not this administration.

We trust the local folks, and our Federal Government is going to pledge to stand side by side with local folks. This is a collaborative effort here we're going to see between the private sector and the public park system to maintain these forests in a good, sensible way.

So, Jesse, let's get to work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Jesse Duhnkrack, fire management officer, Rocky Mountain National Park. Park Superintendent A. Durand Jones and National Park Service Director Frances P. Mainella participated in the exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters in the Lunch Line at a YMCA Picnic in Rocky Mountain National Park

August 14, 2001

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, I've got a Mideast question for you. The Israeli tanks moved into a Palestinian city, the furthest incursion yet. Any new reaction to that?

The President. I have no new reaction. My only point is—and I'm going to continue to make the point and so is my administration—that the cycle of violence has got to end in order for the peace process, or any peace process, to begin.

And therefore, Mr. Arafat must clamp down on the suicide bombers and on the violence. And the Israelis must show restraint. We've got to break the cycle. In order for there to be any discussions about world peace, it requires a willingness of both sides to come to the table. And my administration continues to talk to both sides, and we will continue to work to try to bring a sense of—a desire, a sense of purpose on the partners there in the Middle East to sit down and, one, reject the violence and start meaningful discussions about how to reach an accord. It's essential that the violence stops.

Q. Sounds like a strongly held feeling.

The President. Well, I feel very strongly about it because I'm worried about the cycle of violence continuing to escalate. And it's not good for our—it's not good for that part of the world, nor is it good for the rest of the world, that the Middle East be a place of violence.

We've been making good progress in Macedonia, it looks like, so that part of the world is beginning to calm down a little bit.

The Middle East is a cauldron of violence, and we've got to—and we will continue to be very much involved in insisting that both parties break the cycle.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:05 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at a YMCA Picnic in Rocky Mountain National Park

August 14, 2001

Thank you all very much. Tessa, thanks—a pretty tough act to follow. [*Laughter*]

First, I want to thank the Marich family for their patience working me through the food line. I'd worked up quite an appetite up top of the mountain, and I'm glad I got a little of that barbecue.

Thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank the directors of the Y for welcoming me to this little slice of heaven. You know, when I was growing up in Texas, a lot of people say, "You know, I spent my summer in Estes Park," and now I know why. It's a beautiful spot, and thanks for having me.

I'm traveling with some folks that you might want to at least say hello to. I picked somebody from—to head the Department of the Interior who would understand the thinking of the West, who would understand that we can have good, sound environmental policy, that conservation is important.

And so when I named Gale Norton from the State of Colorado to be the head of the Department of Interior, a lot of folks came to realize this is an administration that's going to be wise, full of common sense when it comes to preserving the natural beauty of our country. And I'm so thankful Gale Norton is here. Where are you, Gale? Thank you for coming.

I also needed to find somebody to run our National Park Service, somebody who was bright and wise, as well, somebody who shared our commitment to making sure that at the very minimum, the maintenance backlog in these parks ought to be taken care of; that the parks are for the people; that when we just talk about a national park system that is an incredibly important part of our Nation's heritage and tradition, that the parks be accessible for the people who pay the bills; that they be well maintained.

We've got $5 billion in the budget, for the next 5 years, to end this maintenance backlog, and the person who is going to work with us to do so is the National Park Service Director, Fran Mainella. Thank you, Fran. And I want to thank all the Park Service employees who are here. You've got a tough job and an important job, and we probably don't thank you enough for the work you do. But I want to thank you.

It's great to travel up on the trail and see the wise public policy being deployed here: public policy to make sure that we reduce the hazards of forest fires; smart management of our lands; wise, commonsense approach to how we thin out our forests, prevent the hazards of forest fire; and the Park employees were up there working, along with the volunteers from the Y camp. I also loved meeting the folks making the trails so that the American people can access this beautiful part of the world. So on behalf of the taxpayers of our country and the administration,

I want to thank all the Park Service employees for your good work.

Also traveling with me today is the Governor of this great State, a man who has fulfilled every promise he made, and that's my friend Bill Owens. Thank you for coming, Bill. And the Lieutenant Governor is somewhere—hey, Joe, thank you—Lieutenant Governor Rogers is here, as well. Thank you for being here. Two fine United States Senators, Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse Campbell, are here; the Congressman from this district, Bob Schaffer, is here. Bob, where are you? There he is. [*Laughter*] And Tom Tancredo, the other Congressman—thank you all for coming.

We are making some progress in Washington, starting with changing the tone of the Nation's Capital. Like a lot of citizens around our country, I was deeply concerned about the bitterness that seemed to be in every other voice in the Nation's Capital. And one of the things I pledged to do was to at least try to change the tone, try to say if you don't happen to agree with somebody, you can disagree in an agreeable way, that party is important, but it's not paramount—what's more important is the country.

And I believe we're making good progress. We've come together and have done some smart things on behalf of the American people. I think one of the smartest things we did was cut the taxes, to get people their money back. I appreciate all the signs I saw coming in, where people said, thanks for the $600. [*Laughter*] But guess what? It wasn't mine to give out; it was theirs to begin with.

So it's important. We've got a wise budget; we've got a good budget, a good, sound fiscal policy. We're working hard on getting an education bill out that makes sense.

We're sending a clear message overseas, that ours is a proud nation that will promote the peace. But we're not going to sign on to every single agreement that somebody thought might have been good. We're going to stand tall for freedom and America, that what's good for America is going to be paramount to my way of thinking.

I think we're making good progress explaining to our allies that we'll be loyal friends, but we can't be all things to all people. I hope we're breaking new ground when it comes to Mr. Putin, welcoming him to the West, saying to him that the old days of mistrust, aiming missiles at each other have got to end. The cold war is over. It's finally over, and now it's time to have a new strategic thinking about how to keep the peace. So we're making good progress.

But there's a role bigger than just initiatives and legislation for a President in an administration. And it's really to herald, to capture the spirit of the country. That's why I'm so thankful that Dave Thomas has invited me here, to let me come, and the staff, because the spirit of the country is reflected, in my judgment, right here in this beautiful setting.

The spirit of America is found in the character of our citizens, the value base that makes America, I think, such a different kind of place—a place that—a country that values family and friendship, a place where people learn values and character. One of the things that—when I try to describe America to somebody who has never been here I say, "We're a country stitched together by communities of character."

This is a community of character, as far as I'm concerned. Not only does it exist in a beautiful setting—and I can see why families have wanted to come back year after year after year—but there's also a grand vision embodied in these mountains. And the vision is that we can teach our children right from wrong. And we can teach them good, sound values, so that when they get older they'll make the right choices in their life.

We can teach our children values that will make an enormous difference for our country as a whole, the values of respect: respect the land; respect somebody with whom you may not agree; respect your neighbor, regardless of where they were raised or where they were born; respect somebody else's religious views; be willing to listen. It's an important value to make our country so different and so unique, a country that's been able to absorb people from all walks of life under the great umbrella of freedom and opportunity.

There is also a respect out here, respect for family. I was up there when I was helping clear the trail, somebody said they were from Fredericksburg, Texas, which reminded me of a story, a true story that happened to me.

I was there, as Governor of Texas, for the 50th anniversary at the end of the war in the Pacific Theater. And my mother and dad were there, as was Laura, my wife. And I got up to speak, to welcome everybody as the Governor, and I said, "Welcome." And I said, "Dad, welcome back to central Texas," and people cheered. And I said, "Mother," and before I could say another word, everybody was screaming at the top of their lungs. And I said, "Mother,"—and still—"everybody here loves you in Texas and so do I, but you are still telling me what to do after 50 years." [*Laughter*] And a guy in a big cowboy hat steps out in the middle of Main Street, Fredericksburg, and screams, "You better listen to her, too, boy." [*Laughter*]

Part of respect is to respect your mom and dad. So to the campers here, my advice is, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] In my case, I don't have any choice. [*Laughter*]

You also teach the sense of responsibility, that each of us must be responsible for the decisions we make in life. And that's a really important character and core value for our country. That we must have a responsible society, that Government can't do everything in a society. We've got to be responsible for loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

One of the things that I'm hoping to get through the Congress is the faith-based initiative, faith and community based initiative which will capture and stand side by side the programs all around America that rely upon faith to help change people's lives.

I recognize there is a role for Government-sponsored programs, but our society must recognize there is also a role for faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs, programs that exist to help people change their heart and, therefore, change their behavior. We shouldn't fear faith in America; we ought to welcome the faith-based programs that help define our country as a unique land. And so, responsible society is one that we all must aim for.

Now, this is a nation of character and values, and I'm so honored to be in a place that teaches values, that heralds character, that's not afraid to say there are right choices in life to make and wrong choices in life to make; a community of conscious and a community of character that aims to say to our young, this American experience is a fantastic experience. Work hard, study hard, respect your family, and respect your friends, and our Nation will be even greater than it is today.

So thank you for giving me a chance to come and herald a wonderful program in an unbelievably beautiful setting. It's a great honor to be the President of this country. And the main reason why is because our country is the greatest there is. And the reason why we are is because the people of America are so fantastic and so loving and so decent.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Tessa Murphy, camp counselor, Estes Park Center YMCA, who introduced the President; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and David G. Thomas, executive director, YMCA of the Rockies.

Statement Following a Telephone Conversation With President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia

August 14, 2001

This morning I spoke with my friend President Boris Trajkovski to congratulate him on his courage and leadership in negotiating the political settlement that was signed yesterday in Macedonia.

The settlement promises to strengthen democracy and avert civil war, while protecting Macedonia's territorial integrity and political unity. It addresses longstanding political aspirations of the citizens of Macedonia. It is now up to Macedonia's Assembly to adopt the constitutional amendments and legislation to implement the settlement.

As I have made clear from the outset of the fighting, the United States stands strongly against those armed extremists who have tried to take democracy hostage in Macedonia. President Trajkovski and I agree that their tactics are despicable and their methods undemocratic. The time has come for these armed groups to turn over their weapons to NATO and disband.

A political settlement has been signed, and we now need to ensure the peace and put

Macedonia back on the road to Europe. The United States offers its strong support to President Trajkovski and to the democratic Government of Macedonia as they move forward to achieve this goal.

Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for Senator Wayne Allard and Governor Bill Owens in Denver, Colorado

August 14, 2001

Thank you, all. Thank you very much. Thank you all very much. Okay, sit down, please. Thank you, all.

Madame Secretary, thank you for that kind introduction. You read it just like I wrote it. [*Laughter*] I'm really proud of my appointment of Gale Norton to the Secretary of the Interior. She is doing a fabulous job.

I think one of the things that people are going to find about our administration is we bring some common sense to Washington, DC. And Gale Norton brings a lot of common sense—common sense—to the Interior Department. And it needed a little common sense. [*Laughter*]

I'm sorry my wife isn't with me, but I want to give you a family report. I'm extremely proud of our First Lady. She's doing a fabulous job. She's working on a reading initiative that will have a profound impact all across America. Right now she's worrying about the two dogs and the cat on our ranch in Crawford, Texas.

We love our ranch in Crawford, Texas. But I must say, after having been in Estes Park—[*laughter*]—it's good to get out of Washington. [*Laughter*] I love my job. I want to thank all of you here who helped me become the President. It's a huge honor. But it's also a—and I like going to the Oval Office every day. As you can imagine, walking into this great office is—it's hard to describe how I feel every morning.

But it's also important to get out and see the people, too. It's important to keep balance and perspective. We find that on our ranch in central Texas, and I find it as I travel the heartland. No better place to come than the great State of Colorado, where people are down-to-earth and work hard and adhere to great American values. And I want to thank you for the warm welcome I've received today.

I appreciate so very much traveling today with United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. He is a—he is an interesting man—[*laughter*]—who I'm proud to call friend. He brings a lot of class to the United States Senate, and he represents your State with a lot of dignity.

I want to thank the Members of the Congressional delegation who are here, as well: Scott McInnis, who just came off Mount McKinley today to say hello to his President. And I want to thank you, Scott. I traveled today with Tom Tancredo and Bob Schaffer, as well. Both of these men—all three of these men are good, solid citizens in the United States Congress, and I appreciate their friendship. I appreciate their advice. I get a lot of advice from Members of Congress these days. [*Laughter*] Most of all, I appreciate their votes. Thank you all for being here.

I want to thank my friend, Joe Rogers, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Colorado, for being here. Thank you, Joe. And Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership. Where is he? There he is, down there. I appreciate you taking on the lead. I appreciate you toiling in the trenches. I appreciate you make sure Colorado remains in the public—Republican camp in 2002.

I'm here to help two good men get reelected, and I appreciate you all's work helping them get reelected. There's no finer Governor in the United States than Bill Owens. Jeb Bush isn't all that bad. [*Laughter*] But he's done a great job. He is the kind of fellow you want in office because he does what he says he's going to do.

That sounds pretty simple to people from the outside, but a lot of times in the political process, that's not the way it works. A lot of times, you have candidates running for office who say one thing, and they don't mean it. They go out and tell the people all across the State that they're going to do something for education, but they really don't mean it, or they can't get it done.

This is a man who has done in office what he said he would do. He's cut the taxes, he's made education a priority, and you need to send him back. You need to put him back

in the statehouse. Plus, he married well. [*Laughter*] Frances is a great First Lady for the State of Colorado.

Bill is going to work hard; I know. And he's going to run on a positive agenda; that's what the people want. He told me today on the airplane that although he's done a lot for education, he's going to continue to stay on education. And we're going to help him with a good bill out of Washington, DC, that will give more power and flexibility to the States. Education is his priority, and it needs to be his priority. It's the people's priority of the State of Colorado.

And I'm proud to stand up here for Wayne, as well. He's a good man. He works hard, and I need him in the Senate. I need somebody who I can count on in the United States Senate.

And Colorado needs him in the Senate. Colorado needs a man who understands natural resources and who brings balance to the issue. Colorado needs a man who understands energy. Colorado needs a fiscal conservative in the United States Senate. Colorado needs a commonsense man, and that man is Wayne Allard.

Let me say one other thing. It's much better to have two United States Senators who will have their phone call returned from the White House than one. [*Laughter*] It's much better to have two people working on the State's business, who can work closely with an administration. It's important to have somebody who is an ally in the Oval Office, to represent your State. And I view Wayne as an ally, and I think he views me as an ally of Colorado. That's important.

And the voters of Colorado have got to understand the practical aspects of how Washington works. And it's going to work a lot better for Colorado when you send Wayne Allard back to the United States Senate.

We're getting a lot done in the Nation's Capital. I can remember watching Washington in the so-called days of gridlock, and the anger and the finger-pointing, and say, we can do better than that. This great land of ours needs a Government that is more willing to listen, more respectful tone, so that when people are coming up in our system, they're not discouraged by what they see.

Democracy depends upon our citizenry becoming involved. It means that those of us who have been entrusted with power must set a good tone and a good example. And we're beginning to get that done in Washington. Oh, there is still some name-calling and some finger-pointing and some gnashing of teeth, but it's getting better.

And one reason it's getting better is because we're getting some things done, starting with a meaningful, real tax cut for the American people. I can remember in the course of the campaign people would say, "Well, he's just saying it. He doesn't mean that." But it's reality, and it needed to be reality, because our economy began to slow down. And one of the things a commonsense administration does is solve problems.

And one way you solve the problem of an economic slowdown is give people some of their money back. That's called good, sound fiscal policy.

Today, when we were riding on the road up to Estes Park, I was so proud to see a lot of citizens holding that sign up saying, "Thanks for the $600, Mr. President." But you know what? It wasn't my $600 to give. It was their money in the first place.

I think we're finally making the point in Washington that the so-called surplus is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And when we've got too much of it in Washington, we're going to send it back to the people who pay the bills.

And I want to thank Wayne for his help on repealing the estate tax. That tax was punitive; it's unnecessary; and we're finally going to get rid of it in the Tax Code of the United States.

You hear a lot of them talking in Washington about, "Oh, the tax cut might cause a deficit." No. What causes a deficit is too much spending. And we've got a good budget in place, and I expect the United States Congress to adhere to the budget we have in place. And if they try to over-spend—I know none of the Members up here will—but I can assure you, when we get back this fall, if they try to bust the budget, you'll have a President who will veto those budget-busting bills.

There's a new day in Washington, DC. It used to be they'd have a bidding contest to

see who could get out of town first. Those days are over. We've set a responsible budget, passed by both the House and the Senate. And I expect members of both political parties to adhere to that budget. It's the best way to make sure our economy recovers—sending money back to the taxpayers and having fiscal sanity in the halls of Government in Washington, DC.

We passed an education bill that was one of my top priorities. It's a bill that's going to make our schools better. It's a bill that gives more flexibility at the local level. It consolidates programs. But it also does something that you've done here in Colorado: It challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations. It says, every child can learn. And we believe that we must measure to determine whether or not every child is learning.

This piece of Federal legislation says, for the first time, if you take any Federal money, you, the State, must measure; you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, there will be ample praise, but if not, we will not stand idly by. We will not continue to fund failure. There are no second-rate children in America, and there are no second-rate dreams, as far as this administration is concerned.

Oh, I've heard all the complaints about testing. They say, "There's too much Government if you test." But we're results-oriented people. We expect there to be a return on taxpayers' money. We want to know, if we're spending money on the schools out of Washington, DC, or you're spending money on the schools out of Colorado—it seems like it makes sense to ask the question, what are the results?

And then they say, "If you test, it's racist." Folks, let me tell you something as plainly as I can: It's racist not to test. It's so much easier to quit on inner-city black kids or kids whose parents may not speak English as their first language. It's so much easier to shuffle them through the system. But those days are gone, as far as this President is concerned. I want every child to learn to read and write and add and subtract.

I believe every child can learn in America. And it starts with teaching every child to read. And that's exactly what we're going to start doing in America. We're going to ask the Governors, like Owens, to have a reading program based upon sound science, not based upon some feel-good curriculum but based upon what works. Phonics works, by the way, and it needs to be integrated into the reading programs all across America.

Ours is the first administration to put out an energy plan. And we needed an energy plan. I called upon our good Vice President—and by the way, his health is strong, and he's a fabulous Vice President of the United States. He comes from right around the corner, Wyoming. And as he likes to say, who thought those three electoral votes weren't important? [*Laughter*]

But we've developed an energy policy that makes sense for America. On the one hand, it says, we can do a better job of conserving our resources, and we must. We must use the new technologies available, or becoming available, to make better use of scarce supply of energy.

One of the interesting initiatives we've taken in Washington, DC, is we've got these vampire-busting devices. A vampire is a—a cell deal you can plug in the wall to charge your cell phone. And when your cell phone is not on the charger, even though the charger is plugged in, it's still eating electricity. So some smart person came along and developed a cell phone charger that doesn't eat electricity when the cell phone is not plugged in.

And so our Federal Government is going to start using these devices to set the example, to show that we can be good stewards of our Nation's energy. All of us must do a better job. But make no mistake about it, we need more supply, as well.

The State of California leads our Nation when it comes to conservation measures. But they ran out of energy. They're building 12 energy—12 powerplants, and that's good, and we helped to expedite the process to get the 12 powerplants built. But those 12 powerplants are going to be powered by natural gas, and this Nation better have an administration that starts asking, "Where's that gas going to come from if they're going to power the powerplants?" We need more supply available for American consumers, as well.

There's a lot of people who don't have faith in our technology in America. I have faith in technology. And like many of you in the energy sector, you know we can go into parts of Alaska and drill for natural gas, for precious natural gas, without destroying the environment. It's time to have a commonsense energy policy for the United States of America.

Ours is an administration that told our United States military that we would help them remain strong. And it starts with paying our troops better, and we have. The budgets we submitted increased pay, helped on health insurance, and improved the housing of the men and women who wear the uniform. And we're going to do so in the 2002 budget, as well.

But this is an administration who is not going to needlessly spend money. We want to spend money on a clear, strategic vision. We want our military to be a military not only that can keep the peace today but a military ready to keep the peace tomorrow. And so I've asked Secretary Rumsfeld to prepare a strategic vision for what our military ought to look like, so when we spend taxpayers' money, we spend it wisely.

And along those lines, I appreciate the support of the Members up here who recognize what I recognize, that the cold war is over. It's time to discard the treaties that codified the cold war and to develop a new strategic relationship with a country like Russia, so we can more ably keep the peace. Russia is no longer our enemy. The cold war no longer exists. The enemies that the United States face are terrorists, rogue nations that will develop weapons of mass destruction and point them at us or our allies, cyberterrorists.

And our defenses must reflect the true threats facing us. So that's why I was proud to represent our Nation in sitting down with the Russian President. And I told him, I said, "Mr. President, you're not our enemy and, therefore, we need to get rid of the ABM Treaty. We need to have a new way of thinking, a way that will allow a peaceful nation like the United States to develop the necessary defenses to protect our people, our allies, our friends all around the world."

It's time to think differently about the defense of the United States of America. There are some at this table who—all at this table who support me, but some in the United States Senate are nervous about getting rid of the relics of the cold war. And I don't agree with them. I don't agree with them.

And the reason I don't is because I understand the intention of America. We love the peace. We're a nation that relies upon strength to keep the peace. We're a nation that says we can develop the technologies necessary to make the entire world more peaceful. It's my pledge to the American people; it's my pledge to our allies overseas; and it's a pledge I intend to keep.

We're making progress on what they call a Patients' Bill of Rights—it recognizes that patients need to be more empowered when it comes to making choices in the medical field. I say we're making progress because there needs to be balance in the law. It's important to give our docs and patients more opportunity to interface, and the law will.

But we cannot allow lawsuits to drive up the cost of medicine, that will force people out of health insurance. There are too many people uninsured in America today.

I think we can get a good bill out of the conference committee. We got one good bill already out of the House, a not-so-good bill out of the Senate. I'm hopeful that we can come together and get a good bill that I can sign, that will bring balance to health care.

And, finally, we're making great progress in Washington, DC, on a very important initiative. It's called the Faith-Based and Community Development Initiative. It's an initiative that really takes welfare a step beyond where we are today.

First of all, we recognize there are lot of people hurt in America, people who have lost hope and faith in our country, people who don't believe the American Dream was meant for them, people hooked on drugs and are destitute. We should never give up on those folks in our country. We're a compassionate nation, and we're a wealthy nation, and we ought to focus our resources and compassion so it helps.

But Governments can't make people love one another. I wish we could—I'd sign the law. Allard would sponsor it, Nighthorse would vote for it, and I would sign it. But the good news is, we are a loving nation.

There's a lot of people who have heard the call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We're a nation, the fabric of which is created by little communities of conscience all over America. I was at one today, at the YMCA camp in Estes Park, a place where they teach children right from wrong by teaching values. There are drug treatment programs all across our country who rely upon faith. They change a person's heart, and that person changes their lives.

We've got prison ministries that are helping prisoners find the walk. We've got all kinds of faith-based initiatives that are literally changing our country one heart, one soul, one conscious at a time. And the Federal Government must not fear faith-based programs in America. We must empower them. We must welcome them into all neighborhoods, to make sure the American Dream reaches across every neighborhood.

My dream for America is to usher in a period of personal responsibility, a culture that rejects the old times that said, if it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else. I believe there's a better culture for the country. It's one that says each of us must be responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for your child. The most important job you'll ever have is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a neighbor—got a neighbor in need, it's up to you, not your Government, to help the neighbor in need. Be responsible with our environment, responsible by supporting teachers in the school system. Be a responsible citizen.

But it starts with having responsible leadership. And that's why I'm so proud to stand and represent and urge for the reelection of Wayne Allard and Bill Owens, who are responsible citizens, who bring dignity and honor to the offices to which they have been elected.

It's an honor to be here. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:41 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom at the Adam's Mark Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Bob Beauprez, State chairman, Republican State Central Committee of Colorado; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Exchange With Reporters at Griegos Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 15, 2001

Situation in the Middle East

Q. One question about the Middle East, sir. Do you believe that they are on the brink of war there? And have you come to believe that it's no longer realistic——

The President. [*Inaudible*]—the violence in the Middle East, but I'm confident that the leadership there will understand that war is avoidable and will work to bring peace. The parties must—must—make up their mind that peace is preferable to war. The suicide bombings have increased; there's too many of them. And Mr. Arafat must do everything in his power to discourage the suicide bombers. And the Israelis must be restrained in their response.

There's too much violence in the Middle East, but I'm confident that we can avoid war so long as the leadership makes the concerted effort to do so. My administration is constantly in touch with the parties. I spoke to Secretary Powell this morning. We're working with the appropriate folks. The Egyptians are in town. Not only are we talking to the Palestinians and the Israelis, we're talking to other nations in the neighborhood to encourage them to convince Mr. Arafat to do everything he can to prevent and stop suicide bombings and needless violence.

Congratulations, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News]. You actually got me to say something. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:40 a.m. in room 117. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at Griegos Elementary School in Albuquerque

August 15, 2001

The President. Thank you for the warm greeting. It's an honor to be here on the first day of school. I can remember—I think I can still remember the excitement I felt when I was—the first day of school as a first-grader at Sam Houston Elementary School in Midland, Texas. At least I felt—I felt the energy of the kids, and I kind of could relate to it. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come.

I want you to know that the idea of coming here was Heather Wilson's. We were sitting around the Cabinet Room at the—right outside the Oval Office, and she said, "I understand you're thinking about coming to New Mexico." I said, "You bet. I used to spend a lot of time there when I was living in Midland, Texas. I think that's exactly where I intend to go during my stay out of Washington." She said, "Well, if you come to Albuquerque, you better make sure you go to a school, and I've got a good one in mind." And I said, "Yes, ma'am." [*Laughter*] Here I am. It shows what kind of influence she has as a Congressperson representing the great folks of Albuquerque, New Mexico. And I want to thank Heather for her service and for her recommendation.

I'm also really thrilled to be here with the two United States Senators from the State of New Mexico, Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, both of them fine Americans. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor, who is here. Lieutenant Governor Walter Bradley is representing the State officials, and I want to thank you for being here, Walter, as well.

I want to thank—I made a pretty darn good pick when I asked Rod Paige to come to Washington, DC, from Houston, Texas, to become the Secretary of Education. I picked Rod for a reason, and I think Brad Allison, the superintendent of schools here, will understand why. I wanted somebody who had been in the trenches of public schools, somebody who had been on the front line of insisting upon excellence for every single child, not somebody who had read it in a textbook or somebody who was a theorist but a hands-on Secretary of Education who had cut his teeth in making sure that all children, not just a handful of children but every child in the school district, received a good education. And Rod Paige did just that as the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. He's going to make a great Secretary of Education.

I was very impressed by Brad Allison's comments to me when I walked in. Sometimes people, when they meet the President, get a little tongue-tied. Not Brad. [*Laughter*] He said, "I want you to know, Mr. President, our school district is committed to two things, excellence in academics for every child and strong character education for every child." He understands that the two go hand in hand; that a complete child is one that not only learns how to read and write and add and subtract but a child who also learns the difference between right and wrong. And I applaud that holistic approach to education, Brad, and thank you for your leadership.

And I want to thank Eddie Lucero, too, the principal of the school. One of the things you learn when you spend a lot of time on public education, like I have done as the Governor of Texas and now doing as the President, that the quality of education in a particular school really depends upon the entrepreneurial spirit of the principal.

You've got a fine principal here. You know how I know? You've got an accountability system that tells us that's the case. We're not guessing in New Mexico whether or not children are learning to read. We know, because your State is bold enough to adapt a policy that says, show us whether or not the children are learning before any child gets left behind.

I just came from a second grade class. I want to thank Gloria—is she here, the second grade teacher? She is there. Gloria, thank you for your hospitality. Obviously, she has inherited on the first day of school a group of former first graders who were well-trained in reading. These kids are way beyond "The Hungry Caterpillar," let me put it to you that way. [*Laughter*] They read it better than the President could read it. [*Laughter*]

But I was very impressed. And I want to thank Gloria, but I also want to thank all the teachers, the teachers here in Albuquerque,

the teachers all across New Mexico and the country, for taking on a very important profession.

We can never thank our teachers enough. One of the things my wife is doing—and by the way, I'm sorry she's not here. She is—you would find her to be an articulate advocate for making sure every child learns to read. After all, she was the public school librarian when I married her. She also is going to spend a lot of time encouraging people to become teachers, encouraging the young to become teachers, encouraging those, for example, who have spent time in the military to take advantage of the Troops for Teachers program that we have worked with Pete and Jeff on to fund, to encourage people to get back into the classroom, to make sure that our kids have got the very best instruction possible.

I want to thank the teachers. I also want to thank the parents here. The truth of the matter is, you're the first teacher for every child. It's important for all of us who have been fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad to remember the most important job we will ever have is to love our children with all our hearts and all our souls. The most important job a mom or dad will ever have is to make sure your child is healthy, well treated, and well educated.

Good education starts in the living rooms of the citizens of this country. It starts with a mom or a dad saying, "You turn off the TV and practice reading." It means, get rid of the tube and get into the books. That's where it starts, and I know that's hard. After all, Laura and I raised twins, and they struggled to get that TV on. But we spent a lot of time reading to them early and insisting that they practice reading as they came up. And that's so important for a mom or a dad to realize that.

And after all, reading is the foundation of a good education. I'll never forget our friend, Rod, and my friend Phyllis Hunter of Houston, Texas. She said, "Reading is the new civil right." I want you to think about that concept. Reading is the new civil right. Reading is the capacity for some child whose parents may not speak English as a first language to be able to succeed in America. If your child can read, your child can learn, and we want every child to learn.

The question I like to ask every child I visit in the classroom is, "Are you going to college?" In this great country, we expect every child, regardless of how he or she is raised, to go to college. That's a goal we want every child to have. And it starts with making sure every single child can read.

And so one of the things we've done is promoted a reading initiative based upon the science of reading, the sound science of what works. Laura recently hosted a big seminar in Washington, DC, bringing in folks who understand how to connect the brain to the words on the page. There's a science to reading. We found in my State that phonics needs to be an integral part of a reading curriculum to make sure every single child learns to read.

And one of the things we're doing, as we're working with Pete on our budget, is we're tripling the amount of dollars available for reading programs all around the country, to help districts develop diagnostic tools and determine what little children need help early, before it's too late; to make sure our teachers are properly trained in how to teach reading; and to make sure there's intervention programs available if a child needs extra help.

Reading is the whole basis for a good education system. And I want to applaud this school and your principals and your teachers for recognizing that and insisting that every child learn to read. I want you to understand, I said "every child." I didn't say "just a handful of children." I didn't say "only those whose parents may make a certain income." I mean every single child, because, you see, I believe—and I know many of you all believe—that every child can read in America.

We must challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. We must make sure the mindset that says certain children can't learn to read is eradicated all across America. See, it's so much easier to walk into a classroom of tough-to-educate children and say, "We'll just move you through. That's the easiest path." And guess who gets hurt the most when that happens? Guess who gets affected the most in a system that has no accountability as its cornerstone? It's the children, the so-called hard-to-educate, because it's easier to quit.

And one of the ways to make sure we never quit is, one, for the Federal Government to help, which we will do in reading programs. And by the way, I'm proud to announce, Mr. Superintendent, that Rod Paige and my administration has worked up a grant of $6 million, a 3-year grant to the Albuquerque school system for the magnet school programs in your school districts.

No, we can help. And the cornerstone of the education bill that is still in the conference—and I'm confident the Members will work hard to get it out of conference so I can sign it, sooner rather than later—but one of the cornerstones of the bill says that we're going to hold people accountable for results.

I love coming into a school district where I hear the superintendent and the principals say, "Go ahead and measure us. We're confident that we've got the right curriculum. We're confident we've got the best teachers possible. We're confident that we're teaching our children the skills necessary to become productive citizens."

It's those school districts and States I get a little nervous about that say, "We don't want any accountability." You see, that, to me, seems like an excuse to mask failure. We can't mask failure anymore in America. Every child is too precious. And so the cornerstone says—of reform—says, the States and local jurisdictions will develop the accountability systems to let us know.

And we want to know. Moms and dads need to know. You need to know whether your children are learning to read, early. And if they're not, we've got to make sure they do. You need to know the results. We shouldn't fear accountability in America. We ought to welcome accountability. We're a results-oriented society, and when we find results that are satisfactory, we'll praise them. But when we find children trapped into schools that won't teach and won't change, we've got to insist upon something else.

I refuse to relent. I've heard all the arguments about accountability. "Oh, it's too much Government," they argue. Wait a minute. If we're spending taxpayers' money, if we're spending the hard-earned money of people—the money of people, hard-working people—we want to know, don't we? Shouldn't we insist upon results if we're putting taxes into the coffers of the school system? Yes, of course.

And then you hear people say, "It's racist to test." Do you know what I think? I think it's racist not to test. I think it basically says—I think that attitude basically says, "Hey, some kids can't learn. So let's don't test. Let's don't find the truth." We need to know the truth, and when we find the truth, I can assure you what's going to happen: Where reform is needed, reform will happen.

There's nothing better to get parents involved in schools than to measure and report the results. There's nothing better than to have public report cards on accountability, so a mom or dad can know exactly where the school stands or where the children stand within a school.

A lot of us discussed the need to get parents more involved, and you bet, every teacher wants parents involved. They know it will make their job better. But when there's success, a parent will be involved to thank the teachers. And when we're not doing as well as we should be, the parents will be involved, because every child is precious in a parent's eyes.

We're making good progress around America. School districts like yours, Mr. Superintendent, are leading the way. You're showing them what can be done. I want to thank the school board members who are here. And I want to assure you, although we bring Washington rhetoric to Albuquerque, we believe in local control of schools in Washington. We believe in empowering the local people.

We know one size does not fit all when it comes to education. I can assure you that the Albuquerque school district is different from the Rhode Island school districts, for example. And therefore, we need to have more flexibility when it comes to Federal law. So one of the cornerstones of the reform package is going to be to consolidate Federal programs and entrust local people to make the right decisions on how to apply that money.

We're making good progress. We're making good progress challenging the status quo. And that's important, because every child is precious. And so, rather than ending my

speech here, what I thought I would do is maybe answer some questions, if you might have any, starting with the students, and if not the students, maybe the parents, and if not the parents, maybe the Senators. [*Laughter*] No, forget that. I'm on my vacation. I've been answering questions from Senators for—[*laughter*].

Anybody got any questions—any of the students? Yes, ma'am.

Medicare

Q. Are you going to try to do anything for the older people?

The President. Am I going to—I can't hear you very well.

Q. Are you going to try to do anything for the olderly (sic) people?

The President. The older people? "Olderly people?" [*Laughter*] Well, the first thing we're going to do is, we're going to make sure we've got a health care system that meets their needs. We're going to make sure that Medicare—[*applause*]. And we're beginning to work on a Medicare package that says to our seniors, our Nation has made you a promise, and we intend to keep the promise, that there needs to be a prescription drug benefit as a part of Medicare, and that there needs to be more options and more choices for our senior citizens to be able to design a health care program to meet their particular needs.

Medicare is old; it's antiquated; it's ancient. It is not responsive, and it needs to be fixed. And one of the dangers about fixing Medicare, it becomes what we call a hot political football. People try to use the issue to burn somebody who is trying to talk about Medicare. But I guess I must think I've got an asbestos suit on, because I'm going to talk about the issue until we get it fixed. It's an important issue to get it reformed, and I believe we can make some progress.

I met with both Republicans and Democrats on this issue, and there seems to be a desire and a will to make sure Medicare is responsive. And so I think that's the most important thing we can do pretty quickly for the "olderly." [*Laughter*]

Yes.

President's Experience as a Student

Q. We're you a good student in fifth grade?

The President. In fifth grade? [*Laughter*] I'm glad you qualified that for fifth grade. [*Laughter*] Yes, I was a good student in fifth grade. But I do want to remind you that I went back to my alma mater, which was Yale University, and I received an honorary degree. And I was giving—I gave a few remarks there, and I said, "To the honor students, I say congratulations. And to you C students, I say, you, too, can be President." [*Laughter*]

But I like to read. I liked to read when I was in the fifth grade, and I still like to read. I read a lot. And it's important to read. It's really important to pay attention to your moms and dads and your teachers who are all encouraging you to practice reading.

Yes.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. She's asked about the teacher shortage. There are some programs, targeted programs to try to recruit people. One is the Troops for Teachers program I mentioned, where we provide teacher-training money for people getting out of the military to get back in the classroom. That's a place where my wife is focusing to encourage those who may have had another career to get back in the classroom.

The truth of the matter is, most incentives, however, are developed at the State level. One of the things that people get a little mixed up on is, they insist upon local control of schools but expect the Federal Government to pay teachers, for example. That's not the Federal role. The good folks in New Mexico have got to figure out whether or not you want to pay your teachers more.

One of the most important pieces of legislation I signed as the Governor of Texas, we paid each teacher a $3,000 increase in my third term as Governor, with the attempt to make sure we retained our teachers and kept our teachers in place. I notice they worked on some health insurance during the last legislative session. The States are responsible for making sure the teachers are well paid.

Now, the Federal Government, by giving maximum flexibility to monies coming back

to the State, will help States prioritize, will help States have extra money, for example, if we can have—let me put it this way. By having flexibility, it lets States set the priorities necessary. And if a priority in New Mexico is the recruitment and retention of teachers, flexibility will help you do that. And so there are some things we can do; there's some grant programs. But mainly, it's up to the States to recruit.

Now, one of the things that Laura can do, and I can do, as well, is encourage people who are trying to pick out a career to go to teacher college and to become a teacher. And so we're going to spend time doing that, as well. One of the things we've got to make sure of, however, is that our teacher colleges teach teachers how to teach, by using curriculum that works. And that's a very important part of—[*applause*].

And finally, let me say one other thing. The other thing we can do is—we've got teacher-training money in the budget, and one of the things that's so important for teachers is to feel like they've got the tools necessary to teach. And finally, one other thing we can do for retaining teachers is to make sure classrooms are safe. As a part of an initiative that I've talked about and that Congress worked on is that we've got a teacher and principal and school board liability protection in the education bill that says, you cannot be sued for enforcing reasonable standards of discipline in classrooms across America. And that's a very important part.

The First Lady

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Welcome to my alma mater. I graduated from this school 30 years ago.

The President. Did you make all A's in the fifth grade? [*Laughter*]

Q. All A's, yes, sir. Mr. President, I understand here at Griegos there's a vacancy for a librarian. Do you think that Mrs. Bush would be interested? [*Laughter*]

The President. I'll tell you something about Mrs. Bush, she is—she is doing a great job as the First Lady. She loves books; she loves children; and it's a perfect combination for her to have been a librarian. And one of the things she will do is spend a lot of time encouraging the formation of libraries and making sure teachers learn—know how to teach, and making sure children learn how to read.

You know another area where we can do a better job of is making sure Head Start is an early learning initiative, that Head Start provides children just the basics, the basics of learning how to read, so that, when they come to Griegos Elementary School as kindergartners, they've got a good opportunity to accelerate.

One of the things we've done is, we've said we're going to have accountability programs, starting in the third grade. Well, we've got to focus early, to make sure that all students get close to the starting line at the same spot so that we don't disadvantage certain schools or children based upon the demographics. Head Start is a great place, and it's a wonderful program. It's a needed program, but it can do a better job of having an education component as a part of its curriculum.

Yes, sir.

Rio Rancho High School

Q. Hi, I'm Nicholos Connor, and I go to Rio Rancho High School. There are so many things I want to say and ask. Could you come to Rio Rancho High tomorrow? [*Laughter*]

The President. No. [*Laughter*] Thank you. But good luck to you. What grade are you going to be in?

Q. I'm going to be a sophomore.

The President. Sophomore, great. You got a driver's license yet?

Q. Permit.

The President. Permit—that's a frightening experience, isn't it? [*Laughter*]

Let me have one more question; then we've got to go. Yes, sir.

President's Early Work Experience

Q. What jobs did you have when you were in high school?

The President. In high school? Let me think about that; it was a long time ago. I actually worked on a ranch in Arizona. And I worked in a law firm, in a law library. I was a—lawyers read a lot of books, and my job was to go around and collect the books after they had read them and put them back in the library—[*laughter*]—a lot of heavy lifting. [*Laughter*]

But that's a good question. I think one of the things you ought to do when you go to high school is to see if you can't find a variety of work experiences. It's important to get as much experience as you can prior to entering what they call the real world.

If you want to be President, I would suggest you become a Governor—[*laughter*]—because Governors make decisions, and that's what Presidents do. A Governor has got to be somebody who knows how to listen to people, just like a President does, and then have the willingness to make a tough decision and stand by it.

And that's why it's such an honor to be the President. I like making decisions. But really, you know what I really like? I like being the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, because we've got such great people in America.

Thank you all for having me. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gloria Schatzinger, second grade teacher; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative.

Remarks to the Hispano Chamber of Commerce in Albuquerque

August 15, 2001

Thank you very much. *Gracias por tu bienvenida.* Thank you, all. *Es un gran honor para me de esta con ustedes*—it's an honor to be here with you all. Thank you very much for your hospitality. *Sientese.* [*Laughter*] I appreciate so very much the hospitality. It's nice to come over from your neighboring State to New Mexico. I've always held New Mexico in high regard. It's such a beautiful land, full of decent and caring people, well-represented, I might add, in the United States Senate by my close friend Pete Domenici.

I know this is not a political event, but I can't believe anybody would dare challenge Pete. He's doing such a good job on behalf of the people of New Mexico.

I appreciate Jeff Bingaman, the other Senator from the State of New Mexico. I appreciate his service to the State. I look forward to working with Jeff, to have a coherent energy policy for the United States of America. I appreciate Heather Wilson. She's a breath of fresh air in the United States Congress.

I want to thank my friend Joe Skeen for coming up from southeast New Mexico. I appreciate *el alcalde de Albuquerque*, the mayor, for being here, as well. But most of all, I want to thank the good folks of the Hispano Chamber. I want to thank Loretta and Phil Castillo for their hospitality. And I want to thank them for their vision. I want to thank them for understanding the importance of community and of the importance of small business in our society.

Archbishop, thank you very much for being here, as well.

You know, the role of Government is not to try to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people can realize the American Dream. And part of the American Dream is to be able to own your own business, to be able to say, "I want to start my business. I want to nurture my business. I want to grow my business." It's the wonderful thing about America that if you've got an idea, it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, that that experience ought to be available to everybody.

And so I think we're doing some things in Washington, DC, to make it easier for people to own their own small business. And by the way, it's incredibly important. As my friend Hector Barretto said, most of the new employment in America comes from small-business owners. Small business is the backbone—is the backbone of our economic system. And one of the pieces of incredibly good news about America is, the number of Latino businesses is increasingly dramatically. The fastest growing business sectors in many of our States is the Hispanic-owned businesses. That's good news for America. It's good news for neighborhoods all across our great country. I want to congratulate the entrepreneurs who are here today.

We're making good progress about making the environment more conducive for ownership, starting by cutting the taxes on the people who pay the bills. We didn't just cut the taxes on a few; we said, "If you pay taxes, you ought to get tax relief. We understand that our economy was slowing down, that it's not going the way we'd like it to. And one

way to help kick-start the economy is to give people their own money back. After all, that money isn't the Government's money; it's the people's money. It's the small-business owner's money."

I spent a lot of time reminding people in the United States Congress and in Washington that small businesses are oftentimes unincorporated. The small-business owner is more than likely to be the sole proprietor or have a Subchapter S corporation, which means they pay the highest marginal rate. And so when we cut all rates, including the top rate, what we're really doing is, we're making the business environment more conducive for the small-business owner. We were saying, "The harder you work, the more money you have to reinvest in your business." Tax relief was an incredibly important part of making sure the environment is conducive for the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish in all neighborhoods all across America.

We did the right thing. And by the way, we also did the right thing by getting rid of the estate tax, the death tax, so that a small-business owner—so that somebody that works their life to build up their business can leave it to a son or a daughter. That's part of the American Dream. It's what America ought to be about.

Today I had the privilege of going to Griegos Elementary School to talk about education. Today is the first day of school for many elementary school students here in New Mexico. Education is an important part of making sure that the entrepreneurial spirit reaches everybody in America. If you're educated, you're more likely to be able to realize your dreams. It's so important we get it right.

I want to thank the Hispano Chamber for the $100,000-a-year scholarship money they provide for hard-working high school students so they can help realize the college dream.

And we're making progress in Washington on education matters. First, I want you to understand, I always remember where I came from. Local control of schools is the best way to make sure every child receives a good education. It's important that we trust the local folks.

I visited with the superintendent of the Albuquerque schools today. We talked about high standards. We talked about challenging what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe every child can learn. And by the way, we also not only talked about reading and writing and adding and subtracting, basic education; we also talked about making sure that character education is an integral part of the public school system. We want our children to be able to read. We also want them to know the difference between right and wrong and to understand the values that have made America a great place.

You hear a lot of talk about the education bill. I want to share with you my passion. My passion is to make sure no child gets left behind. My passion is to make sure that we clearly understand what's taking place in the schools all across America, and therefore, I've insisted that we have strong accountability measures. It's says, "We must measure to know whether or not children are learning."

Now, you'll hear all kinds of debate on it. You hear some say, "Well, that's too much Government." I don't think it's too much Government to ask—the fundamental question is, can our children read? That's legitimate Government to ask that question. We must ask that question early and often, because when we find children who can't read, we've got to correct the problem early, before it's too late.

And then you'll hear some say, "Well, we shouldn't measure. It's racist to measure." I believe it's racist not to measure. It's so easy to quit on a child whose parents don't speak English as a first language. It's so easy to walk into a classroom of the so-called hard to educate, and to give up and just move them through schools. That's wrong. What America must do is insist upon accountability measures. We must ask the question, do our children know how to read? And if they do, we'll praise and thank the teachers. But if not, we will blow the whistle on failure, insist a curriculum change, give parents more options and choices to make sure that not one single child is left behind in America.

I want to talk about another subject that's incredibly important for not only the border States but all of America, and that's relations with our neighbors to the south, Mexico.

Mexico is a friend of America. Mexico is our neighbor. And we want our neighbors to succeed. We want our neighbors to do well. We want our neighbors to be successful. We understand that a poor neighbor is somebody that's going to be harder to deal with than a neighbor that's prospering. And that's why it's so important for us to tear down barriers and walls that might separate Mexico from the United States. And that's why it's so important for us to stand strong when it comes to free trade with our neighbors to the south.

NAFTA has been good for New Mexico, and it's been good for Mexico. And that's an important relationship that I pledge to continue on. I ask for the Congress to give me trade promotion authority, so that we can not only have free trade with our neighbor to the south, so that we can have free trade throughout the hemisphere.

Oh, I know there's some voices who want to wall us off from Mexico. They want to build a wall. I say to them, they want to condemn our neighbors to the south in poverty, and I refuse to accept that type of isolationist and protectionist attitude.

And let me say one other thing, one other issue that's important. It speaks to the spirit of our Nation. It speaks to whether or not we're going to be true friends with the neighbors to the south. And that's the issue of trucking. There are some people who say we shouldn't allow our friends to the south to send their trucks into the United States. I say that's discrimination against Mexico.

I say that if we're going to have NAFTA, we ought to enforce all of NAFTA. I believe strongly we can have safety on our highways without discriminating against our neighbors to the south. To the protectionists and isolationists, I say if Mexican trucks, if United States trucks and Canadian trucks are allowed to move freely on our highways, we can not only enforce the laws; it will help prosperity spread its roots throughout our neighborhood. And that's important for the future.

I love the spirit of this facility, the idea of citizens saying, "What can I do to improve a neighborhood? What can I do to improve a community in which I live?" It's really the American spirit, isn't it? It's the thing that makes our Nation so different and unique, I think, is that the fact there are people who are saying, asking the question, "What can I do to help a neighbor in need?" And it's really one of my jobs, is to rally the compassion of America.

I met recently with members of the faith community here in Albuquerque. We talked about the power of faith and good works at the grassroots level throughout our society. I welcome community-based programs. And you should welcome faith-based programs, that all exist—that all exist because somebody has heard a calling much greater than Government, much greater than—much greater than laws that can be passed out of the Congress. No, the great spirit of America lies in the hearts and souls of our wonderful citizenry, symbolized by this building, the willingness of people to help a neighbor in need, the willingness of good folks who have done pretty well in life to come together and say, "How can I help a neighbor find a job? What can I do to help a neighbor develop a skill?"

No, this is the spirit of America captured right here in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I want to applaud you all for giving me a chance to come by. I want to thank you for giving me a chance to serve the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent people.

Thank you for coming. May God bless. May God bless New Mexico and the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. outside the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce building. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jim Baca of Albuquerque; Loretta Armenta, president and chief executive officer, and Joseph "Phil" Castillo, chairman, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM; and H. Bradford Allison, superintendent, Albuquerque Public School District.

Remarks at a Dinner Honoring Senator Pete V. Domenici in Albuquerque

August 15, 2001

Thank you very much. Thank you all very much. Be seated, please. Thank you all very

much for that warm New Mexican welcome. Gosh, we've had a great day in Albuquerque, haven't we, Pete? We've had a great day. It's really fun to travel with such a decent man around your important city. I'm really glad I came. No better way to end it than to urge the good folks of New Mexico to send this good man back to the United States Senate.

I appreciate Congresswoman Heather Wilson for being here. We need to send her back, too, by the way. She's plenty capable. So is my friend Joe Skeen. I'm honored that Joe came up and worked today with us, as well. I want to thank your Lieutenant Governor and all the State officials who joined us today. I particularly want to thank Bill Keleher and John Dendahl for their leadership of our party.

I want to thank my friend Ken. Where are you, Kenny? Thank you so much for your leadership on this event, and thank you for your friendship. You've done a great job. Sherolyn Smith, Rick Alvídrez, I want to thank you all for setting up this event. And I want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to Pete's reelection. It's really important that you've done so.

Like you, I can't believe anybody would dare run against him. [*Laughter*] But somebody might be foolish enough to. In which case, we need to send the message that when you get a good, decent man representing an important State, send him back in Washington, keep him in Washington.

The thing I've learned about Pete Domenici, he's a man of great passion. He's a passionate person. He's passionate about subjects that are dear to his heart. He's a national leader—along with his beautiful wife—in mental health. It's an important issue. And by the way, we both married pretty darn well. [*Laughter*] I'm sorry my wife isn't here. She's holding down the fort in Crawford, Texas. I like to tell people that I love my new address, but I also love my home. It's important never to forget where you came from. I came from Texas. I will serve my time in Washington, and I'll return back to Texas.

Pete's passionate on research. He's passionate about research in New Mexican laboratories. Trust me. [*Laughter*] He's been to the Oval Office a lot. [*Laughter*] By the way, it's important to have a Senator who can come into the Oval Office representing your State. You want a Senator who will have the President return his phone calls.

He talks about making sure New Mexico stays on the leading edge of important research. And you've got a President who's listening to him, by the way. Pete is passionate about the budget. He's brought fiscal sanity to Washington, DC. You see, the tendency in Washington is to want to overspend. Sometimes people forget up there, they're not spending the Government's money; they're spending the people's money. And Pete is a fiscal watchdog for the taxpayers' money.

Pete is passionate about his family. It's important to have a person in Washington, DC, who loves his family. As a matter of fact, there's nothing more important for America than family. Pete personifies family. Pete loves the people of New Mexico. He's passionate about the people of New Mexico, like he's passionate about the State of New Mexico. It's important to have a passionate American representing your State.

But he's also more than that. He's a man of enormous dignity and integrity. And this Nation needs more leaders that set good examples for our young, like Pete Domenici.

I've got a selfish reason for getting him back up there. I need his help. [*Laughter*] We're working on some important agenda items for the American people, and we're making good progress, but there is more to do.

You know, when I went up to Washington, I was a little disturbed at the tone that was taking place. I can remember sitting in Austin, Texas, being perplexed and disturbed by the rancor and the bitterness that seemed to have constantly gripped our Nation's Capital. And I made a determined effort to go change the tone. We can disagree in Washington, but we should do so in a respectful way. We need to respect each other more. We need to hold up the American people more than we hold up our own political parties, it seems like to me, to get some things done. And we're making good progress.

One of the areas where we're making good progress is the budget—it is to say to the American people through our budget, "We're going to be responsible with your

money." As Pete mentioned, we've inherited some problems. But what the heck, I like to solve problems. That's my job. And one of the problems we inherited was an economy that was sputtering along and slowing down. And one way to make sure that we kick-start our economy is to give people their money back. And so we campaigned on, argued for, and I had the honor of signing in the White House the largest tax reduction in a generation.

It was necessary. And it's the right thing to do. You'll hear them screaming up in Washington, "Oh, we're running out of money." Well, that's because they want to spend every single dime that ever gets up there. You'll hear people say, "Well, the surplus is going away because of the tax cut." No, folks, the economy is slowing down, which means we have less projected money, and that's why we needed tax relief. Money back to people are going to help kick-start this economy.

And I want to remind you of something. We still have the largest surplus—second largest surplus in the Nation's history. And we're still paying down more debt than ever paid down before in our Nation's history. And the tax relief plan was eminently fair.

See, it used to be up there in Washington they'd say, "Well, we're going to pick and choose the winners and losers when it came to tax relief. You get tax relief. You don't get tax relief." The attitude of Senator Domenici and myself and the Members of the congressional delegation who are here said, "If we're going to have tax relief, let's provide tax relief for everybody who pays taxes." And that's the fair way to do it. It's a responsible, fair tax program.

We also sent a clear message to small-business owners and farmers and ranchers when we said, "We need to get rid of the death tax." The death tax is unfair to people who have built up a business. The death tax is unfair to the small-business owner who wants to leave a business to a son or a daughter. The death tax is unfair because we're taxing entrepreneurs and producers twice in America. The Tax Code not only reduced all rates and provided tax rebates, it also got rid of the onerous death tax, which is going to make the code more fair and more responsible.

Now, we're going to have a fight over the budget coming up. And fortunately, we've got a good man named Domenici who is going help fight off the big spenders. They will push for more money here, and they'll push for more money there. But I want to remind you, the growth in the budget that Pete passed out of the Senate and was concurred by both the Senate and the House, provides responsible growth in our budget. And I can assure, Mr. Chairman—or I wish would be Mr. Chairman—[*laughter*]—should be Mr. Chairman, and will be Mr. Chairman after next 2002—and I want the Members of Congress to hear that once we set a budget we're going to stick by it. And if not, I'm going to use the veto pen of the President of the United States to keep fiscal sanity in Washington, DC.

Today we had the pleasure of going to an elementary school, the first day of school. Gosh, it was exhilarating to shake hands with the first graders and the second graders that were just showing up. Their mothers and dads were thrilled to get them back in school, it seemed like. [*Laughter*] The teachers were great. They were all excited. And my message to the folks assembled there was this: that education is a domestic priority of mine. I know it's one of Pete's, as well. It's so important we get it right in America that every child gets educated.

We passed a good bill out of the House and a good bill out of the Senate. And I hope they don't play politics with it. They need to get the conference committee, get the bill resolved, and get it on my desk. And let me explain to you some of the principles involved in the education bill.

First, it trusts the local folks to run the schools. I strongly believe in local control of our schools. I believe we need to pass more power and flexibility and authority out of Washington to the folks in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The bill does that.

There's some wonderful programs in the bill. One of them is a reading initiative that my wife is all involved in, and I'm passionate about. I'll never forget the phrase of Phyllis Hunter in Houston, Texas. She stood up in front of a large crowd of people, and she said, "You know, Governor"—and I was Governor then—she said, "Governor, reading is the

new civil right." I believe that. I believe reading is a civil right. I believe when you can learn to read, then you can learn, and then you can access the American Dream.

The sad thing is, too many of our children can't read. And I intend to do something about it. Not only have we targeted money for diagnostic tools to make sure we determine whether or not young children have got problems that we correct early, before it's too late, we've got teacher-training money; we've got intervention money. But the core of the education bill is accountability. The core of the education bill says that if you receive any taxpayer's money, you must measure. You must show us whether or not children are reading and writing and adding and subtracting.

Now, I know there's a lot of—oh, you hear all kinds of arguments about whether or not that should take place. Some will say, "Well, you can't measure because it means there's too much Government." My attitude about that is, is that if we're spending taxpayers' money, it seems like we want to know whether or not it's working. It seems like it makes sense to ask the question, what are the results? And there's no more important place to ask, what are the results, than whether or not the children of the United States can read or write or add and subtract.

And then there are those who say, on the accountability system, it is racist to test. Folks, I'm going to tell you as plainly as I can, it's racist not to test, because guess who gets left behind in a system where there's no accountability? It is so easy to quit on a child whose parents do not speak English as a first language. It's so easy to walk into a classroom full of the so-called hard to educate and say, "Let's don't test. Let's just move people through."

We cannot have a system that doesn't hold each child is precious. And so the cornerstone of reform coming out of Washington, DC, is more money, focused money, but as well, the demand for strong accountability, so that we can praise the teachers and principals and superintendents who are getting it right but, as importantly, blow the whistle on failure when we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change. There are no second-rate children in America and no second-rate dreams.

Pete mentioned we're making progress in bringing some sanity to America when it comes to an energy policy. This country has drifted along without an energy policy. And we laid out a good, constructive plan. It's a plan that says we can do a better job of conserving our resources. And the Federal Government is beginning to take a role. We're making sure that we purchase vampire defeating devises. A vampire is a devise like a charger for a telephone. When you plug it into a wall and your phone may not be in there but the charger is, it still eats a lot of electricity—or more than it should. Some entrepreneurs came along and invented a devise that uses 7 times less energy. So we're going to start using those devises to set the example that we can do a better job of using technology to save.

But California is the State that's got the best conservation record in the country. And yet, they ran out of energy. [*Laughter*] Now, one of the things they're doing is they're building 12 more powerplants. And that's great, and our Government has helped them. We've expedited the permitting of the plants. Those plants are going to require natural gas to power them. And we've got to get the gas from somewhere. And so, on the one hand, we need better conservation. On the other hand, we need more exploration for the resources. I'd like us to be less dependent on foreign sources of energy. I think it's going to make our foreign policy a lot more—[*applause*].

Washington has been struggling with what they call Patients' Bill of Rights for the last couple of sessions. I made up my mind we're going to get a good Patients' Bill of Rights out of the Congress, one that heralds the relationship between patient and doctor but one that doesn't encourage frivolous and junk lawsuits that will cause people to lose their health insurance. We got a good bill out of the House, a not so good bill out of the Senate. And I'm hopeful we can get—finally get a good Patients' Bill of Rights to begin meaningful reform of our health care system in America.

The Vice President and I spent a lot of time in the campaign—and by the way, he's

doing great. And what a heck of a selection I made. As he likes to put it, "Who said those three electoral votes in Wyoming don't matter?" [*Laughter*] What really matters, he's a steady hand. He's capable. We said we're going to make sure that our military remains strong and ready.

In one of my trips overseas, I went to Kosovo, and I signed another pay raise for the troops. It's important to make sure those who wear the uniform are well paid, well housed, and well treated. We're doing a much better job in America of treating our folks right.

We've got big budget increases in defense. But I also want you to know that ours is an administration that believes in vision, that there's got to be a plan. So I've asked Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to develop a strategic vision for what our military ought to look like today and what it ought to look like tomorrow to keep the peace; how we can remain strong and ready this moment; and as importantly, how we can use technologies to devise a military that will be harder to find, more lethal when it moves, easier to move, and that will incorporate the new technologies so that we don't waste taxpayers' money when it comes to building the weapons systems of the future.

One of the things that you probably read about is that I believe that, as we go into the 21st century, we need to have new strategic relations with some of our old enemies. I had some fascinating meetings with Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia. I told him in plain terms—I said, "Mr. President, you don't have anything to fear from the United States. We're a peaceful nation. We don't view you as our enemy. The true threats facing the United States are threats from terrorist nations, nations that they call rogue nations, nations that are developing weapons of mass destruction that may be pointed at us, may be pointed at our friends, the Israelis, or other allies we have, to hold us hostage, conduct international blackmail. It's the true threat, Mr. Putin. And therefore, we need to get rid of those ancient treaties, codified during a time when we hated each other, so that America can develop the technologies and defenses necessary to protect ourselves and our allies from the true threats of the 21st century."

The ABM Treaty is outmoded, outdated. It codified a hateful relationship that no longer exists. We need to move beyond the days of the cold war and free this great freedom-loving people to provide protections for freedom-loving people from all around the world by getting rid of the ABM Treaty once and for all.

We have told our friends and allies around the world we will consult with them, and we will. And I told Mr. Putin, come along with us. It's a chance to set up a new strategic relationship. And we'll see how it goes. I think we're making pretty good progress. My point to you is that we'll remain strong when it comes to our military and wise when it comes to our planning and ready when it comes to the true threats that face the American people as we head into the 21st century.

And finally, I had a fantastic meeting today with members of the faith community here in New Mexico. Bishop, thank you for being here today, sir. And I want to thank Pete for inviting folks to come and to hear me discuss the philosophy behind a faith-based/community-based initiative.

We're moving beyond the old welfare paradigm in America. I gave a speech at Notre Dame and talked about the fact that another Texas President gave a graduation speech and talked about a welfare help plan, and that was Lyndon Johnson, and the Great Society began. And then there was welfare reform signed by my predecessor that said, people must be independent in America, and you've got to work. And it had some successes; it really did. A lot of folks went from welfare to work, but there's still more work to do. There's a lot of people in our society who hurt, a lot of people who really have no hope. Gosh, I remember one of the times I was at a juvenile justice facility in Texas, and I was talking about the American Dream. A little fellow who had been incarcerated said, "What does that mean? What is an American Dream?" He doesn't understand dreaming. He doesn't understand setting goals.

There's a lot of hopelessness, a lot of addiction, a lot of people lost. And we've got to do something about it in America. We're

too good a people to allow that to continue. But what Government cannot do is change hearts. Government can't inspire. We're good for law. We can spend money, but money isn't the only answer. In many cases, the lost soul needs somebody to say, "I love you," or to put your arm around you and say, "America is meant for you." We need mentors all across America saying to young children whose parents may be in prison, for example, "I care about you. I want you to understand somebody cares."

And so one of the most important initiatives that we're discussing in Washington is how do we unleash the great passion and compassion of America. How do we unleash those who have heard the call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves; those not inspired by Government, necessarily, but inspired by a higher calling. The people of faith who live in every neighborhood across America must not be feared by our Government, but energized and welcomed when it comes to healing those lost souls. It's a powerful initiative because it taps the great strength of America. And the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizenry.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to represent the people of this country. My dream is for us to be a more responsible nation, a nation when the moms and dads of the world understand their most important job is not their day job, but the job of loving the children they happen to have brought into this world, and love them with all their hearts and all their souls.

But a responsible nation also requires corporate America to be responsible. It requires all of us to be responsible to shepherd our resources well. And as importantly, it requires all of us to ask the question, if we see a neighbor in need, shall we not—shall we make sure we don't cross to the other side of the road? Shouldn't we as a responsible citizen help a neighbor and not expect Government to do so? Shouldn't we find out areas where we can help somebody who's crying out for help? And the answer is, in this country, absolutely. But responsible societies begin with responsible leaders.

And that's why I'm so proud to support Pete Domenici for the United States Senate again. He understands responsibility. He lives it every single day. And my hope is that the good people of New Mexico don't make a terrible error. My hope is the good people of New Mexico send this good man back to Washington, DC, with a resounding victory.

Thank you all for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico; John Dendahl, chairman, Sherolyn Smith DeSantis, second vice chairman, and Ken Zangara, Bernalillo country chairman, New Mexico Republican Party; Nancy Domenici, wife of Senator Domenici; Rick Alvidrez, board of directors member, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce; Archbishop Michal J. Sheehan, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, who gave the invocation; Bill Keleher, campaign chairman, People for Pete Domenici; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Floods in Thailand

August 16, 2001

I am very saddened to learn of the tragic deaths that have occurred as a result of ongoing flooding in northern Thailand. This disaster, which has already claimed more than 100 lives, is particularly cruel because it occurred during a holiday weekend, when many Thais had traveled to their hometowns and villages. The American people join me in sending our condolences to all those in Thailand who have lost loved ones, suffered injury or other loss as a result of the flooding. Our sympathy for the Thai people at this difficult time is heightened by our common experience with recent flooding, casualties, and destruction.

The United States stands ready to assist the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people to respond to the effects of the flooding. Our Embassy in Bangkok is in the process of providing emergency support, through the Thai Red Cross, to the initial relief efforts. I hope that our assistance, and the lasting friendship of the United States with the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, will be helpful as Thailand works to overcome the tragic effects of the flooding.

Statement on the Report of the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

August 16, 2001

On January 29, 2001, I signed an Executive order creating Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Justice, and Education. I charged each Center to conduct a Department-wide audit and identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and community organizations in Federal social service programs.

Over the past 6 months, five Cabinet Offices for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives have examined administrative procedures, programs, and policies. Today the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives reported their findings.

The report, entitled "Unlevel Playing Field," highlights the funding gap between the Government and the grassroots. It points out significant barriers organizations face in obtaining Federal support for their compassionate work. And it shows clearly how much work needs to be done to mobilize the armies of compassion.

The Cabinet Centers have done vitally important work in examining Federal social service programs. We now see exactly what kind of obstacles stand in the way of a more compassionate America. Our emphasis must always remain on getting compassionate results. We look forward to addressing these inequities through legislation, administrative action, and education. Americans in need are depending upon it.

Statement on the Death of Representative Floyd Spence

August 16, 2001

I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend Floyd Spence. He was a leader of great courage and determination, especially since his double-lung transplant surgery 13 years ago. As a Congressman, he will be remembered as a true friend of the men and women in our armed services and a steadfast servant of his fellow South Carolinians. Laura and I send our prayers to his wife, Debbie, and Floyd's children and grandchildren.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 13

In the morning, the President traveled to Meridian, TX, and later returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Rocky Mountain National Park, CO.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where he attended a Major League Baseball game at Coors Field in the evening.

The President announced his intention to designate Patrick Henry Wood III as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

August 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM. In the evening, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to Washington for an official working visit on September 19.

August 16

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss the recent violence in the Middle East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Joseph McGuire to be Ambassador to Namibia.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Marshall to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Constance Berry Newman to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Bureau of Africa.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arden Bement, Jr., to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce.

The President declared a major disaster in Tennessee and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on July 27 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 27 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in the District of Columbia and ordered Federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and mudslides on August 10–12.

August 17

The President announced his intention to nominate Morris X. Winn to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Administration and Resource Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Smith to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barry D. Crane to be Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy for Supply Reduction.

The President announced his intention to nominate Emmy B. Simmons to be Assistant Adminstrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for International Economics and Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Clarida to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jay B. Stephens to be Associate Attorney General. The President also announced that Phil Perry will serve as Acting Associate Attorney General until the confirmation of Mr. Stephens.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 13

Statement by the Press Secretary: On Signature of a Political Settlement in Macedonia

Released August 15

Statement by the Press Secretary: President of Indonesia To Visit Washington

Released August 16

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Tennessee

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the District of Columbia

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 13

H.R. 2213 / Public Law 107–25
To respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers

Approved August 17

H.R. 2131 / Public Law 107–26
To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes

Executive Order 13222—Continuation of Export Control Regulations

August 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("Act") (50 U.S.C. 1702), **I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, find that the unrestricted access of foreign parties to U.S. goods and technology and the existence of certain boycott practices of foreign nations, in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq*), constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and hereby declare a national emergency with respect to that threat.

Accordingly, in order (a) to exercise the necessary vigilance over exports and activities affecting the national security of the United States; (b) to further significantly the foreign policy of the United States, including its policy with respect to cooperation by U.S. persons with certain foreign boycott activities, and to fulfill its international responsibilities; and (c) to protect the domestic economy from the excessive drain of scarce materials and reduce the serious economic impact of foreign demand, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. To the extent permitted by law, the provisions of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, and the provisions for administration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, shall be carried out under this order so as to continue in full force and effect and amend, as necessary, the export control system heretofore maintained by the Export Administration Regulations issued under the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended. The delegations of authority set forth in Executive Order 12002 of July 7, 1977, as amended by Executive Order 12755 of March 12, 1991, and Executive Order 13026 of November 15, 1996; Executive Order 12214 of May 2, 1980; Executive Order 12735 of November 16, 1990; and Executive Order 12851 of June 11, 1993, shall be incorporated in this order and shall apply to the exercise of authorities under this order. All actions under this order shall be in accordance with Presidential directives relating to the export control system heretofore issued and not revoked.

Sec. 2. All rules and regulations issued or continued in effect by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, including those published in Title 15, Subtitle B, Chapter VII, Subchapter C, of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 730 through 774, and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, shall, until amended or revoked by the Secretary of Commerce, remain in full force and effect as if issued or taken pursuant to this order, except that the provisions of sections 203(b)(2) and 206 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2) and 1705) shall control over any inconsistent provisions in the regulations. Nothing in this section shall affect the continued applicability of administrative sanctions provided for by the regulations described above.

Sec. 3. Provisions for administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(e)) may be made and shall continue in full force and effect until amended or revoked under the authority of section 203 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 1702). To the extent permitted by law, this order also shall constitute authority for the issuance and continuation in full force and effect of all rules and regulations by the President or his delegate, and all orders, licenses, and other forms

of administrative actions issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, relating to the administration of section 38(e).

Sec. 4. This order shall be effective as of midnight between August 20, 2001, and August 21, 2001, eastern daylight time.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on August 22. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 18, 2001

Good morning. This month, in my travels around the country, I am talking about values that make communities strong and our Nation unique. One of those essential American values is compassion.

A little more than a week ago, I visited a Habitat for Humanity building site, where volunteers were helping a family find the dignity of owning a home. Every community offers its own examples of service: shelters for battered women and children; crisis pregnancy centers; treatment for drug addiction; care for the homeless; hope for those in prison, and their families. The groups behind these caring efforts have advantages Government social programs often can't match: the idealism of volunteers and intimate knowledge of the communities they serve and values stronger than the problems they face.

A compassionate Government should find ways to support their good works. Unfortunately, Government often treats charities and community groups as rivals instead of partners. And this week came some new evidence. Soon after I took office, I instructed my Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to examine Federal rules and regulations for discrimination against community and faith-based groups. Five Cabinet agencies now have issued their findings. Their report, entitled, "Unlevel Playing Field," documents a Government bias against faith- and community-based organizations, a bias that exists even when constitutional concerns about church and state have been addressed.

Government administrators restrict religious groups from even applying for funding simply because they are religious. They place artificial limits on what programs and how much funding faith-based groups can apply for. In some cases, they restrict civil rights these faith-based and community-based groups enjoy under Federal law. This is wrong.

Next Wednesday will mark the fifth anniversary of a bipartisan charitable choice legislation. This law says faith-based organizations should be able to compete for some contracts to provide social services. But even this limited charitable choice law has been almost entirely ignored by many Federal administrators. They've done little to help or require State and local governments to involve faith-based providers, as the law requires. I've appointed advocates in five Cabinet agencies to end this bias, and soon.

My Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is also working closely with groups to help them know their civil rights, know how to effectively apply for funds so their good works can be expanded. We must also broaden charitable choice to more social service areas, removing barriers of discrimination against the participation of faith and community groups. By doing so, we will welcome them to more fully confront the poverty and hopelessness that remain in America.

The House of Representatives took a key step in leveling the playing field by passing my Faith-Based and Community Initiative, which broadens charitable choice and encourages charitable giving. I applaud the bipartisan House vote and urge the Senate to pass that legislation, with the leadership from Senators Joe Lieberman and Rick Santorum. The needs are real. The time to act is as soon as Congress returns to work after Labor Day.

If you agree, let your Senator know if you see him or her during the congressional recess. Faith-based and community groups cannot replace the work of Government, but with Government's help, they can serve many more people. And my administration is committed to providing that help.

Compassion is one of the values that builds communities of character, because every community of character must be a community of service.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:45 a.m. on August 16 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 17 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

August 14, 2001

Dear _____ :

I transmit herewith the semiannual report required under the heading "International Organizations and Programs" in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 20.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of Export Control Regulations

August 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b), I hereby report to the Congress that I have today exercised the authority granted by this Act to continue in effect the system of controls contained in 15 C.F.R. Parts 730–774, including restrictions on participation by U.S. persons in certain foreign boycott activities, that heretofore has been maintained under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (EAA), as amended, 50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.* In addition, I have made provision for the administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2778(e).

The exercise of this authority is necessitated by the expiration of the EAA on August 20, 2001, and the lapse in the system of controls maintained under that Act that would result from such expiration.

In the absence of controls, foreign parties would have unrestricted access to U.S. commercial products, technology, and assistance, posing an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives critical to the United States. In addition, U.S. persons would not be prohibited from complying with certain foreign boycott requests. This would seriously harm our foreign policy interests, particularly in the Middle East.

Controls established in 15 C.F.R. Parts 730–774, and continued by this action, include the following:

- National security export controls restricting the export of goods and technologies that would make a significant contribution to the military potential of certain other countries and that would prove detrimental to the national security of the United States.
- Foreign policy controls that further the foreign policy objectives of the United States or fulfill its declared international obligations in such widely recognized areas as human rights, antiterrorism, regional stability, missile technology nonproliferation, and chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation.
- Nuclear nonproliferation controls that are maintained for both national security and foreign policy reasons and that support the objectives of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act.
- Short supply controls that protect domestic supplies, and antiboycott regulations that prohibit compliance with foreign boycotts aimed at countries friendly to the United States.

Consequently, I have issued an Executive Order (a copy of which is attached) to continue in effect all rules and regulations issued or continued in effect by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the EAA, and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative actions under the Act, except to the extent they are inconsistent with sections 203(b) and 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The Congress and the Executive have not permitted export controls to lapse since they were enacted under the Export Control Act of 1949. Any termination of controls could permit transactions to occur that would be seriously detrimental to the national interests we have heretofore sought to protect through export controls and restrictions on compliance by U.S. persons with certain foreign boycotts. I believe that even a temporary lapse in this system of controls would seriously damage our national security, foreign policy, and economic interests and undermine our credibility in meeting our international obligations.

The countries affected by this action vary depending on the objectives sought to be achieved by the system of controls instituted under the EAA. Potential adversaries may seek to acquire sensitive U.S. goods and technologies. Other countries serve as conduits for the diversion of such items. Still other countries have policies that are contrary to U.S. foreign policy or nonproliferation objectives, or foster boycotts against friendly countries. For some goods or technologies, controls could apply even to our closest allies in order to safeguard against diversion to potential adversaries.

It is my intention to terminate the Executive Order upon enactment into law of new authorizing legislation for the U.S. export control regime. Such legislation is long overdue. The EAA is a Cold War statute that does not reflect and is ill-suited to deal with current economic and political realities. There is a strong need for a new statute to facilitate an effective modern export control regime—one that safeguards our national security and furthers our foreign policy objectives, while recognizing the current realities of today's fast-paced and dynamic business environment. I look forward to signing into law such legislation in the near future.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 20.

Remarks at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 20, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. At ease. [*Laughter*]

Thank you for that warm welcome. Before I begin my address, I know you'll want to join me in paying tribute to a fine friend and a good man who left us last week. We mourn the loss of Floyd Spence, who served our country well as a Congressman from South Carolina. He was chairman of the Committees on National Security and on the Armed Services, a senior member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. He was a strong advocate for national defense. Our prayers are with his wife, Deborah, and his four sons.

My, time flies. I was here a year ago, minus one day. [*Laughter*] Since then, I have had a change of address—[*laughter*]—and I received a great honor. Another honor comes to me today, to speak as Commander in Chief to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.

Today I bring the respect of our Nation and a special greeting from one of your own members, from VFW Post 4344 of Houston, Texas, the former President George H.W. Bush.

I want to thank your commander in chief. John has been in the Oval Office. He is a true advocate for the veterans. He has done a fine job. And like me, he married well. And I want to congratulate John's successor, Jim Goldsmith. And I look forward to working with Jim, just like I have with John. I also want to thank Bob Wallace. I want to thank Bob Wallace, the VFW's man in Washington,

DC, for working closely with my administration and representing your interests very well. I want to thank Pat Jankowski of the Ladies Auxiliary, who are gathered here as well in Milwaukee, and I want to thank her for her leadership. And I want to congratulate Diana Stout, who will become the incoming president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

As well, I want to thank the Governor of Wisconsin, Scott McCallum, for his hospitality, and I want to thank all the good people of Wisconsin, particularly Milwaukee for being such a welcoming city to this great convention.

And I want to pay tribute to a good friend of mine and a good friend of yours, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi. Last year he was giving me advice about veterans affairs. This year he sits around the Cabinet, making sure I understand what we are doing in veterans affairs. And I appreciate so very much Tony's return to public service. He is doing a fine job.

I want to thank you all for having me come to this convention. I have been looking forward to this visit. I appreciate every chance I get to travel our country. It is important for a President never to become isolated in the seat of power. As great and influential as that city is, sometimes the President just has to get out of Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*]

This is a fine organization. General Douglas MacArthur called the VFW the greatest organization in the world. He and his dad were both members, and they would be proud of all you have done for your country, and they would be proud of the more than 1.9 million members of the VFW.

Each one of you is a living example of a special kind of patriotism, the love of country, expressed not just in word but in lifetimes of service. You defended America in hours of need. You help your fellow veterans in times of their need. And you have done so much to build the character of our young people, to teach them to live by good values, to honor their parents, to trust in God. You helped them to appreciate freedom, to love America, and to respect our flag. You understand as well that showing a basic respect for our Nation's flag is not merely the option of every citizen; it should be a matter of constitutional law.

In Europe last month, one of my last stops was Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. I went there to thank our service men and women for their sacrifice for our Nation. I took the occasion to make good on a promise, by signing a bill to allocate over $2 billion in additional appropriations for military pay, benefits, health, and housing. To restore the strength and morale of America's Armed Forces, we must first take care of the people who wear our uniform. I believe we're making every branch of service a place where men and women are proud to serve and, as importantly, proud to stay.

My administration understands America's obligations not only go to those who wear the uniform today but to those who wore the uniform in the past, to our veterans. And at times, those obligations have not been met. Veterans in need of care have been kept waiting, and thousands of veterans' claims have been delayed or, in some cases, lost in the bureaucracy.

Many veterans have observed that the Government seemed to work a lot more efficiently when it wanted something from them. When the draft board got your file, it worked efficiently. [*Laughter*] But now, when you need health care, forms get lost and answers come late. That is no way to treat America's veterans, and that is going to change.

Secretary Principi is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the claims processing. Currently, there are about 600,000 pending applications, of which 53,000 have been pending over a year. Many of those belong to veterans over 70 years of age. That's not right. I have given Secretary Principi the clearest of clear mandates. He must bring those claims to a speedy and fair resolution. We must move as quickly as possible on the backlog, and we will. We will improve cooperation between the VA and the Department of Defense in providing care to those who served.

In May, I signed an Executive order creating a Presidential task force to recommend major reforms in the delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees. Two distinguished Americans will lead that task force: Dr. Gail Wilensky, an expert on health policy and a faithful friend to the veterans, and former Congressman Gerry Solomon. One

might be tempted to call him an ex-marine, but we all know there is no such thing as an ex-marine.

We are making great progress on implementing the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act to ensure that our veterans receive high-quality care. In the budget I submitted to Congress, I requested an increase of $1 billion, additional money for veterans services. Secretary Principi recently announced new health care facilities for veterans: six new centers for Parkinson's disease research and care and 41 new outpatient clinics in 28 States.

Veterans are a priority for this administration. I put a good man in charge, and that priority is reflected in my budget. Our budget also meets the most fundamental responsibility a President bears, to provide security for the United States of America. Not only does the budget take care of our people, we give today's military what it needs to operate: equipment, spare parts, advanced training. In all, I've asked Congress to provide our military an increase of $39 billion over the original 2001 appropriations. This is the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the Commander in Chief. We are not only going to spend more on national defense; we're also going to spend it more wisely.

Secretary Rumsfeld is charged with developing a strategy to bolster today's military, and he is charged with developing a strategy to develop a military that is ready to defend America tomorrow, as well. A modern military requires major investment in research and development so that our military is always the finest in the world.

And something I offered last year as a promise is today a commitment, to research, develop, and deploy a defense against ballistic missiles. These are the priorities I submitted to Congress in February and priorities reflected to the budget amendment in June. I trust they will be reflected in the appropriations bills Congress sends me this fall for my signature.

As we enter the appropriations process, I have great hopes but no illusions. Washington has its own way of doing things, especially around the time of year when final appropriations are made. The spending bills are passed one after another, 13 in all. Everybody in Washington knows there is a budget, but new spending gets thrown in along the way. Finally, when it is time to pass the last bill, they realize they are just about to go over the budget. And often, and sadly, the final bill has been the Defense appropriations bill, and therefore, defense appropriations has gone without adequate funding. That's the old way of doing business. That's old style of thinking.

I have a better idea. Let's abandon the old ways of gamesmanship, standoffs, and Government shutdowns. Let us keep our priorities straight and start with the things that matter most to our country's security and our country's future. This year, let us have responsible spending from day one and put the national security and education of our children first in line when it comes to the appropriations process.

I hope you all watch very carefully. It's important that people pay attention to what goes on in Washington. It will be an interesting signal about the priorities of the leaders of the United States Congress when they let those appropriation bills out to come to my desk. I'm confident I can work with Congress on appropriations because we have worked closely together on other issues. We saw bipartisan votes on the budget itself. And they passed, and I signed, and the mailman is delivering the first major income tax relief in a generation. And we also work together in honoring veterans.

Members of the VFW have long advocated a fitting memorial to those who served in the Second World War. The World War II Memorial has been in the works for an awfully long time. The final obstacles have been removed. I've signed it into law, and soon the veterans of World War II will have their place of honor in the heart of our Nation's Capital.

In the heart of Washington, DC, that monument will stand for all time as a reminder of service and sacrifice. Not far away are monuments to those who fought in other wars across the world. For all of you, service in time of war was a defining experience in your life. Your brave and selfless conduct has defined the best of our country.

America does not seek to produce more generations of war veterans; we are a peaceful Nation. But we'll always need the commitment and courage and honor that we find in our veterans. Those who have worn the uniform have made a contribution, not just to the defense of our Nation but to the character of our Nation. You've given your best to America, and in so many ways you are the best that is in America.

For all that, you have the deep respect of those who wear the uniform today, the Commander in Chief, as well. And you have the gratitude of a Nation that is in debt.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless our veterans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. at the Midwest Express Center. In his remarks, he referred to David, Zack, Benjamin, and Caldwell Spence, sons of Representative Spence; John F. Gwizdak, commander in chief, and James N. Goldsmith, senior vice commander in chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Bob Wallace, executive director, Veterans of Foreign Wars Washington office; Patricia Jankowski, president, and Diana Stout, senior vice president, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin. The President also referred to Executive Order 13214, President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, published in the *Federal Register* on May 31; Public Law No. 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, approved November 30, 1999; and Public Law No. 107–11, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, approved May 28.

Exchange With Reporters at the Harley-Davidson Factory in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

August 20, 2001

The President. Everybody enjoying themselves in Waco?

Q. Love it.

The President. That's the spirit.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, there were some comments on the Sunday chat shows yesterday that you're disconnected in the Middle East peace process. Do you have any response to that?

The President. Every time I talk to you all, you ask me about the Middle East. Nothing has changed. We're very much engaged, trying to break the cycle of violence. I spoke to Ariel Sharon the other day. The Secretary of State is in constant dialog with the parties in the Middle East. In order to get to a peace process or discussions of peace, we must end the violence, and it requires two parties. It requires the desires of both parties to do that.

Thank you. Anything else?

It's great to be here in one of the world-class manufacturing companies, a company that not only is good at making a product, a company that is fabulous at marketing a product. The Harley-Davidson is a great example of the American entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to having lunch with the workers and thank them for putting out such a quality product.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:10 p.m. outside the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations factory. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Harley-Davidson Employees in Menomonee Falls

August 20, 2001

I really appreciate your hospitality. First of all, I'm really impressed by the quality of the workers who are here. It's obviously reflected in the quality of the product. Harley-Davidson is uniquely American. People love them. And some people are bold enough to drive them, and some of us aren't. [*Laughter*] I'm hitting the speed limit this year, 55. [*Laughter*]

But I really appreciate your hospitality and letting us come by and say hello. I can't tell you how great it is to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. I thank all the—there are more people than I can think that impress me. One of the things that impressed me, besides people's friendliness, is the number of people that said, "I pray for you and your family." For those of you that do that, thanks. It really is something unique about America—you

don't have to show me the party registration card.

It's really one of the fabulous parts of the job—people from all walks that really care enough about the Presidency that they will do that. I'm just going to keep giving it my best shot. I'm not going to try to figure out which way the wind is blowing—all come down and visit me in Texas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the lunchroom at the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations factory. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Truman High School in Independence, Missouri

August 21, 2001

Thank you all. Good morning. Thanks for that warm welcome. Mary Alice, thank you very much for your great introduction. And I want to thank the residents of the John Knox Senior Village for inviting me to come to Independence, Missouri. I'm glad I accepted.

It is exciting to be here. It's good to get out of the seat of power, Crawford, Texas—[*laughter*]—and come to Missouri. Speaking about Missouri, I want—it's important for all Presidents to remember what Harry Truman said. He said, "I try never to forget who I was and where I've come from and where I was going back to." That's one thing that Crawford, Texas, reminds me. [*Laughter*] It reminds me of where I came from. And after my service for this great country, where I'm going back to.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and talk about a couple of subjects dear to my heart. I want to thank my friend, the Senator from the State of Missouri, Kit Bond, for the invitation and for his great service to Missouri and the United States. I want to thank United States Congressman Sam Graves for being here. Thank you for coming, Sam. I want to thank the United States Congresswoman from this district, Karen McCarthy. Thank you, Karen, for being here. I appreciate your time. Also here is the former Congressman from Missouri; Jim Talent is with us today, as well.

I wish my wife were with me. [*Laughter*] Like Harry Truman, I married well. [*Laughter*] She would love to be here at this school. I want to thank the school administrators, the principals. I want to thank the students who are fixing to start school tomorrow for giving us a chance to come to your beautiful campus.

To the students, let me say as plainly as I can: Your Government's important. You've got to pay attention to your Government. I don't care whether you're Republican or Democrat; you need to be involved in democracy in America. You need to take your vote seriously.

And having been in public service for a while, I can tell you, it's a noble profession. It's an important way to serve your country and your community. And you can do so without being the President, by the way. You can be a Congressperson; you can serve in the statehouse; you can work hard to get people elected; or you can serve your community by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's one of the most important initiatives that we're working on.

And that's one of the most important initiatives we're working on in Washington, DC. It's called a Faith-Based and Community Initiative. It passed the House of Representatives, for which I'm grateful. We're now trying to get it out of the United States Senate. It's part of the unfinished business for this year.

Let me explain to you briefly what we're trying to do. We're trying to make sure that welfare is extended in a positive and compassionate way. We recognize in America there are some who hurt, some who have needs beyond the reach of Government, some who simply need love and compassion from a fellow American. There are children in our country who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them, children whose mom or dad may be in prison. What this Nation needs is a Government that stands squarely on the side of the soldiers of the armies of compassion, those wonderful citizens who put their arm around a neighbor in need, and say, "I love you, brother," or "I love you, sister. What can I do to help make your life better?" Government should

not fear faith in America. We ought to welcome faith-based programs.

And we're making big progress on important issues, like health. For the last couple of legislative sessions in Washington, the Patients' Bill of Rights got stalled over in a partisan wrangling. I'm pleased to report that a bill passed out of the House of Representatives that I can live with. It's a bill that encourages, fosters, nourishes, the relationship between patient and doctor.

But it's also a piece of legislation that will not encourage or enhance frivolous lawsuits that will drive people out of medical care. We want more people with health insurance, not less. We want fewer lawsuits threatening our providers, rather than more, and we want to make sure our patients have got direct access to important health care. There's a good Patients' Bill of Rights that, if Congress comes together, they can get on my desk, that I look forward to signing this fall, after Congress comes home.

We're also making progress in changing the tone in Washington. One of my promises is, I said I'd go up to Washington and try to focus more on the people and less on partisanship. We need to focus more on the lives of our citizens and remember who sent us up there in the first place.

During the course of the campaign, I told the American people, if you gave me the great honor of serving as your President, I would set priorities for our budget. And if we had money left over after the priorities, we would remember who sent it to Washington in the first place. The money up in Washington is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And so we came together—with that philosophy in mind, we came together and passed the first tax relief in a generation. It's real; it is meaningful; it is important tax relief. It wasn't one of these old, Washington style tax relief programs, where the Congress or the President got to pick and choose who got tax relief and who didn't. This was fair tax relief. It said, "If you pay taxes, you get relief." It wasn't targeted tax relief; it was broad tax relief.

And the Congress wisely agreed to start sending money back this summer. Driving in to the high school here, I saw a sign that said, "Thanks for the $600 rebate check." But what I meant—what I should have done was stop and said, "You don't need to thank me. It's your money to begin with."

Some of them in our Nation's Capital say, $600 doesn't matter to a family. Well what they ought to do is get out of the Capital—I presume they are—and come out and talk to the working people of America and find out what $600 means. I was in the Harley-Davidson plant yesterday in Milwaukee. A lot of the workers came up and said, "Thanks for my $600." One fellow said, "I built a deck. You need to come over and have a beer with me." [*Laughter*] I said, "I quit drinking." [*Laughter*] He said, "How about root beer?" [*Laughter*]

The other thing we did in the Tax Code, which I appreciate a lot—and this is good for farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Kansas, all across the country. It's good for people who worry about urban sprawl. It's good for entrepreneurs. It's good for those folks who had a dream to build their business, make it work, and pass it on to their children. We're getting rid of the death tax. That's an important reform for our code. The Tax Code will be more reasonable. It will encourage entrepreneurship. It will get people more of their own money, and it was needed. And I'll talk about that a little later on.

A second area where we're making great progress is in public education. There is a good, strong reform bill that passed our House of Representatives and a good strong reform bill that passed the United States Senate. And when we come back, after the so-called vacation—[*laughter*]—people need to get the education bill to my desk.

And let me talk to you about it right quick. First of all, lest you think I forgot where I came from, one of the key components in the education bill is to trust the local folks when it comes to running public education. I strongly believe in local control of our schools. I don't believe Washington has got all the answers on how to run the schools. I do believe we need to pass power out of Washington, to give school districts more flexibility, more authority. And both these bills do that, and that's an important component of the bill.

But secondly, these bills challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. It recognizes that too often in our public education system, we lower the bar for students. Some folks believe, I guess, some kids can't learn. That's the opposite of what I think. I think every child can learn. I think we ought to have the high expectations. We expect high standards, and we expect people to deliver on those standards. And therefore, one of the key components of reform is to say to school districts, States all across our country, that if you receive Federal money, you must measure. You must devise an accountability system to let us know whether our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

I've heard all the arguments. As the Governor of Texas I heard the arguments against accountability, and of course I've heard them as the President. On the one hand, you'll have people say, "That's too much Government." Folks, my attitude is, if we spend money, it is reasonable to ask, "What are the results?"—particularly when it comes to our children.

I want to know whether a little child in the third grade can read, and I want to know early rather than late, and so should you. Because if we don't find out whether a child can read, oftentimes what happens is, they just get shuffled through the system. That's not fair; that's not right. Phyllis Hunter, my friend in the Houston Independent School District, stood up one time and said, "Reading is the new civil right." How can you realize the American Dream if you can't read? And if you can't read, you can't learn. We've got to know. We've got to know whether or not the school systems and the curriculum are working, to make sure that no child in America gets left behind. It makes sense to ask the question, what are the results all across America? Your motto in Missouri is "Show Me." It's not pass them through; it's show me whether or not the children can read.

And then you'll hear people say it's racist to test. Folks, it's racist not to test, because guess who gets shuffled through the system, oftentimes: children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, inner-city kids. It's so much easier to quit on somebody than to re-mediate. And so we've got reform at the heart of this bill, and the reform is, every child can learn. No child should be left behind, and we're going to find out whether or not children are learning or not. And when they are, we need to praise the teachers. And by the way, for the teachers who are here, thanks for teaching. It's a noble profession.

That's one thing Laura's going to spend a lot of time on. She's not only going to spend a lot of time heralding reading programs at work or working on libraries—expanding libraries around America, but she's going to do her job—the best job she can at recruiting folks to become teachers—the young, those, for example, who have served in our military. We've got a troops-for-teachers program that will encourage those who have served in the military to get back in the classroom. We've got to do a better job of recruiting good Americans into the classrooms.

The education bill is a good bill. I look forward to signing it. It is a sign that we're making progress on getting things done. Washington needs to be a results-oriented world. And one area where we need better results is with our military. When I campaigned for the Presidency, Dick Cheney—and by the way, he's doing great. He's a wonderful man and a great Vice President. I'm really glad he's decided to leave the private sector to come and join the administration. But we both said that we need to strengthen the military in order to keep the peace.

And we made great progress. The Congress has done great work. We passed pay raises. I had the honor of signing an additional pay raise in Kosovo, when I went overseas, $2 billion additional money to pay our troops more, house them better, better health care for the men and women who wear the uniform. Listen, high morale begins with treating the men and women who wear the uniform—treating them well and paying them better. And that's what we're doing.

We've also got a vision for a stronger military reflected in the budget. The budget I sent up for 2002, with amendments, was the largest increase in military spending since the time of Ronald Reagan. It's important not only to spend more, but we need to spend more wisely. And that's why Secretary Rumsfeld is doing a total review of our military

force today, as well as a strategic review of what our forces ought to look like tomorrow. We're going to spend money on research and development, to make sure that not only can we keep the peace today but that our military is properly equipped, properly trained, to make the world more peaceful in the out years.

And one area that is so important, and I know there's been a lot of discussion about it, is to make sure America's prepared to address the true threats of the 21st century. I met with President Putin, as you know, twice. I had the privilege to represent our Nation with our former adversary and to look him in the eye, and say, "Mr. President, America is not your enemy. The cold war is over. We need to discard all the relics of the cold war, a treaty, for example, that has codified hatred and distrust, called the ABM Treaty."

I said, "Mr. President, the threats that face Russia and America and other freedom-loving nations are the threats of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of rogue nations or cyberterrorists. It's terrorist threats that face us, and we must develop necessary defenses to protect ourselves and protect freedom-loving people. We need to get rid of the ABM Treaty, so we can research and development—develop weapons systems that will meet the true threat facing America. The cold war is over. The hatred is gone. Let's come together, for the good of freedom-loving people, to protect us all." Let's protect Israel and our allies and America.

We're making good progress about bringing morale back to the military. We will be strong militarily, because this is a peaceful nation, a nation—rests upon freedom, democracy. It's such a wonderful land. We cannot retreat within our borders. We've got to be an active nation to promote the peace, and we will.

And finally, we're making good progress about reforming Medicare. Medicare is—they usually call it, in the political lexicon, "Mediscare." See, when you talk about Medicare, then somebody takes your words and tries to twist it and frighten people who rely upon Medicare. That's an old tactic, an old political tactic. That doesn't deter me, however, from talking about making sure the system works. Medicare is an incredibly important program. It's a promise the Nation made to our seniors, and we've got to make sure it works.

And one of the things that Medicare doesn't do, it doesn't provide prescription drugs for our seniors. And that doesn't make sense in a world—a health world that has changed dramatically since Medicare was first signed. Now, I've asked Congress to—both Republicans and Democrats to think about how to do the following things: Make sure prescription drugs is available for seniors; make sure seniors who like their current Medicare system can stay in it, the way it is; but make sure seniors have got a variety of options from which to choose.

I said, "Why don't you all look at your own health care plan?" It's not a bad place to start. If the Senators and Congressmen have got a variety of options from which to choose, if their own health care plan trusts them to design a program that meets their needs, why shouldn't we do the same thing for our seniors? Why shouldn't we say, let's give seniors choices?

And then, of course, there's the Social Security issue, a longtime political issue, as well. Now, it should be becoming clearer to people that if you're on Social Security today or near retirement, the promises our Government made to you will absolutely be kept. Those days of demagoging the issue should be gone out of the political—out of politics.

But one of the things I learned and one of the things I know, as a result of my travels and studying Social Security, there's a lot of young folks who recognize the truth. And that is, there are not going to be enough people paying into the system to make sure that they have got a Social Security system available for them. There's a lot of young workers who heard the message that I delivered. And I believe one of the reasons I'm standing here is because I had the courage to deliver this message. In order to make sure there's a Social Security system around tomorrow, to make sure there's one in the future, we must give younger workers the option to manage their own money in the private markets, if that's what they choose to do.

You notice I said, "if that's what they choose to do." Government ought to trust

American people to make decisions in their own life. They ought to trust the seniors to make the right choices when it comes to their health care, and they ought to trust younger workers with the choice on how to manage their own money. Remember the payroll tax—again, it's not the Government's money; it's the workers' money. And in order to have a Social Security System around tomorrow, we've got to have a better rate of return on the people's money in order to offset the fact there are fewer people paying into the system.

My point is that we're beginning to address these difficult issues. Our charge in Washington, DC, at least the way I view it, is to not have endless partisan squabbling but to talk about the issues that are important for America, to be willing to address the tough issues, to make sure our country fulfills its promise, not only today but in the years to come.

Now, one of the interesting battles, and I hope it's not a battle—let me just say, one of the interesting opportunities to show America that we can work together, to be the positive guy—[*laughter*]—is the budget. We'll be talking about the budget. This is when we actually spend the money.

See, the first discussion we had was, we set the budget, the parameters, about the limits of spending. And now the Members of Congress are coming back, and they're going to actually commit taxpayer's money. And it's going to be an interesting discussion. Now tomorrow, my Office of Management and Budget will issue what's called a mid-session budget review and will show in plain terms that we have fully funded and will be able to fully fund our Nation's priorities, that we've got enough money to preserve and protect Social Security, that we'll pay down over $100 billion of public debt, that Medicare, all Medicare, every dime that comes into Medicare, will be spent on Medicare, and we can meet our priorities when it comes to our military and to education.

Our budget is in strong financial shape, despite an economic slowdown that began last year. The slowdown is serious, folks. Make no mistake about it. It's real. Since last summer, the economy has grown by a little over one percent. That's a slowdown. Inevitably, the slowing economy has resulted in slowing tax revenues, lower corporate profits, and in some cases layoffs.

Yet despite the year-long trend, despite the fact that this has been on for a year, the Federal budget will have the second largest surplus in history, in part, because this administration took immediate action to address the downturn. We took exactly the right action, at the right time, by pushing the largest tax cut in a generation. You will hear people say that tax relief is going to make it hard to meet the budget. But reality is, tax relief is important to make sure our economy grows. I believe there are some who resent tax relief because they wanted more of your money in Washington, DC. It's a fundamental, philosophical difference.

And the fundamental question is, who do you trust? I trust the people with their own money. I'd rather you spend your own money, than the Federal Government spend your money. I think you can do it more wisely than we can in Washington, DC.

No, this tax relief has laid the foundation for expanding economic growth. And now we must resist the temptation of a bigger threat to growth, and that's excessive Federal spending. The biggest threat to our recovery is for the Congress to overspend. We have the funds to meet our obligations, so long as they resist the temptation to spend.

You know, every new way to spend money can be made to sound urgent, important, but we've agreed to budget limits. That's what a budget is. You set budgets at your house; the Congress set a budget that we all agreed upon. And I expect the Congress to live within the limits of the budget that we all agreed on. I am optimistic that we can avoid the—this business about shutting down things and not getting things done. I am optimistic, because we've made good progress so far, and both political parties deserve credit.

Congressman Young of the House and Senator Byrd of the Senate have done a good job on the appropriations process thus far. We passed two supplemental spending bills: one focused on agriculture, one focused on defense. These supplementals in the past were usually nice platforms for people to load up the spending with additional programs, things that might sound good, but all of a

sudden end up busting the budget. And both bodies of the Congress stuck to the limits that we agreed to. It's a good sign. It's a sign that fiscal responsibility is now an important part of the psyche in Washington, DC.

However, even though I'm optimistic, there are some temptations that will face the Congress when they come back. I'd like to share some of the with you. The first temptation, when it comes to budgeting, is what we call the temptation of the false emergency. Now, our budget system provides for special consideration for emergency, as it should. We've had natural disasters, and we need to have money set aside. That's an emergency, and we need to get money quickly into the communities when there's a natural disaster. An economic recession is an emergency. A declaration of war is an emergency. But far too often in the past, the normal has been declared an emergency in order to increase the budget. Far too long in the past, well meaning Members have declared that such-and-such pet project in their district is an emergency, and therefore we need to spend that money under the emergency provisions. That's going to end.

A second temptation is to complain that the budget has been cut when, in fact, it is increased. One of the amazing things about Washington accounting is that when a budget increase is less than expected or less than anticipated or less than someone hopes for, that's called a cut. [*Laughter*] So if budget X goes from point A to point B and it's a 6 percent growth and reasonable folks come together and say it ought to only grow at 4 percent, that's a cut. And we're not going to let the so-called Washington cuts cause the budget to get out of balance. We're going to blow the whistle.

Then there's what they call the last minute budget raid. That's when the bills are coming, winding down the process, and in order to get votes, Members start demanding this or that. There were 6,000 last minute additions to the budget last year, some of them small, some of them large, but all of them adding up to one thing, a budget that could be out of balance. And so as the watchdog of the Treasury, as the person who's got the opportunity to bring fiscal sanity to Washington, I'm going to be watching carefully for the last minute budget additions.

Seven out of the last eight budgets submitted by the Executive and passed by the Congress have raided the Social Security or used part of the Social Security to fund the budgets. One of the temptations is to use Social Security money for something other than Social Security. Now the good news is, is that both political parties and both parties of Congress have declared that we're not going to do that. But I'm going to watch carefully, to make sure that the old temptations of the past don't come back to haunt us when it comes to budgeting your money in the year 2001.

And finally, there is a—not finally, next to finally. [*Laughter*] I was afraid some of you were going to fall out. [*Laughter*] There is a temptation not to listen to the budget in the first place. During the last session, the appropriations process created $35 billion more dollars than the budget called for. A budget's a budget, folks. We spent a lot of time working on the budget. People came together. Both parties said, "Here's the budget." And I know the American taxpayers, and I know the President in this case, expects for Congress to live within the budget we passed. We don't want the budget to be a hollow noise. We want the budget to be real, and that's why I've been given the power of the veto, to make sure that the budget—make sure the appropriations are within the guidelines of the budget.

And finally—[*laughter*]—and finally, one of the temptations, and perhaps the greatest temptation of all is what we call appropriations gamesmanship. And here's the way it works. We've got a budget of X amount, and you add up all the potential appropriations bills. The budget amount is X. And so they'll pass one bill of the 13, and they may add a little bit here. Then they'll pass another bill, all still within the budget. And they finally get to the last appropriations bills, and all of a sudden, if the budget amount becomes the appropriated amount, we busted the budget, because of all the previous bills have added a little here or there. And guess what generally is the last ones out? Defense—the defense bill.

In other words, they'll put it on the President's desk, and say, "You either get to bust the budget, Mr. President, or you have to choose between defense or perhaps education." That's gamesmanship. And that's not necessary, folks. That's not good to play with our national security or our national interests in educating every child.

And so what I expect and hope is that Congress will, at the very minimum, agree on the funding levels for defense and education early in the process, not late. This will be an interesting test of the priorities of the leaders of Congress. It will be an interesting test to see whether or not they agree with the administration that our true priorities begin with educating our children, and a true priority is the defense of our Nation. I'm confident we can work together, but it's going to require the people to help us watch the process. The people need to pay attention. And if you see the appropriations process dragging on and it looks like the old games of the past, we all need to blow the whistle. We all need to expect better out of Washington, DC.

And I believe we can do better. I know this: We're not going to raise the taxes on the people. I know this: that we're going to make sure additional spending doesn't cut into essential programs, like Social Security or Medicare. I know this: We won't shortchange the military, because it's important to rebuild our military. And I know this: We're making progress in changing the tone in Washington, and the budget process is the way to show the American people that we can work together for what's right.

Harry Truman brought a lot of wisdom to Washington, in what he said. He said some things, and I think he called—he was a plainspoken fellow. Nothing wrong with that. [*Laughter*] Nothing wrong with telling people exactly what you believe. Washington can use a lot of that. He said, "Washington is a very easy place to forget where you came from and why you got there in the first place." Pretty wise.

I think one of the reasons I got there in the first place is to show the American people that it's possible to work together. I think one of the reasons I got there in the first place is to do in office what I said I would do, to try to bring some faith back into the political process. I know one of the reasons I got there in the first place; one of the reasons I got there in the first place was to watch the budget and to trust the American people.

But there's a large call, as well, and that's to work with the American folks to help change our culture from one that will be more respectful and more compassionate, from one that used to say, if it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else, to one in which all of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

A responsible culture, a culture of personal responsibility means that if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, that you understand your responsibility is to love your children with all your heart and all of your soul. A culture of responsibility understands that if you live in a community and see a neighbor in need, that instead of relying upon Government, that you ought to walk across the street and help that neighbor in need. A culture of responsibility says that if you're a part of corporate America, you have a responsibility to the workers that work for you. A culture of responsibility says that if you're fortunate enough to hold high office, that you have a responsibility to set the highest of high standards and to live by those standards.

I am honored to be in such a position. I'm honored to be in a position to help work with decent Americans all across our country to usher in this period. And I know it can happen, because we're all inhabitants of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming today. May God bless, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:58 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Alice Gensor, president, Democratic Club, John Knox Village retirement community; Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks to Families at a Target Store and an Exchange With Reporters in Kansas City, Missouri

August 21, 2001

The President. Good morning, everybody. I'm excited to be here at Target. A lot of these folks have—some of the folks have got their rebate check; some of them are getting them. But I suggest you talk to the Target people about what the rebate check has meant for their business. One of the main reasons why we insisted that people get money back was to provide a second wind for our economy. And the other reason why is because we recognize that these good folks spend their money just as wisely, if not more wisely, than the Government can.

I remember in the debate, people said, "Well, $600 doesn't mean much." Well, I suggest you ask people who got the $600 what it means. It seems to mean a lot to a lot of folks.

[*At this point, the President greeted audience members and then answered questions from reporters.*]

Federal Budget/Tax Relief

The President. Okay.

Q. Mr. President, would you like to see Social Security kind of taken out of the budget equation? You are going to have like a billion dollar surplus just from general revenues tomorrow. Do you think that's a fair way of figuring out the surplus?

The President. I think what I said in the speech was what I mean, that Social Security ought to be spent on Social Security, and OMB numbers show that that's the way it's going to be. That hasn't been the case; seven out of the last eight budgets have used Social Security for—they used Social Security funds for other matters. And we worked with Congress—see, here's the problem. A lot in Congress are upset that we passed money back to the people because they wanted to spend it on pet projects, on bigger appropriations. And what I am saying is, that battle's over with.

We cut the taxes; it was the right thing to do. It was the right thing to trust the people with the money. It was the right thing for our economy. And Congress now needs to understand that there are some new parameters. When you pass money back to the people, it means there is not that much money available for additional programs, and they need to be fiscally sound.

We've got a good budget. And the fundamental question is, will the appropriators stick to the budget, and I am confident they will if they listen to the people.

And one of the reasons why we came here is to highlight the fact that the tax relief plan is important to hardworking Americans. Some people said, you know, "Thanks for giving us the money." Well, it's their money to begin with. That's the point I keep making. It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And these good folks have got a reason to spend it. A lot of them are going to spend it on school supplies. But it's not only important for them; it's important for our economy.

Q. Sir, the ad team for Al Gore's last campaign put out an ad today for the Democratic National Committee accusing you of raiding the Medicare Trust Fund and asking you to take Harry Truman's plain-spokenness and tell the people the truth. Is that fair?

The President. Well, you know, there's a lot of people still want to politicize the budget. They like the old-time wars of zero-sum politics. There are a lot of big spenders, a lot of highly partisan people that really didn't like the tax cut to begin with. They want the Government to have the people's money. They believe in bigger Government.

And all I do is rest my case with the people. And the people wanted tax relief. The people want fiscal sanity in Washington. The people want all the money going into Medicare to be spent on Medicare, and that's what my budget does. And people also want a good defense for our country. And I hope, at the very minimum, the leadership in the Congress will give us the Defense appropriation number and the Education appropriation number early in the process, so that we don't rob defense or rob education by holding those appropriation bills late.

Q. Sir, where do you draw the line in terms of using your veto power this fall? Is it sticking to the budget resolution numbers? Or——

The President. The budget resolution number's a good place to begin. Because if we appropriate, of course, for the budget, we will not only be able to afford the tax relief, but we won't touch Social Security, and we will be able to fund the Nation's priorities, including education and defense.

As you know, you heard my speech yesterday—should have heard my speech or will pay to hear my speech—and whether or not you listen to it is another question—but we have—I have requested a good deal of money for defense, and it's needed.

Possibility of Government Shutdown

Q. Sir, you know, in the Clinton administration, they had some battles up there. They had to shut down the Government from overspending. They wanted more money.

The President. Yes. Right. A new sheriff in town.

Q. If it comes down to a showdown about closing down Government, are you prepared to——

The President. I am confident we won't have to shut down the—shut down the Government. There are things such as continuing resolutions. There's ways for us to make sure that the budget—I mean, the Government doesn't get shut down over a budget fight.

You're right, the last administration was anxious for the Government to spend more money. I want the Government to spend the right amount of money. And we have achieved a good balance. It's not only money to fund priorities such as education, defense, and health care, but it is money available for the taxpayers. It's their money to begin with.

And our economy needs—I love the discussion, you know, the tax cut means there's less money available to spend. Well, what the tax cut is, it means that we've been given an opportunity to revitalize our economy, so that the tax revenues that have been lost because of economic slowdown come back into the Treasury.

Effect of Tax Relief

Q. Mr. President, do you think that the purchasing of school supplies and things people would buy ordinarily will, in fact, jumpstart the economy?

The President. No, I think it's a cumulative. If you try to look at one isolated incident, it's easy to belittle $600 in a person's pocket. But $600 of additional disposable income all across America—that amounts to billions of dollars—will provide a part of the equation for economic recovery. Of course, if somebody buys a pencil, somebody's had to make it. But it is not just school supplies. That maybe kind of diminishes the effect of billions of dollars getting into the economy in a very quick period of time.

I want to remind you all about a year ago, the discussion about tax relief was sometimes in political circles belittled as an impossibility. No one would have dreamed that we would not only have gotten tax relief but this amount of money injected into the economy as quickly as we did. And it's a part of the equation.

Dinner With Gov. Bill Graves of Kansas

Q. You broke bread with Governor Graves last night.

The President. I did.

Q. Why Governor Graves, and what did you talk about?

The President. Well, I was hoping I could maybe get him to buy my meal.

Q. He didn't?

The President. He didn't, no. Please record the fact that I paid, much to my chagrin.

We talked about just politics. He and Linda are friends of mine. He's done a great job as the Governor of Kansas, and he's one of my best friends that I've made in politics amongst the Governors. Just had a nice visit.

Q. Have a future with you some day ?

The President. You know, we didn't spend much time talking about that. He has not finished his term yet. Maybe, you know.

President's Tax Rebate

Q. Mr. President, what are you going to do with your tax rebate?

The President. Charity.

Q. Really? Which one?

The President. I don't know yet.

Q. You haven't gotten it?

The President. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Why charity?

The President. Why? Because it's something people ought to do. And I believe in supporting charities. As you know, every year when I put out my income tax returns, you see the fact that I do give to charities, give to my church. I haven't made up my mind yet.

Thank you all for your time.

President's Schedule

Q. Are you going to talk to us—you going to talk to us tomorrow? Play golf and maybe talk to us?

The President. Do what?

Q. You're going to have the budget review tomorrow. Do you think you might talk to us from the golf course or someplace?

The President. I won't be playing golf tomorrow. Probably—I may—just keep loose this week. I may have a discussion with you on some matters later on this week.

Q. Military matters, perhaps?

The President. I ain't telling.

Q. Buildings with five sides?

Q. No more hints?

The President. No, the last time we—I'm trying to get a picnic organized so you all can come out to the ranch. Is this the—are you the last shift?

Q. Yes.

The President. Okay, last shift. Up until when we go. We're leaving Thursday, now. We're going back Thursday morning, the 30th.

Q. Wow, even earlier?

Q. The 30th?

The President. We're going back on the 30th. Laura wants to get back a day early.

President's Vacation

Q. How's the bass fishing going?

The President. They've actually gotten up to about a pound. They're growing. The lake's evaporating because it's so hot.

Okay, see you there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. at the Kansas City North Target store's snackbar. In his remarks, he referred to Linda Richey Graves, wife of Gov. Bill Graves. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Memorandum on a Military Drawdown for Tunisia

August 18, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Military Drawdown for Tunisia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including Title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001, as enacted in Public Law 106–429 (Title III), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of $5 million for Tunisia, consistent with the authority provided under Title III, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 22.

Statement on Senator Jesse Helms' Decision Not To Seek Reelection

August 22, 2001

The Senate is losing an institution with the decision of Jesse Helms to retire after three decades of distinguished public service. Senator Helms went to Washington but never became a part of Washington. He has always remained true to his conservative principles and to the people of North Carolina who elected him five times. Senator Helms is a true gentleman, known for treating his colleagues with the utmost respect and courtesy, regardless of party or policy differences.

As chairman and ranking Republican of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms has been a tireless defender of our

Nation's freedom and a champion of democracy abroad. When Senator Helms retires, the Senate will have lost a respected leader, but I have no doubt we will continue to seek his counsel as a senior statesman.

Laura and I extend our best wishes to Jesse, his wife, Dot, and the entire Helms family.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Waco, Texas

August 23, 2001

President's Schedule

The President. Good morning. I'll see you all at the school.

Q. Uh-oh, what does that mean?

The President. In Crawford.

Q. For what?

Q. You're going to drop by?

The President. I'm going to drop by the school after, so we'll have a little chance to visit then, to thank them for letting you all stay at the elementary school. Obviously, nobody told you.

Q. Thanks for the heads up.

The President. We're going to have an impromptu stop. I will decide on my way home to stop by the school. [*Laughter*]

Roland Betts, my good friend from New York City.

Let's go, hit them up.

And we'll—we can have a little visit there, if you like. That way, it won't ruin my golf game. [*Laughter*]

Q. Looking forward to your game?

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to getting out here.

Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels

Had a nice visit with Mitch Daniels this morning.

Q. He down here?

The President. No, I called him.

Q. Is that a Masters souvenir, your glove?

The President. I think somebody must have sent me that. I haven't been there in a while. Beautiful course.

All right, excuse me.

[*At this point, the President played a round of golf.*]

President's Round of Golf

The President. So, I won't be a professional golfer.

Q. I'm going to go find that ball. I'm going to find that one.

The President. The first one? If you can find that first one, you're a pretty good bird-dog. [*Laughter*]

Is everybody enjoying themselves here?

Q. I only just got here, so——

The President. Yes, I know. Where have you been?

Q. Sucking up the salt air on the west coast.

The President. Brie and cheese?

Q. No, tennis.

The President. Okay.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:27 a.m. at the Ridgewood Country Club. In his remarks, the President referred to Roland Betts, owner, Chelsea Piers, L.P. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Crawford Elementary School and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

August 23, 2001

The President. Thank you, Linda. Thanks for having me come. It's—what I thought I would do is just say a few words and maybe answer some of the questions—some questions from some of the boys and girls here, if you have any.

First, thanks for inviting me, Linda, and thanks for being so patient. And also, thank you all for hosting the national press corps. [*Laughter*] I know they've appreciated it very much, and on their behalf, I would like to thank them. They are, most of the time, well behaved. But they're an important part of our country, because in order for people to be able to know what's going on, they report the news. Sometimes they exaggerate; sometimes they don't. But they're an important part of our democracy. And I appreciate so very much you welcoming them here into your school.

I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Teaching is a noble profession, and we

can't say enough good words about the teachers, not only here in Crawford but in Texas and across America. So thank you very much for being a teacher.

I want to thank the parents who are here. You're right, some of the sweetest—one of the sweetest words in our vocabulary is "mom." And my advice to you is, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] That's about as good advice as a fellow can give, because your mom always has good advice.

I want to ask you a couple of questions. Do any of you read more than you watch TV?

Students. Yes.

The President. Well, that's important. The reason I asked that question is, it's so easy to watch TV, and it's hard to read. But you need to do it the other way around. You need to read more than you watch TV. Because when you get to be a good reader, and I know you will be, it makes learning so much easier. And then when you learn a lot of things, it helps you realize your dreams.

And let me ask you this question. Some of you are too young to have probably thought about this question, but some of the older kids, how many of you dream about going to college?

[*At this point, the students indicated their interest in college.*]

The President. Oh, that's great. That means you'd better practice reading. That means you'd better read more than you watch TV if you want to achieve that goal. That means you've set a goal, right? That's what that is. You've set a goal, and now you're going to work hard to achieve the goal.

A couple of other points I want make, and then I'd be glad to answer some questions. In order to go to college or to realize your dreams, you have to make right choices in life. As you grow up, you've got to learn to say yes to the good things and no to the bad things, like saying no to drugs. That's going to be important in order to realize your dreams. No to alcohol, excessive alcohol. You've just got to learn to make the right choices when you get older.

And guess what is going to help you learn that? Not only your moms and your dads but your teachers. And so I hope when you—in school, listen to the people that care about you a lot. Read more than you watch TV, listen to the values that you are being taught, and study hard, and then you will be able to realize your dreams.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions, and I'm going to answer some questions from the press corps, too.

You got any questions? Yes, sir.

Secret Service

Student. Where are your Secret Service? [*Laughter*] [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes, that's right, let's see. There's a few of them in here. They're important because, unfortunately, there are some people in our society that don't think right, that are interested in harming people. And they do a great job, and they're good citizens, too, and I bet you get to see a lot of them around Crawford. They like to eat the hamburgers downtown here.

Yes, ma'am.

President's Golf Outing

Student. Where did you play golf at?

The President. I played golf at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco. This morning I played with my friend Senator David Sibley. He is your State senator. He just—he's not going to run again, he told everybody the other day. But we had a good time playing golf. And then I played at Clifton the other day. But I'm through playing golf—[*laughter*]—for a while.

Yes, sir.

Former President George Bush

Student. Was your dad the President?

The President. My dad was the President. He was the 41st President, and I'm the 43d President. And there has been one other time in which a dad and his son were Presidents. Do you know who that was?

Student. John Quincy Adams?

The President. John Quincy Adams was the son, and the daddy's name was John Adams.

Yes, ma'am.

Student. What is it like being President?

The President. Well, it's a great honor to be the President. It's one of these jobs where you can help people help themselves. It's a

job that requires an understanding of where you want to lead. You've got to know who you are and where you want to lead the Nation, which means you've got to know what you believe in. And I believe in family, and I believe in faith, and I believe in personal responsibility. I believe that we ought to trust local people to make the decisions for schools in their cities and counties. I trust the people of Texas and all the other States across the country to make right decisions. It's a great job. Thank you for asking. It's a lot of work. But that's okay. People in Crawford are used to work.

Yes, sir.

President's Daily Activities

Student. What do you do on a regular basis?

The President. On a regular basis? Well, that's kind of a regular basis today. [*Laughter*]

I'm going back—I'm going to go back to our place right around the corner here, and I'm going to meet with Condoleezza Rice, who is the National Security Adviser. I'm going to give a phone call to President de la Rua, who is the President of Argentina, to talk about the recent financial package that has been developed on behalf of his nation, so that his nation doesn't default on debt, which would then affect other people in the hemisphere.

I'm going to have lunch with First Lady Laura Bush, who sends her very best, by the way. I'm going to see Barney the dog and Spot the dog and India the cat.

I'm going to have a phone call this afternoon with my personnel office. One of the things the President does is name people to different positions of responsibility in Washington. We've got about an hour conference call to go over the names they've recommended to me to be nominated for a variety of positions.

We've got a horticulturist coming out from Texas A&M to help us identify the hardwood trees on our beautiful place. We've got about 12 or 13 different types of hardwoods out there, so he is going to educate us about the land. So I've got a lot going on today.

Tomorrow, interestingly enough, here in Crawford, Texas, the Secretary of Defense is coming down, and I'm going to hold a big, major press conference tomorrow morning to discuss defense matters. And that's very important because one of the jobs of the President is to be the Commander in Chief, which means we've got to have a strong military and a strong vision about our military. And we will discuss that tomorrow with the pool press corps, tomorrow morning. The Nation will be interested in the announcements we make as well as the discussion we have, I'm confident.

But when I get back—by the way, the interesting thing about Crawford, it's just like I've moved my office from Washington to Crawford. See, the thing about a President is, is that you're always the President, and there's always an issue, and somebody is always calling, and somebody needs to visit, and somebody is flying into town to come by, to sit down and talk about variety of issues. And so it's just like I moved my office from the Oval Office right out here to Crawford. And I'm glad I did; I love being here.

Let's see. Yes, sir.

2000 Election

Student. Did you——

The President. Yeah, you. Go ahead.

Student. Did you ever get mad at Al Gore during the election? [*Laughter*]

The President. Not really. No, I never did. I—he—you know, he ran a good, hard race, and I felt like we ran a good race, too, and never got mad at him. One of the things in politics you learn is, you can't get mad at people. And it's—never really did.

Yes, sir.

First Family

Student. Does your family go with you sometimes in Washington and——

The President. On trips? Sometimes. We have—Laura goes with me a lot, of course. We spend a lot of time together, and that's good for me. I don't know if it's so good for her, but it's good for me. [*Laughter*]

We've got twin daughters who are 19 years old, and sometimes they travel with us, and sometimes they don't. We recently went to Europe, overseas, and Barbara went and traveled with us that time, and she got to

meet the Pope and saw some really interesting parts of the world. But they're pretty independent little girls right now, and they're both in college, and that's good.

Yes, ma'am.

The White House

Student. Where's the White House?

The President. The White House is in Washington, D.C.; it's up East. It's a beautiful house, and guess what color it is?

Audience members. White.

The President. That's right. That's a good answer.

And the other thing is, is that—but it's not—it's the people's house, see. The people of America own that house. And any time you go to Washington, or most of the times you can go to Washington, there's a tour and you can go look at the White House and see what's in it. It's a beautiful place. We're very lucky to live there, and we find it a great honor.

Yes, sir.

Student. Is it like really, really big or——

The President. It's big. Yes, it's really, really big.

Student. Is it bigger than the tower?

The President. Bigger than what?

Student. The tower.

The President. Bigger than the tower here? I don't know; that's pretty big.

It's got a lot of rooms. It's got some fantastic, big rooms. One of the things the President does is have what they have a state dinner. We occasionally welcome a foreign leader to come to Washington, DC, and we have a dinner, a very formal, fancy dinner. Laura and I are entertaining President Vicente Fox from Mexico, and that will be the first week we're back, the week right after Labor Day. It's going to be a majestic event, and the rooms are just really beautiful, formal rooms that I think you would find amazing.

Red shirt, right there.

The Presidency

Student. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Favorite what?

Student. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I can't hear either question.

Two red shirts. Yes, ma'am, go ahead.

Student. Are you looking forward to getting out of your office?

The President. Am I looking forward to getting out of the office? No. [*Laughter*] I enjoy it. It's been a great experience. This is a job where you can actually make a huge difference in people's lives, and I like that; I like that part of it—part of the job.

Yes, sir, back to you.

Student. What's your most favorite thing——

The President. Most favorite thing—helping people, to make a difference in people's lives, setting a good example, so that youngsters like yourself realize that democracy is—can be a very good system, that politics is a noble calling. I hope that I can inspire people to get involved in the political process. I hope I can inspire people to get involved with helping neighbors in need in Crawford, Texas. I hope I can help raise the bar, make sure every child is educated. And I hope to make the world more peaceful.

And that's a pretty big agenda, and the President has got a chance to do those things. And I'm honored to be able to do it.

Yes, sir.

President's Car

Student. [*Inaudible*]

The President. My limo? I don't have one here. I've got an SUV here.

Yes, ma'am.

President's Education

Student. Where did you go to college?

The President. Yale University.

Next. Yes.

President's Autograph

Student. Can I have your autograph?

The President. No. [*Laughter*] I mean, yes, of course. I'll sign one, and we'll—let you copy it.

President's Age

Student. How old are you?

The President. How old am I? I'm the speed limit. [*Laughter*] Fifty-five.

Student. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, the old speed limit.

Yes, Donna.

Little League

Student. What is your favorite childhood memory?

The President. My favorite childhood memory was playing Little League baseball in Midland, Texas. I was—I loved baseball, still love baseball. As a matter of fact, I'm going to the Little League World Series on Sunday. So we're going to fly out of Waco, and I'm going to go to a picnic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then go to the Little League World Series, and then I'm going to come home. I'll be back home here Sunday night. So it's a pretty fast life I'm living these days.

President's Inauguration

Student. How did it—you just became President. How has it——

The President. Well, when I got sworn in as President, it was a pretty cold day in Washington, DC. And it was—the Inaugural ceremony was at the end of a pretty pressure packed time. One, the election—I campaigned hard in the election. Secondly, we weren't sure what the outcome was. You might remember that period of time. It took a period—it took about 30-something days to figure out who the President was going to be. I spent a lot of my time here in Crawford, as a matter of fact.

And then when I was declared the winner, we had to get moving, because I had to put an administration together, had to put a team together. And we got up to Washington—I went from Crawford to Midland, Texas, where I was raised, and then flew up to Washington and got settled in in what they call the Blair House.

And the Inaugural Day came, and I got sworn in. And I guess I had a lot of mixed emotions. One, I was exhilarated. I—gave a very—what I thought was a pretty good speech. The people seemed to listen to it. I turned around, and there was my dad and mother, and they had tears in their eyes, so it was emotional. And it was just a lot of activity. It's hard to describe, but it was a real proud moment. And then frankly, that night, I was a little tired.

But I get to work early. I'm excited about my job. I'm one of these early-bird type people, like I'll be in the Oval Office at about 7 o'clock every morning, because I'm anxious to get to work. I like what I'm doing. And it's been a great honor.

Yes, sir.

President's Travel

Student. Have you been to China?

The President. I have not—yes, I've been to China, but I haven't been to China since I've been President. But guess where I'm going in October? China. [*Laughter*]

Lets, see, who hasn't had a question? Yes, sir.

President's Round of Golf

Student. What did you score at the end of the golf game?

The President. It was too high to count. [*Laughter*] A lot. [*Laughter*]

Yes.

President's Travel

Student. Have you been to——

The President. Been to where?

Student. Speegleville.

The President. No, I haven't been there yet. Do you recommend it?

Student. That's where I'm from.

The President. Oh, you live there.

Student. I live there, too.

The President. You live in Speegleville? That's great.

Yes, ma'am, in the glasses. Yes, ma'am.

Presidential Decisionmaking

Student. Is it hard to make the decisions as President?

The President. Is it hard to make decisions as President? Not really. If you know what you believe, decisions come pretty easy. If you're one of these types of people that are always trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing, decisionmaking can be difficult. But I find that—I know who I am. I know what I believe in, and I know where I want to lead the country. And most of the decisions come pretty easily for me, to be frank with you.

I realize sometimes people don't like the decisions. But that's okay. I've never been one who's trying to please everybody all the time. I just do what I think is right. The good thing about democracy, if people like the decisions you make, they'll let you stay. If they

don't, they'll send me back to Crawford. Isn't all that bad a deal, by the way.

Yes.

Texas

Student. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Why do I live in this State? I love Texas. I was raised in Texas. Texas has got a way of life that I really like. I like the can-do attitude of the Texas people. Texans are really caring people. It's a great place to live. You know, I've changed my address, but I haven't changed my home.

Okay, a couple more, and then I've got to go. Yes, ma'am. No, you're first, and then you're second—unless you have the same question.

President's Travel

Student. How many important places do you go in a week?

The President. How many places do I go in a week? Well, it just depends on the week. When I went to Europe, it seemed like I was going to a country every day. And I travel around some, but I spend a lot of time in Washington, at my office, particularly when the United States Congress is in town, because I get to deal with the Congressmen and the Senators. A lot of them come down to the White House to say hello, and we have nice discussions about different issues.

But I travel—sometimes travel a lot and sometimes not so much.

Yes, ma'am.

President's Hobbies

Student. What are your hobbies?

The President. Hobbies? I like to fish. I like to exercise. And by the way, I hope everybody takes some time to exercise. It's really—it's really important. That's a good way to stay healthy, even if you only walk 20 minutes a day. But I love to exercise. I like to play golf. I'm not very good at it, but I like to play. I like to read a lot. I hope you read. I've read a couple of books since I've been down here. It's very important to read a lot.

Anybody got anything over there?

Nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Q. Mr. President, you plan to make an announcement tomorrow, we're led to believe, on a new Chairman for the Joint Chiefs——

The President. There will be a press conference tomorrow, and——

Q. Could you tell us, if you don't want to tell us who it is, what is the message you intend to send to the world?

The President. Tomorrow; I'm going to talk about that tomorrow. Thanks.

Yes.

ABM Treaty

Q. Mr. President, when will you put President Putin on notice that the six-month clock is running on U.S. withdrawal from the ABM?

The President. We'll have, on the—she's talking about what they call the ABM Treaty, which is a treaty signed in 1972. And I have made it clear that I think the treaty is a treaty that hampers our ability to keep the peace, to develop defensive weapons necessary to defend America against the true threats of the 21st century.

We will withdraw from the ABM Treaty on our timetable, at a time convenient to America. Now, one of the things I've said in the course of questions about the ABM Treaty, I've said that we would consult closely with our allies in Europe as well as continue to consult closely with Mr. Putin.

I have no specific timetable in mind. I do know that the ABM Treaty hampers us from doing what we need to do. And secondly, I do know that Mr. Putin is aware of our desires to move beyond the ABM Treaty. And we will.

Yes, Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Q. Sir, as you've looked for a new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, what have you been looking for? What have you been considering?

The President. I have been looking for—and it's not just me, of course. It's the Secretary of Defense; we've been in collaboration. We've been looking for someone who will bring the highest standards of excellence

to the office, someone who is willing to think differently about the missions of our military how to conform—the fundamental question is, how do we conform our defenses to the true threats that face America not, only now but in the out years?

I'm looking for somebody, obviously, with experience, somebody who understands what the job is, what the job entails. And we found that person.

Q. Is it General Myers?

The President. I'm not going to tell you who it is until the appropriate time.

You just saw a good reporter, how a good reporter asks questions. See, she's trying to get me to say something I don't want to say. [*Laughter*] But that's her job. That's her job, is to try to jump the news.

But tomorrow, we will have a full discussion on defense matters, and that subject may be included.

Yes.

Federal Budget

Q. The Mid-Session Review came out yesterday, and outside of the Social Security surplus, there isn't much of a surplus left. Are you concerned, when Congress gets back, there won't be room for your education or defense priorities?

The President. No, I think if—the Mid-Session Review showed that the budgets we submitted not only are in balance but meet the priorities that I think are important, including defense and education.

I'll tell you what these numbers are showing. They're showing that we've inherited an economic slowdown. And the country is in an economic slowdown. And so what a President should ask and what the Congress should ask is, what can we do to stimulate economic growth? And we responded with tax relief.

Now, evidently, there are some people in Washington, DC, who are having second thoughts about tax relief. And so my question to them is, do they want to raise taxes? Do they suggest that helping the economy grow—a good way to do so is to raise taxes? If that's the case, that's a brand new economic theory.

The way to stimulate growth is to cut taxes, and we have done so. Now it is going to be incumbent upon the Congress to make sure they don't overspend. And the surest way to make sure the economy does not recover is to bust the budget. And one of my jobs as the President is to make sure that we don't bust the budget. I will use the veto to make sure that Congress stays within the budget.

There is—we have the second largest surplus in the Nation's history. We're paying down over $100 billion of debt, in spite of the fact the economy is slow. But this tax relief package is going to help our economy recover, and that is going to be important.

Immigration Policy

Q. Sir, what is your timetable for amnesty for illegals, or——

The President. There will be no blanket amnesty for illegals. I have said that point blank. I will say it as many times as I need to say it. I'm more than willing to talk to the Mexican officials about how to help willing employers find willing employees, how to treat people with respect once they're here in the country. I think we ought to have a good, honest dialog about how we make sure our neighbors to the south do a better job of enforcing their own border. We've got great collaborative efforts going now on a wide variety of fronts. Relations with Mexico have never been better.

But there is going to be no amnesty. Amnesty is not the right answer to the immigration issue.

Now, there are ways for us to discuss, as I said, a worker program of some type that will legalize the hard work that is taking place now in America. So long as there is somebody who wants to hire somebody and somebody willing to work, it seems like to me it's in our Nation's interest to make sure the two go together.

Representative Gary Condit

Q. Mr. President, I don't know if you think this is being a good reporter or not, but seriously, you——

The President. Probably not. [*Laughter*] But if it's not, I won't embarrass you in front of—anyway——

Q. You've talked a lot about family values and personal responsibility. For better or worse, so much of the country seems to be

focused on this controversy involving Congressman Condit.

The President. Yes, I'm not going to discuss Congressman Condit. Evidently, he's making a statement to the Nation tonight, and let's just see what he says.

Q. Will you watch it?

The President. No, probably not. I'll read about it. Maybe in AP or Reuters; I'm not sure which one.

Senator Jesse Helms

Q. Sir, what is your reaction to Senator Helms' decision to retire, and are you concerned that that seat might be in jeopardy for the Republicans?

The President. It depends on who runs, obviously. Senator Helms has served our Nation with distinction. I called him yesterday, had a good visit with him. I told him I appreciated his service to America. He explained to me he and Dot wanted to take some time to be together after the sessions—after his term is up, and I said, "I appreciate that, Senator. You served well."

I'll tell you one thing about Senator Helms, he was a gentleman. You may not have agreed with his politics all the time, but he was a gentleman about it. He brought a lot of class, I thought, to the Senate, and he will be missed. And it depends on who we field, obviously.

Q. Would you support Elizabeth Dole as a candidate?

The President. Well, I'm not—as you know, one of the things the President doesn't do is get involved in all the speculation on these run-ups for these different candidacies. I will tell you, Elizabeth Dole would make a fine candidate. I've competed against her once before, and she was formidable and a fine lady, there's no question about that.

But I'm not going to get involved in the primaries. I'll, of course, look forward—if she is the nominee of the Republican Party in North Carolina, I, of course, will campaign hard for her.

Okay. Listen, I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by. Good luck to you all. What you just watched is a mini press conference.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 a.m. in the cafeteria. In his remarks, he referred to Linda Stout, principal, Crawford Elementary School; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Dorothy (Dot) Helms, wife of Senator Helms. A reporter referred to Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The President's News Conference in Crawford, Texas

August 24, 2001

Nomination for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The President. Be seated, please. For those of you who didn't stand, stay seated. [*Laughter*]

As President of the United States, I have no more important responsibility than safeguarding the security of our country and our citizens and supporting our friends and allies throughout the world. As Commander in Chief, I have the obligation to make sure America's military is properly trained, equipped, and manned to meet the threats of today, while also preparing to meet the changing threats of tomorrow.

When I took the oath of office and assumed the title of Commander in Chief, our military faced significant challenges. I'm proud to report that, thanks to the leadership of Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld and the work of our military and civilian leaders, as well as the cooperation of the United States Congress, we're making progress.

We've increased pay for our service men and women and funded improved military housing and medical benefits. I've asked Congress to provide our military an increase of $39 billion over the original 2001 appropriations. That will be the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the Commander in Chief. This money—this is our money our military needs and money our budget allows.

We are not only going to spend more on national defense, we're going to spend it more wisely. Secretary Rumsfeld and our military leaders are in the midst of a comprehensive review of our entire defense structure, from which will come recommendations to accelerate the transformation of America's military.

Transformation is a process, not a one-time event. It's not easy, because it requires

balancing two sometimes conflicting priorities: the need to train and maintain our forces to meet all our security responsibilities in the world right now, with the need to research, develop, plan, and deploy new systems and strategies that will allow us to meet our responsibilities in a much different world in years to come. Transformation is important because the decisions we make today, or put off, will shape our Nation's security for decades to come.

I am pleased that my administration has assembled an outstanding national security team. I asked Don Rumsfeld to come to Washington because of his creativity and his experience and because I know he is a results-oriented leader who will get the job done. Don and I will work closely with our new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, who will serve as my principal military adviser, and who will make sure the military's point of view is always heard in the White House.

The Chairman, together with the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will make sure all our Armed Forces work in a coordinated and effective way. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is also charged with reporting faithfully to the U.S. Congress on the state and needs of our Armed Forces.

In the last several years, our Nation has been ably served by an outstanding military leader and a good man, General Hugh Shelton. He has done a great job as the most senior officer in the world's greatest military. I've appreciated his advice and counsel, and our entire Nation is grateful for his service.

Today I name a new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, one of the most important appointments a President can make. This appointment is especially so because it comes at a time when we need great leadership. Secretary Rumsfeld and I thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our Armed Forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future, is General Richard B. Myers.

General Myers is a man of steady resolve and determined leadership. His is a skilled and steady hand. He is someone who understands that the strengths of America's Armed Forces are our people and our technological superiority. And we must invest in both.

I'm also pleased to announce that General Pete Pace, current commander of SOUTHCOM, will serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. General Pace is a proud marine and represents a new generation of leadership and military thinking.

I have spent a substantial amount of time with both these men, and I am convinced they are the right people to lead our military into the future. Times like these, times of rapidly changing technology and ever-changing threats, will require tough choices. This team of strong leaders, Don Rumsfeld, General Myers, and General Pace, knows that our Nation must think differently, and we will think differently to protect and defend America's values and interests in the world.

To tell you more about our new Chairman and Vice Chairman, it is my pleasure to welcome to Crawford the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld.

Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Chairman-designate Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF; and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, made brief remarks*]

The President. Thank you.

Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

United Nations Conference on Racism

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You mentioned thinking long and hard about these nominations. I hope to ask you about another long deliberation.

The United Nations Conference on Racism convenes in just one week. Do you want your administration represented there? If so, at what level? And are the Zionism and reparations agenda items absolutely prohibitive to any U.S. participation?

The President. She is referring to a conference that will be taking place in South Africa. We have made it very clear, through Colin Powell's office, that we will have no representative there, so long as they pick on Israel, so long as they continue to say Zionism is racism. If they use the forum as a way to isolate our friend and strong ally, we will not participate.

The Secretary of State is working hard to resolve that issue. We have made it very clear from the get-go—I remember explaining to President Mbeki our position. As I understand, the reparations issue has been solved. At least, the last information I had was that that issue looks like it's been resolved.

But the fundamental question is whether or not Israel will be treated with respect at the conference. And if not, then we will assess prior to the beginning. So I am not exactly sure where we stand at this moment.

I do know what our administration's position is. And the position is, we will not participate in a conference that tries to isolate Israel and denigrates Israel.

Q. Participate at any level?

The President. That's my feeling.

Yes.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, on Israel, as well, following up on that, today the Israelis pushed farther into Palestinian territory, attacking two houses in Hebron. So far the peace talks that were agreed to between Peres and Arafat haven't happened.

I know you say that the U.S. is engaged, but Egyptians, Palestinians are calling for more U.S. involvement. What is it going to take for the U.S. to actually get more involved, take more action in order to help bring about peace in the Middle East?

The President. Well, let's start with this: In order for there to be any peace talks in the Middle East, the first thing that must happen is that both parties must resolve to stop violence. The Israelis have made it very clear that they will not negotiate under terrorist threat. And if Mr. Arafat is interested in having a dialog that could conceivably lead to the Mitchell process, then I strongly urge him to urge the terrorists, the Palestinian terrorists, to stop the suicide bombings, to stop the incursions, to stop the threats.

At the same time, we have worked very closely with Prime Minister Sharon to urge him to show restraint. Terrorism is prevalent now in the Middle East, and the first thing that all parties who are concerned about peace in the Middle East must do is work to stop the terrorist activities.

The Israelis will not negotiate under terrorist threat, simple as that. And if the Palestinians are interested in a dialog, then I strongly urge Mr. Arafat to put 100 percent effort into solving the terrorist activity, into stopping the terrorist activity. And I believe he can do a better job of doing that.

Go ahead.

Q. What's your reaction to the fact that the Israelis are moving into Palestinian territory again?

The President. My reaction is, is that I would hope the Israelis would show restraint on all fronts. And we continue to urge restraint with both parties; we are constantly in dialog.

But it requires two willing participants. People have got to make up their mind this is what they want to have happen in order for the beginning of peace discussions. We've got a framework for a peaceful resolution. It's called the Mitchell plan. And our administration, as has most of the world, embraced the Mitchell plan. But in order to get to Mitchell requires there to be a cessation of terrorist activity. If not a cessation, 100 percent effort to get to a cessation, and we haven't seen that 100 percent effort yet.

And if what you're asking is, do we hear the Palestinians call for discussions? Of course we do. But my attitude is, if they are that interested in peaceful dialog, they ought to do everything they can to stop the terrorist activity that has accelerated in recent months. And we will see whether or not the will is there.

Yes. Then David [David Sanger, New York Times], then some of the TV people.

Federal Budget Priorities

Q. How realistic is it for you to expect Congress to move forward with your defense priorities when there is so little money in the budget outside of Social Security? And is it perhaps naive to expect Congress to just roll over and abandon their priorities?

The President. Well, I would hope that a congressional priority is strong national defense. And it will be very interesting to kind of get a feel for the congressional priorities this fall.

And one of the early tests will be to see whether or not the leadership will give us

a defense number early in the process. And that's what I've asked Congress to do. I did so in Independence, Missouri. I repeat it today.

And we hear a lot of dialog on the Hill about the importance of national defense. If that's the case, give us a number—at the beginning of the process, not at the end of the process. Let us know what the defense—I think it's realistic to ask Congress to prioritize national defense and education. We've done so. The budget that Mitch Daniels outlined clearly shows that we've got the monies available for a good, strong national defense.

Now, I readily concede, if Congress goes off on a spending spree in other areas, it's going to create a competition for defense dollars. And my point is going to be, to the Members of the United States Congress and their constituents, that national defense ought to be a funding priority, and I expect it to be. I expect it to be in '01, '02, and '03.

Q. So you are using a veto threat as a way of bringing a hard line into——

The President. Wait, wait, you put the word "veto" in my mouth. I have said that I will work for fiscal sanity in Washington, DC. And one way for a President to make—effect the fiscal condition of our Government is to express displeasure when certain budgets get busted. And so far we haven't had that, and that's why I praised Senator Byrd and Congressman Young. We've had a couple of supplementals.

And as the Washington watchers will tell you, the supplementals have been restrained. They have been within the budget guidelines, and I appreciate that very much. There has been some fiscal sanity thus far. Hopefully—and I am optimistic there will continue to be some fiscal sanity in Washington. We'll find out.

And there's going to be a battle. There's always a battle over whether defense is getting too much or not enough. Our position is, it has been underfunded, and we expect Congress to respond. And our job, as well, is to present a coherent strategy as to why, why there ought to be more money. And that's what the Secretary is here to discuss with me in Crawford today.

You know, there's a lot of discussion about transformation. Transformation isn't one document. It's not a moment in time. It's a strategy, and it starts with assessing the true threats facing America today and in the future. And then we size our forces depending upon the threats that face the country. And those are the dialogs we're now having.

And one of the jobs of Dick, should he be confirmed, is to make sure the Congress understands why our force size—why we are asking for monies for certain force sizes and how it relates to keeping the national security of the country in the long term, as well as today.

Dave.

Social Security Funds

Q. Mr. President, to follow up on that, the administration's budget projections show these fairly thin surpluses outside of Social Security for the next several years, and the budget that you've been discussing, of course, does not include missile defense, does not include a number of the conventional weapons, transformations that your team that you've introduced here today is going to be working on.

Would it be reasonable to dip into Social Security and into the Social Security funds to pay for missile defense and to pay for military transformation, or is there any other contingency you can imagine that would make it worthwhile to go into the Social Security funds?

The President. Well, I've said that the only reason we should use Social Security funds is in case of an economic recession or war. Secondly, our budget does call for missile defense expenditures. If I'm not mistaken, I think it's to the tune of $8 billion. And you might recall, as we left town, there were some Members of the United States Congress saying that that was way too much expenditure on a missile defense program, and they would like to divert that money to other programs, some within the defense budget, some outside the defense budget.

And so we do make—we've also increased research and development by a significant amount of money, David. But I think the

thing that's important to know is that Secretary Rumsfeld is taking a long look, addressing—assessing all the threats or the perceived threats that could face our country and how we address those threats.

One of the threats that faces America is the threat of blackmail as a result of some rogue nation having a weapon of mass destruction. And that not only is a threat to our own land; it's also a threat to our forward-thinking foreign policy. Take, for example, some nation in the Middle Eastern area developing a weapon of mass destruction and then threatening the United States if we were to move troops into an area to protect an ally.

So, in other words, the ability to have a weapon of mass destruction not only affects our people living in America, because some of these weapons have now got longer ranges than ever anticipated, but also affects our foreign policy. It could be used as an attempt to isolate America, and we're not going to let that happen.

So one of the things you will hear us talk about is the need to develop an effective missile defense system, and we do have money in the budget for that. And there is going to be an interesting dialog over whether it's too much. We're going to stand our ground and say the $8 billion—I believe it's $8 billion, if I'm not mistaken—is the right amount of money.

And you'll see, Dave, as well, as you look at other parts of the defense budget request, particularly the '02 and then the add-on '03, which we haven't laid out yet, there's a lot of money for research and development, which is absolutely necessary. And one of the reasons Dick Myers is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs—nominee—is because he has had a lot of experience in space, for example. It's an area that we need to explore and know more about. He's had a lot of experience when it comes to the leading edge of technology that is becoming more and more prevalent in our military. And our budget reflects the need to fully explore and, at the same time, make sure that today's military can fulfill the missions. And it's a balancing act, and I fully recognize it's one, but our budget does reflect that.

Yeah, John [John King, Cable News Network].

National Economy/Federal Spending

Q. Mr. President, looking ahead to those budget fights down the road, though, in '02 and '03, when you will undoubtedly be asking for more money for missile defense, many question your economic assumptions—more mixed signals today: durable good orders down; home sales up—people question whether your 3.2 percent forecast for growth next year. Even many economists who are allied with your administration think that's too overly optimistic. On what do you base it?

The President. I think—I'm sorry Mitch Daniels isn't here to lay out all the forecasts that led to our assumption. And we're right in the middle, as I understand. We picked the number that seemed reasonable.

Let's—the facts are, our economy has slowed down. We had an anemic one percent growth over the last 12 months, and that affected tax revenues. And our administration, instead of wringing our hands, put in place a fiscal stimulus package that was the first real tax cut in a generation.

And we believe that's going to have a positive effect on our economy. No question the economy's slowed down, and therefore Congress must adjust its spending attitudes. The surest way to make sure that the recovery doesn't happen in a meaningful period of time or a reasonable period of time is to overspend.

So my message to the Congress is: I'm proud of your vote for tax relief; it was the right thing to do because it responded to economic circumstances that our Nation now faces. But don't go hog wild. I mean, appropriators appropriate. Don't overspend. And one of my jobs as the President is to make sure we keep fiscal sanity in the budget.

Q. But if you're off by just a point or two, Washington will be billions and billions short.

The President. Well, if I'm off by a point or two, then Congress can adjust their sights. See, I'm glad that Congress finally, for the first time in a long period of time, said, "We're not going to spend Social Security, except on emergencies." That wasn't the case up until this administration. It's a useful part

of the dialog, if you believe in fiscal sanity in Washington, DC. It set some important parameters.

So we have the tax relief plan, which is important for fiscal stimulus, coupled with Social Security being off limits except for—except for emergency. That now provides a new kind—a fiscal straitjacket for Congress. And that's good for the taxpayers, and it's incredibly positive news if you're worried about a Federal Government that has been growing at a dramatic pace over the past 8 years, and it has been.

Listen, the '02 budget we submitted has got discretionary spending growing by 6 percent. That's a pretty significant number. Certainly not as much as some of the appropriators would like to see in Washington, DC, but we think it's a nice, balanced number. It's one that will help meet the needs and, at the same time, not overspend and therefore affect economic growth.

Of course, the other side of things is, if the economy gets back to where it was growing, Washington could conceivably be awash in money, so there's leverage on both sides.

Stem Cell Research

Q. On stem cells, you've said that the 60 stem cell lines can be experimented on. It now turns out they've been mixed in the laboratory with mice cells. Under FDA guidelines, they could have no practical effect. Did you know that when you made this decision, that these possibly couldn't be used?

The President. Here's what I knew. I knew that I sat down with the NIH experts, the people who were—people who are charged by our Federal Government to follow the research opportunities on all fronts, and they feel like the existing stem cell lines are ample to be able to determine whether or not embryonic stem cell research can yield the results necessary to save lives. This is their opinion, and I can think of no better opinion on which to make my—base my judgment.

And so I haven't changed my opinion in the least. As a matter of fact, I read some comments today where the NIH scientists again confirmed that we've got enough existing stem cell lines to do the research necessary to determine whether or not the promise of embryonic stem cells will be met.

Q. Sir, did no one warn you that the animal viruses could invalidate the use of these cells?

The President. The NIH came into the Oval Office, and they looked me right in the eye, and they said, "We think there is ample stem cell lines to determine whether or not this embryonic stem cell research will work or not." And I appreciated their candor, and I appreciated their advice.

Root [Jay Root, Fort Worth Star-Telegram], good to see you, my boy.

Weapons Systems

Q. You talked about the need to——

The President. How are you? Used to cover me as Governor. Fine lad, fine lad.

Q. You talked about the need——

The President. Little short on hair but a fine lad. [*Laughter*]

Q. I am losing some hair.

You talked about the need to maintain technological superiority. Given some of its well-known problems, do you think that a part of that would include the B–22, and do you think that, given some of the budget problems that have been discussed, that it compromises, maybe, your ability to go forward with the B–22, the F–22, and the Joint Strike Fighter?

The President. Root represents Fort Worth.

Secretary Rumsfeld. I never would have guessed.

The President. The Secretary and both the civilians who work with him and the military who works for him are charged with not only assessing the threats that will face us but then are charged with not only designing a force structure to meet those threats, as well as the capital expenditures necessary to meet them.

There is no question that we probably cannot afford every weapons system that is now on—being designed or thought about. And you should ask the Secretary this question, if you care to, because he is going to bring to my desk, in a reasonable period of time, what the Pentagon recommendations are as to what weapons systems should go forward and which should not.

One of the things that happens inside the Pentagon is, people are encouraged to think outside the box, so to speak, and help design systems that could or could not affect security in the long term. And there are many good ideas.

But this administration is going to have to winnow them down. We can't afford every single thing that has been contemplated. And when we make decisions, they will fit into a strategic plan. And we need one. And there is going to be one, and it's coming this fall, starting with—as the Secretary will talk about.

Q. I will take you up on your invitation to ask the Secretary——

The President. You can ask him next. I'm on a roll here. [*Laughter*]

Q. Good morning, sir.

The President. This will give him a little time to think of the answer.

President's Priorities

Q. You've talked about limits on spending. If your wish came true that the Federal budget is, once again, awash in money, what would your priorities be? Where would you like to spend——

The President. Education, defense, and making sure the taxpayers had ample money to make choices for themselves. You know, I think one of the things we've got to recognize is that our Government should fund priorities, but we've always got to remember where the money came from.

And I can't tell you how proud I am to be traveling around the country, and people walk up and say, "Thanks for the $600." Now there are some cynics who say $600 doesn't mean anything to a working family in America. That's not what I hear. I hear it means a lot to people.

So if we're awash—and I think our economy has got very strong underpinnings. We're certainly going through a correction. But there are some signs we're improving. Some signs, as John accurately noted, still show that there's an anchor on economic growth. But I believe we'll be back and be robust, and when we are, then we'll deal with the budget.

In the meantime—in the meantime, however, it's important for Congress and the appropriators to realize there's not as much money around Washington as there used to be, and therefore, they need to readjust their sights. And our priorities are going to be educating our children and national defense. Those are our priorities, and I hope a lot of Congress comes with me on that.

Q. Are you implying that another tax cut might be——

The President. No, I'm not implying. I'm saying that if we are awash—I think you were implying we might be awash with money, and I hope we are. I think we've got a very strong economy. Let me say, we've got a strong economic potential. We could have a very strong economy again. I think I am going to get trade promotion authority, which should help. This tax cut will help. Monetary policy should help.

And when we get economic growth going again, after the correction in some of our sectors like the high-tech sector, we may have good money. And if we do, then I want to always remember where it came from. It didn't come because of the genius of the Federal Government; it came because of the genius and hard work of the American people. But let's wait until that happens. Let's just hope it happens soon.

Yes, sir.

Immigration Policy

Q. Mr. President, you said yesterday that you oppose blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants from Mexico. But even if you only grant guest worker status to some illegals, doesn't that amount to rewarding illegal activity, when other immigrants are struggling to come to this country legally?

The President. Colin Powell and John Ashcroft are taking a hard look at our immigration policy. They are not only reviewing our policy in our own working group; they are reviewing the policy with their counterparts in Mexico. And we have had some very good dialogs; it's been a very constructive dialog.

I talked to Vicente Fox about this subject a couple of days ago, and we both agreed that the discussions thus far have been positive. I do not believe in blanket amnesty.

One of the issues you referred to is an important issue, and that is, how do we make

sure that as we facilitate willing employer hooking up with willing employee, that we don't penalize those who have been waiting in line legally? And so our deliberations are taking that into account. And that's a far cry, however, from blanket amnesty.

I believe that—strongly believe that if someone is willing to work and someone's looking for a worker and can't find anybody, we ought to facilitate the two hooking up. And so there are ways to make sure that people are rewarded for hard work without affecting those who have been patiently waiting in line for legal status.

Q. Respectfully, sir, can I follow up and say——

The President. Is this a question or a speech?

Mexico-U.S. Relations

Q. Well, how do you respond to those who say you are courting the Hispanic vote with this outreach?

The President. Well, I respond by saying that, first of all, I can't think of anything more important for our foreign policy in our hemisphere than to have good relations with Mexico. Mexico is our neighbor, and we ought to have a neighborhood that is prosperous and peaceful.

The basis for good foreign policy is to make sure your own area, your own neighborhood is in good shape. And I have got a great relation with the President of Mexico, symbolized by the fact that the first state dinner I'm going to have is with Vicente Fox, and it's going to happen in 2 weeks.

The history of the relationship between Mexico and the United States hasn't always been smooth. I mean, it's been pretty hostile at times. And to me, that didn't inure to our country's benefit.

We've got good relations, and one of the things we've got to do is discuss common problems. We've got problems on our border; we've got problems with drug interdiction; we've got problems with environmental issues on our border; we've got water problems; and we've got immigration problems. And if we're going to have good relations with our neighbor, we ought to deal constructively with the problems, admit there's a problem, and figure out ways to deal with it.

The long-term solution, however, for immigration, is for Mexico to be prosperous enough to grow a middle class where people will be able to find work at home. And I remind people all across our country, family values do not stop at the Rio Bravo.

There are people in Mexico who have got children who are worried about where they are going to get their next meal from. And they are going to come to the United States if they think they can make money here. That's a simple fact. And they're willing to walk across miles of desert to do work that some Americans won't do. And we've got to respect that, it seems like to me, and treat those people with respect.

Now, I get accused of being political on everything I do. I guess that's just the nature of being the President. And what I try to assure people of is, I deal with problems as I see them. And some people are going to like the solution, and some are not, and we'll just let the chips fall where they may.

I'm going to let Rumsfeld talk to Root. Listen, I've got to go get briefed. Okay, one more. One more. Two more—make them quick.

Representative Gary Condit

Q. You said yesterday that you had no plans to watch the interview last night with Congressman Gary Condit, that you would——

The President. Yes, I followed through on that.

Q. ——but that you would read about it. And I was wondering if you had and if you have any thoughts?

The President. Actually, I haven't read about it yet. I have been briefed on it by Karen Hughes and Condi Rice, who watched it, and you might ask them what their opinion is. [*Laughter*]

I'm trying to get Condi and Karen some national exposure. [*Laughter*]

Q. Sir, seriously though, if I could follow up, this is—you've been reluctant to talk about this issue, and 23.6 million Americans watched this interview last night——

The President. Well, I was one who didn't.

Q. There is enormous interest in it.

The President. There was 270-some million Americans, and I was one of the 250 who didn't watch it. Did you watch it?

Q. I did, indeed.

The President. Okay, good. Do I have—I don't have an opinion yet on it.

I do know that—I hope that the Levy prayers are answered. That's my hope. This isn't about a Congressman or about a network. This is about a family who lost a daughter, and that's what I'm concerned about. I hope that if she is alive, she's returned soon. I pray she's alive. That's where my heart is, and that's where my concerns are on this issue.

I'm not worried about the gossip or the Washington whispers. I am worried about a young girl's life, and so should America be worried about a young girl's life.

Q. But sir, do you think the Congressman's evasiveness has——

The President. I have no idea about the Congressman. I am not paying attention to the Congressman. I am paying attention to whether or not this poor girl is—is found. And that's what I'm interested in.

I understand how Washington works, and there's all kinds of stuff that goes on in Washington. People are saying this about somebody, and they're saying that about somebody. It's a town of gossip. And I'm not worried about the gossip. I'm worried about the facts. And there's a girl missing, and our prayers are with her parents. I have seen them on TV. I agonize for the mom and the dad. And that's where my heart is.

Last question, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek]. No, next to last. This is the last question, but there's two more answers—mine and Rumsfeld's.

Changing the Tone in Washington

Q. I'll go fast. Thank you, sir.

You've talked a lot about changing the tone in Washington, and you've had some success doing it. But lately there have been some shots across the bow—the Democrats' ad this week on the surplus. I'm wondering if you think that the tone in Washington is changing back to the partisan bickering of the past?

The President. Well, it's not in Crawford. [*Laughter*] It's a great tone here in Crawford. One of the good things about coming out here is that you get a sense for what people are paying attention to, and they don't really pay attention to partisan squabbling.

The truth of the matter is, I welcome the tax debate. I hope that people try to, you know, attack based upon tax relief for the American people. I think it's—you know, if you want to try to position an issue, it's a nice place to be, because the counterpoint is, what are you going to do, raise them? If you're against tax relief, are you then advocating you're going to raise taxes on the American people, which would be not only an economic—it would be really bad for our economy. But I look forward to hearing the debate, "Mr. President, I think you're wrong. We should raise taxes on the people, particularly after they just got their $600 check."

And so I welcome the debate. But out here in Crawford, people aren't that—you know what they're interested in? Their families, whether it's going to rain, interested in the price of fuel, they're worried about insurance rates—they're not too bad in Texas. But that's what they're worried about. They're worried about things. They're not worried about the partisan squabbling that has kind of sullied the Washington scene at times.

And frankly, I haven't seen any of the ads. Of course, I didn't watch the show.

All right. Mr. Secretary. Jay Root asked a very penetrating question. You've forgotten what it is——

Secretary Rumsfeld. I never would have guessed. But I know the answer.

Q. You know the answer? I could just be quiet. But let me just ask, on the B–22, is it a viable program, or given its problems, do you think it's just not going to survive?

Secretary Rumsfeld. The issue, with respect to weapons systems, is there are several things that are required by Congress. One is the Presidential budget to be offered in the first part of next year. And there is a process that precedes it in every department to produce that budget that the President then pulls together.

The other is a so-called quadrennial defense review, and another is the nuclear posture review. Those are all going on. And through an iterative process with the services, the budget for the 2003 Presidential

budget is being built and those kinds of decisions get made.

As the President suggested, we are balancing some risks. There are operational risks with respect to near-term threats. There are also risks of not transforming, of not modernizing the force at a rate that makes sense, or of not taking proper care of the men and women in the Armed Forces, and the risks that you run then of not having the people you need to see that the United States of America can continue to contribute to peace and stability in the world.

So it is that complicated process of balancing those risks that will lead the services to come back with their recommendations, which we then will all consider and take into account in our recommendations to the President.

With respect to the specific aircraft you're talking about, we all know it's been a troubled program. It has had enormous difficulties and—but it has not come to the point of a decision, and it will in the coming period of September and October.

The President. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's 15th news conference began at 10:44 a.m. at the Crawford Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and Bob and Susan Levy, whose daughter, Chandra, has been missing since April 30. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. Reporters referred to former Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman-designate Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF.

Proclamation 7458—Women's Equality Day, 2001

August 24, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Women's Equality Day marks the anniversary of women's enfranchisement and a pivotal victory for women's rights. Our Nation recognized a woman's right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but the roots of the women's rights movement go back to at least 80 years earlier.

In 1840, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London. They, along with the other women there, expected to join in the anti-slavery proceedings, but male delegates refused to allow them to participate. Thus rebuffed, Mott and Stanton began a journey that would lead to the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. There, the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments called for women's equality, including the right to vote and to take part in our Nation's great moral debates.

Nearly all women's rights advocates also fought for the abolition of slavery. One hundred and fifty years ago, anti-slavery suffragette Sojourner Truth gave a powerful address expounding on the strength of women. Her impassioned call for women to actively participate in social justice movements became a legendary link between abolition and suffrage. That same year, Susan B. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and they later joined Harriet Tubman, Mary Ann Shad Cary, Lucy Stone, and other abolitionists to pursue the goal of women's suffrage. Many 19th Century abolitionist suffragettes did not live to see the fruit of their work for women's enfranchisement, but their efforts led the way for women to fight for and win recognition of their rights as equal participants in our Republic.

Tremendous advancements have been made in the fight for equality. But we must remain diligent in enforcing our Nation's laws. And we still have work to do in this area.

Today, thousands of people, mainly women and children, are trafficked into the United States each year and forced to work in the sex industry, sweatshops, field labor, and domestic servitude. Beyond these vile acts, workplace discrimination and targeted violence continue to take place, despite their rejection by our communities and legal system.

Our efforts to ensure women equal rights must include the protection of women from violence and equal access to justice. This is particularly vital for women who face geographic, cultural, and other barriers to social justice services. Women victimized by crime should receive equitable and compassionate care, including access to advocacy, emergency shelter, law enforcement protection, and legal aid. That is why my 2002 budget requests increased funding for Federal initiatives to combat violence against women and to continue the guarantees of basic civil rights and liberties for women.

As we remember the well-known champions of women's equality, we also honor the millions of women whose private efforts and personal ideals continue to sustain and improve this land. On Women's Equality Day, I call upon all Americans to defend the freedoms gained by those who came before us and to continue to expand our shared vision of social justice and equality.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2001, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Menomonee Falls, WI. Later, he traveled to Kansas City, MO.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward R. McPherson to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sandra L. Pack to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Thomas Korsmo to be a member of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate W. Michael Cox to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disabled Employment Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate William J. Hybl to be U.S. Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger P. Winter to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Bureau of Humanitarian Response.

August 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Independence, MO. Later, he traveled to Kansas City, MO. He then returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 22

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond Burghardt to be Ambassador to Vietnam.

The President announced his intention to appoint Donald Cappoccia and Pamela Nelson as members of the Commission on Fine Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Bolen, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Robert Walker, Heidi R. Wood, and John W. Douglas.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: Matthew Fong, Barry Wynn, and Betsy Atkins.

The President announced his intention to appoint Cheryl Feldman Halpern as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert Martin as Acting Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts.

August 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX. Later, he returned to Crawford, TX, where he had a telephone conversation with President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina concerning the Argentine economy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret K. McMillion to be Ambassador to Rwanda.

The President announced his intention to designate Terrence S. Donahue as Acting Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

August 24

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: John B. Tsu, Lupo Carlota, David B. Cohen, Mary Ling, Barbara Marumoto, Gary K. Ong, Sunny Park, Amata Coleman Radewagen, Jhoon Rhee, Michelle Park Steel, Joe Ting, Chiling Tong, Baoky N. Vu, and Zachariah Zachariah.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Pittsburgh, PA, on August 26 and San Antonio, TX, on August 29.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 20

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2131

Statement by the Press Secretary: Updated Implementation of the Patten Report

Released August 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels on the Federal budget surplus

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that on August 20, the President signed the following bills: H.R. 93, H.R. 271, H.R. 427, H.R. 364, H.R. 558, H.R. 821, H.R. 988, H.R. 1183, H.R. 1753, and H.R. 2043

Released August 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 13 *

H.R. 2213 / Public Law 107–25
To respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers.

Approved August 17 *

H.R. 2131 / Public Law 107–26
To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

Approved August 20

H.R. 93 / Public Law 107–27
Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Fairness Act

H.R. 271 / Public Law 107–28
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center.

H.R. 364 / Public Law 107–29
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5927 Southwest 70th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Marjory Williams Scrivens Post Office"

H.R. 427 / Public Law 107–30
To provide further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 558 / Public Law 107–31
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse"

H.R. 821 / Public Law 107–32
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1030 South Church Street in Asheboro, North Carolina, as the "W. Joe Trogdon Post Office Building"

H.R. 988 / Public Law 107–33
To designate the United States courthouse located at 40 Centre Street in New York, New York, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse"

H.R. 1183 / Public Law 107–34
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 South Main Street in Sylvania, Georgia, as the "G. Elliot Hagan Post Office Building"

H.R. 1753 / Public Law 107–35
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 419 Rutherford Avenue, N.E., in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "M. Caldwell Butler Post Office Building"

H.R. 2043 / Public Law 107–36
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, as the "Elwood Haynes 'Bud' Hillis Post Office Building"

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Week Ending Friday, August 31, 2001

The President's Radio Address

August 25, 2001

Good morning. Congress will shortly return to Washington to make its final spending decisions for 2002. A new budget report released this past week shows that despite the economic slowdown that began in the third quarter of last year, the Federal budget is strong, healthy, and in balance. In fact, the 2002 budget surplus will be the second biggest surplus in American history.

The report also shows we are funding our Nation's priorities, meeting our commitments to Social Security and Medicare, reducing taxes, and still retiring record amounts of debt. This is a great achievement, and it happened because Congress worked with me this spring to agree to a responsible total level of spending.

Congress also worked with me to cut income taxes for the first time in a generation, the right policy at exactly the right time to boost our sagging economy. The faster our economy grows, the stronger the Federal budget will be.

The greatest threat to our budget outlook is the danger that Congress will be tempted this fall to break its earlier commitments by spending too much. The old way in Washington is to believe that the more you spend, the more you care. What mattered was the size of the line in the budget, not the effect of that line on real people's lives. My administration takes a new approach. We want to spend your hard-earned money as carefully as you do. And when we spend the people's money, we insist on results.

Today my Office of Management and Budget is releasing a report identifying 14 long-neglected management problems in the Federal Government and offering specific solutions to fix them. For example, the United States Government is the world's single largest purchaser of computers and other technologies for gathering and using information. In 2002 we will spend $45 billion on information technology. That's more than we've budgeted for highways and roads. Yet so far, and unlike private sector companies, this large investment has not cut the Government's cost or improved people's lives in any way we can measure.

Another example: The General Accounting Office has, year after year, found that the Federal student aid programs are run in ways that make them vulnerable to fraud and waste. And year after year, virtually nothing has been done to make sure that Federal aid intended for needy students goes only to the needy.

With the help of congressional leaders like Senator Fred Thompson, we are going to take on these problems, and others like them, with a focused, targeted reform agenda. We'll introduce greater competition into Government and make Government more attentive to citizens.

Americans demand top-quality service from the private sector. They should get the same top-quality service from their Government. I've asked Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads to name a chief operating officer who will be held accountable for the performance of that agency. These officers will make up the President's Management Council, to build a leadership team that listens, learns, and innovates.

Taxpayers work hard to earn the money they send the Government. Government should work equally hard to ensure that the money is spent wisely. I will work with Congress to build a Government that is responsive to the people's needs and responsible with our people's money.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:03 p.m. on August 23 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the

Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Bush Ranch in Crawford, Texas

August 25, 2001

Ranch Tour

Q. Shouldn't you be doing that with an axe?

The President. I've got my earplugs in.

Q. Oh, lucky.

The President. What?

Q. I was just asking, shouldn't you be doing that with an axe?

The President. No, that was Abraham Lincoln.

Q. My mistake.

The President. I'll tell you what we ought to do. What we're doing is, we're cleaning this out. We're making a trail from the top to come down, over here. Do you all want to walk in here? It's kind of neat in here. These cliffs are pretty unusual from this perspective. And then—this is a very long canyon. I'll take you down, if you want to see where the mouth of the canyon is, and the trail was cut up in here. And then I've got another canyon, right next door, if you'd like to see that, that we've improved. It will give you a flavor for the ranch.

But what we're trying to do is to make these really beautiful cutouts available for anybody who wants to walk up in here. I think you'll see that we make them pretty accessible without disturbing the natural beauty of the place.

If you want the details, that was a dead hackberry. H-a-c-k—[*Laughter*]

Q. He's writing it down.

The President. Anyway, what will happen is, is that when the rainy season comes—this all gets damp in here—we'll fire up this pile of leaves and stuff and burn it. This canyon—you can see, behind you, all the erosion—this gets a lot of water coming through here. There's seven of these on the ranch, and when it rains, these all flow down toward the bottoms. Eventually, in this case, these canyons feed into the middle fork of the Bosque River. The guy from A&M we had out here, he spotted about 17 or 18 different variety of hardwood down below.

So what do you want to do?

Q. Come down.

The President. Come on down here, or do you want to start from the bottom and walk up? We'll start from the bottom and walk up. I've got room for five people. We'll get the scribblers, AP and Reuters.

Q. Thank you.

[*At this point, the tour continued. When the transcript resumed, the President's remarks were joined in progress.*]

The President. ——just use the cedar that we cut. Used a crowbar to dig the hole. We'll put another one below and then make sure the steps are—I've got a little more work. Do you see those two? Those are dead right there. Those are ash. Do you see the two trees there, the dead trees? I'll cut them out.

And so basically, what we've been doing in here, is we've been cutting out the dead trees, the trees that have fallen down, and some undergrowth, just to open it up, so that when you sit out here for a picnic, you've got a pretty good view of this beautiful canyon.

Q. Are you trying to make a hiking trail for people to use?

The President. Yes.

Q. Now would the doctor and the nurse both normally be here, or is it the chainsaw that brought them out?

The President. No, they're with me—like when I ran this morning, they were here. They go everywhere I go on the ranch.

Q. Not that they don't trust you with a chainsaw, huh?

The President. Well, they don't trust me with my running, either. [*Laughter*]

Q. Won't the rain erode the trail? How do you stop that?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. The rain—won't the water erode the trail? Do you have to keep redoing it?

The President. No, actually we're not going to put it on the creek bottom. You'll see, there's a series of flats, as you come up the canyon. The canyon is not uniformly steep. And so there will be—one side of the canyon will be steep, and the other side will

be relatively flat. We've cut out a trail, mainly cedars. Cedars are a—you know, some of the big stands of cedars are important, because they become nesting materials for things like the golden-cheeked warbler, although we don't have any on this property.

On the other hand, the little cedars, they crowd up on these beautiful hardwood, and they soak in a lot of water. I mean, they take 30 percent of the water, more or less, that is taken in by these trees, are taken in by cedar. And cedar is just a plague of a lot of places around Texas.

Q. What did you mean when you said you burn it?

The President. It means, we take a match——

Q. I know that, but isn't there a risk of spreading fire?

The President. No, in the rainy season, the wet season.

Q. In the rainy season. I see.

The President. Right now you can't burn because there's a burn ban. And obviously, we'll honor the burn ban.

[*The tour continued.*]

The President. The thing about this—this is kind of a transition zone. And see how close the rock is to the surface here? This is basement rock. And as you come from the southwest part of the ranch, where you come in, this way, the soil obviously thins. And so it goes from pretty good hay country and crop country—there's a corn field right next to our neighbor's pasture. The property is only good for grazing, and it's pretty thin at that. But because the rock is so close to the surface, it enabled—there was a series of eroding activities that caused these canyons. And there's about 3½ miles of lowland. You drop off about 90 foot from here down to where we're going.

And so it's a whole other world that you—the closest thing you can tell about this ranch, when you drive in here is—you know that dip when you're coming in, what they call Bluff Creek? Have you seen the cliffs?

Q. When you bought this property, and you saw that land, did you decide that you wanted to turn those all into hiking trails?

The President. Oh, yes. Look, this place has got so much variety on it, and it is a unique piece of property for Texas. You'll see the trees down here. They're really big and magnificent trees. I mean, I fell in love with it the minute I saw it. But I also knew I was going to have to—get to do a lot of work, not have to. I really like this. I like being out here. I like spending a lot of time outside.

Q. Have you been doing this every day, working on this trail?

The President. No, not every day. Like, I didn't yesterday. The military folks didn't leave until about 5 p.m. yesterday.

Q. You could have handed them a chainsaw and asked them to help.

The President. Exactly. Let me take you up to this one finished product first. I think you'll find this interesting.

Q. How far away from your house?

The President. We're about a mile—this is the—not necessarily as the crow flies, but this is the 3-mile marker on a rut of mine, right up here. But I—you had to have gone in kind of a——

Q. Meander around?

The President. Yes, meander around a little bit.

This is the beginning of a very long pasture that—I say long—it's two-thirds of a mile. But just to give you a feel for it, these cedar elms, interspersed with pecan and different types of oaks—you see the size of the cedar elms up there? And you can see that the pasture's been well maintained over time, and it goes for a long way. I think this is a——

Q. So do you have livestock grazing out here?

The President. Yes, we do, sure do. I don't own it, but the guy—Ken Engelbrecht does. This is a bur oak. This is a very rare—not rare, it's just a beautiful oak tree, this thing right here, and it produces these magnificent burs. This is a live oak here.

Q. So the horticulturist has already been out here?

The President. Yes, we had a—Thursday, two guys from A&M came out, and we had a really good visit. By the way, there was another pasture beyond there that really is pretty.

This is what we call the cathedral. This is where—hey, look, average campers. [*Laughter*]

Q. What do you know?

The President. I'm interested in these trees. This place, you learn to fall in love with trees.

[*The tour continued.*]

The President. I tell you—this is the area we call the cathedral. The only thing I suggest, the camera dogs, look for three-leaved plants and avoid them.

Q. Poison ivy?

The President. It's called poison ivy.

So I'd finished a long run one day. It was pretty wet, and I started walking up. And I heard this trickle, sound of running water. And it turns out this is a waterfall when it rains. And it pools—the water pools right—you're welcome to walk up there.

Anyway, be careful of poison ivy if you have shorts on.

Q. What about snakes?

The President. You're okay for snakes. Avoid this plant right here. Like you.

Q. I'm not allergic.

The President. You're not? Then you're in good shape.

Where are my writers? Oh, there you are.

Q. We got run over.

The President. You can come in here.

Anyway, this fills up with water when it's raining. So this comes over here, trickles there, fills up water, so you've got a nice little pool. Eventually it fills up, and it starts moving down, and it makes a nice little stream. I've seen fox in here. I've seen all kinds of birds. It's a wonderful spot to come up in here and just kind of think about the budget. [*Laughter*] I mean——

Q. I thought you'd rather think about that with the chainsaw.

The President. That's exactly right. Very good, Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters]. I wish I'd thought of that.

There are seven canyons like this. You've seen two of them. This obviously is a more shallow canyon, but it's very dramatic when you get to the end. And then the one that you were seeing there, it's a wonderful picnic spot because it's got a natural amphitheater to it. Then if you'd like, I can walk you up, to just give you a feel for what one of these long canyons is like. We've cut a little trail up in there. The walking's a little difficult because we haven't had a chance to burn the piles that we've cut.

This is an amazing place in here.

Q. So what do you do? You come out here, and——

The President. I've come out here—you know, I come out here some. And you know, you don't want to get out here from about right now until about 4 p.m., because——

Q. It's so hot, yes.

The President. It's like an oven.

Q. So in the morning, you'll get up——

The President. We'll get up early. Today the sunrise was magnificent.

Q. So you'll come and watch the sunrise?

The President. Well, we walked—actually, this morning I ran 3½ miles, and walked. And then Laura and Condi Rice and two of our house guests, they walked 4½. It was just magnificent. Started about 7 this morning.

I'll work out here until around noon. We've got three couples as house guests. Beth, the barber from Austin, is coming out. She'll want to see this place. So I'll give her a tour. I want to look good for the Little League World Series tomorrow—the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Little League

Q. Oh, that's right.

Q. What were your stats?

The President. You know, I'd better not give them to you, because somebody will dig them out and find that it wasn't accurate. I was a pretty good player. I was a catcher on the Cubs, the Midland Cubs. As I said, I peaked in Little League.

Q. Were you Hall of Fame quality?

The President. Little League? Well, I qualified by the fact that I was the first President ever to play Little League baseball. I think that's—you know, first guy to hit 60 home runs, first guy to actually put the uniform on. What the heck? What's the difference?

[*The tour continued.*]

Ranch Tour

Q. So how many hours a day are you out here?

The President. About 3. But I've had the full day already. I got up at 5:45 a.m., read

all the stuff I needed to read, and then took off at about 7 a.m. with a little run, got back to the house about 7:45 a.m., and we had a CIA briefing for an hour and a national security briefing. Both of them took an hour. Then we came down here and started working. And this will be it. Probably finish about 12:15 p.m. or so.

Q. So, you're so in your element here. Are you dreading going back to Washington?

The President. No. Life is a series of contrasts. And I like it here a lot. I really do. And I am in my element here. We really like it. But I also like—I wouldn't have run for President if I didn't like the challenge and the give and take and the sense of accomplishment. Plus, we like living in the White House. It's a nice place to live, as they say in Crawford.

Q. I know, but I think when people see you out here, who haven't been to the ranch before—a lot of us haven't—now we sort of get it.

The President. Get a feel for it, yes.

Q. I mean, get why you guys come down here so much.

The President. Well, it's our home, and we love it here. You know, I'll come back—Vladimir Putin's coming out here, so I'll be back relatively quickly. I've got a lot of work to do in Washington. I'm looking forward to going back. I've just got a lot to do. As a matter of fact, I'll be at my desk on Friday, presuming they've got the White House—the Oval Office refurbish completed.

[*The tour continued.*]

Hunting

Q. Now, do you go hunting on the ranch?

The President. I don't. I don't hunt deer, but I do hunt dove. And I have hunted dove. We don't have any quail. And I don't want to shoot the turkeys. I like turkeys. But we let people come and thin out the deer. A ranch can overpopulate with deer. All right, we're moving.

This is the mouth of the canyon, where you all were, up top.

[*The tour continued.*]

Ranch Tour

The President. We're trying to keep people out of the riverbed—out of the creekbed, so if there's water here, there's a trail. And where it gets—where the crossings are relatively deep, we'll build a kind of bridge.

Anyway, you can kind of get a feel. These little cleared-out areas now, they'll be full of windflowers in the spring. And the greens will come out. This place was emerald green in the spring. I mean, it's hard to envision, and you probably think I'm exaggerating, but we had enough rain to really green this place up. It was spectacular.

And these canyons will be full of flowers. And some of these trees are flowering trees. The whole purpose is to make it accessible. What we just walked across would not have been accessible, unless you wanted to cut your arms up on the brambles, that are—like these things. There's a bunch of them around here that—so the idea is to smooth it out. Cut it out first, like we've done, and then burn it. And then we'll come out here, and where it's needed, we'll kind of try to smooth it up. Probably drive some Gators up in there, which are these John Deere, Jeep-looking things, to try to make the path easier. But even though it's hot, at least you're not having to cut through a bunch of brush to get up in here. Anyway, we can keep going, if you like.

Q. How long did it take you to clear this whole area out?

The President. It took us about 5 days. We're not through yet, either. See these things? These are the things you've got to be real careful about. And we need to get rid of those. They make it hard for people to—you can see, like in here, these were all cedar, young cedars. Not only do they take the water away from these trees, but they made it impossible—and these thorns grow up in them, and so it makes it kind of jungly.

This area here—we're going to drive up in here, be able to drive these things up here. We'll clear it out and probably build a little bridge across here, big enough for a John Deere Gator.

We can keep going if you want. I mean, we've got a little ways to go. This will give you a feel for what it's like. It's up to you all.

Q. Sure.

Q. Yes, we'd like to.

The President. Good with me.

The other thing is, in the winter, a lot of times of the year, winter and early spring, you can imagine this is beautiful. And see these cliffs in here? So this is like you're in a bowl. This side is a little more gentle. This side's a little more steep, here. The base of the cliff—the cliffs are really beautiful, aren't they?

These are where the Indians came up. They would come up—the Tonkawa Indians would bring their horses up the middle fork of the Bosque, and they would run them up a canyon like this. And you can see where we were, at the end of the canyon. And it's a pretty sheltered area. If there's any water, there would be pools of water in there. But this is where they supposedly ran their horses.

Q. And this will all be a running creek in the spring?

The President. Yes, when it rains. It's beautiful.

Q. When do you expect—I mean, what months does is start filling up?

The President. Well, we don't know. I'll drive you out of here and show you one other part of the ranch. We've got a mile and a half of Rainey Creek. It's a much bigger creek. It's still got some pools of water in there.

[*The tour continued.*]

The President. All right, this is—see where we are?

Q. Is this coming up on the cathedral, on another angle?

The President. That's where you all were standing, up top.

Q. Oh, the first one?

The President. Yes. This is fairly typical of what this place could look like, if we didn't make it easier to—we cut some of this out, and we already stacked it. But that's where you all were standing, up there.

And the idea is to be able to walk up from the bottom or get down from the top. It's a beautiful—area. But this is also to make it easy for people to walk through here. It's kind of fun, I figure, a place for people—if they want to get lost up here, they're welcome to do so. And I want these canyons to be accessible. There are a few others. One of them's really hard to get to. I hiked up in there. I mean, it's really hard to get up in there. And I don't know if we can ever make that one really accessible.

The other one will be accessible only if we get in there with a chainsaw and spend a lot of time, because it's really overgrown. So we may leave one the way it is and make the other one——

Q. Think escalator. [*Laughter*]

Q. Are you able to hike around here on your own, totally on your own?

The President. No. I hike around up here. As you know, the—[*inaudible*].

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Plus, the military aide is within a certain distance of me at all times.

Q. So even on your own property, you can't get lost?

The President. Right. They stay—the military aide, the doc, and the nurse live on the property. And fortunately, they're such fine Americans, I don't mind hiking with them.

Q. How do they feel about it?

The President. That's something you need to ask them. That's a good question.

Q. What is it you like about coming out here?

The President. I like—I mean, it is one of the few places where I can actually walk outside my front door and say, "I think I'm going to go walk 2 hours." And although I'm not totally alone, I can walk wherever I want to walk, and I can't do that in Washington.

I guess I could, I could walk around the circle for—I do run the circle. I like that. I love the nature. I love to get in the pickup truck with my dogs as the sun is setting, go look for game.

Q. You're a pretty gregarious guy. I've seen you at many a ball game.

The President. Yes.

Q. Some of your friends are surprised that you like to come out here, basically in the middle of nowhere, and just kind of be by yourself.

The President. I guess they don't know what it's like to be the President. [*Laughter*] I get plenty of quality time with a lot of really good people. Sometimes, it's important to just get away, as well.

Plus, you know, one of the things we miss in Washington is our friends. And they're

here. We've got the Weisses here. The Gammons are here. Pam Nelson is here. And we find it really relaxing to sit down on the porch with our buddies and just shoot the breeze. And you know, it's amazing; you don't have to defend any policy you make. I mean, your friends are your friends. These people were friends of mine before I became President; they'll be friends of mine after I'm the President. And people just take you for what you are.

Q. Do you do your own cooking here at the ranch?

The President. Do I?

Q. Yes.

The President. I try not to. [*Laughter*] I get really hungry after a day's work. Occasionally, I'll cook a burger or a steak. I'm not bad at it.

Q. Otherwise, Mrs. Bush takes care of that?

The President. Actually, we've got Sam, a fine cook. And that's one of the benefits of being the President, the cook comes with you. [*Laughter*]

Q. Noticed a lot of animal droppings. Can you identify them?

The President. Well, no. I can't. Good question, though.

Q. I'm a Brooklyn boy, and I don't——

The President. I'm better on trees than I am on animal droppings. And I still need a lot of work on trees. I think this is a cedar elm. Cedar elms are identified by their skirts. Obviously, when they grow up in a sunlight-starved environment, the skirt doesn't grow.

But it's pretty special. You know, the thing about this place is that you would never guess that this kind of country was here, driving in from Waco to Crawford. And the—this is really a finger of the hill country coming up in here. And you've got the hay country, the black land prairie, and you've got a transition zone—really, a lot of live oaks and stuff. And then you come down into these canyons. And the middle fork of the Bosque runs a mile-and-a-half on our eastern boundary, and Rainey Creek is a mile-and-a-half on the northern boundary. And they are really great when there's water in them. They're even great when there's no water in them. They're good for game, holding game. The game like to go down in the bottoms there, and they'll drink and hang out and hide.

As I say, the other day, I came down here, and Barney and I were—Barney's legs are so short, a half-mile run for him is pretty much like 5 miles for a human. He makes it about a quarter-mile or so, then they put him in the Gator, and he and I walk as he cools down. Thirty turkey came sprinting across the pasture down there, and Barney took off after them.

Barney's big thing to do is to chase armadillo. And you know, Laura has mulched our flower beds around the house, and we water in the evening, so therefore the soil is very moist and armadillo love to dig the soil looking for bugs. And so I went out there the other day, and there was Barney buried in this hole, chasing an armadillo. [*Laughter*] Both of them were in this hole. At any rate, Barney—finally got him out of there, and the armadillo wouldn't move.

Q. Seems like Spot would be the more outdoorsy-type dog.

The President. Spot's a good runner. You know, Barney—terriers are bred to go into holes and pull out varmint. And Spotty chases birds. Spotty's a great water dog. I'll go fly-fishing this afternoon in our lake—I don't know if you saw the lake coming in. Yes.

It's—we sprung a leak in the dam, and a guy from east Texas came over and spent the last 4½ days coring out the dam, putting clay in there and filling it back in. I think we've solved the leak.

But I'll go fishing, and Spot will be out in the middle of the lake, either chasing the lure or chasing a grasshopper or chasing something. She loves the water. But she—you know, for a 12-year-old dog, she's in incredible condition. But she—about every other day, she'll run with me. And if she doesn't run with me, she'll either—she'll walk with Laura and me. So she's doing great. And she's a hunter. She's just having trouble seeing. She doesn't see as well as Barney does now.

Q. So when they're at the White House, where do they run around? I mean, outside——

The President. They run around the yard there. About 6:50 in the morning to 7, as I take them down, we'll walk around some.

And then Dale, the fine gardener, will come out. And Dale and the dogs are in love. And they will spend the day with Dale. And he'll hit the tennis ball to them. Or he'll walk around on the grounds, and they'll run around. And then when it gets a little hot, they'll camp out in the gardener's office. And then when I finish work, or when Laura is ready, we'll go down and get them and bring them up to the Residence.

Q. Do you still have the horses?

The President. Yes.

Q. Does anyone ride them?

The President. No, they're too small yet. But we do have them. They're Kenneth Engelbrecht's.

Let's see what else I can tell you about this place?

Q. What's the average annual rainfall?

The President. I think it's 32 inches, but you need to look it up on the Internet.

Q. Is this summer especially dry?

The President. No. We got a half-inch. August is always dry. I mean, unless there's a hurricane, August is a dry month in Texas. And it's always hot; it's never not been hot. And Dallas—I don't know, Jackson [David Jackson, Dallas Morning News], you living in Dallas? It was some like ungodly number of days in a row of 100—50 days in a row or something.

This has been a relatively mild summer. But it had been really dry up until the last 3 years—last year. For 3 years prior to last year was really dry, and we didn't have any rain. And we had great rains this year. And the aquifers filled up, and it was seeping water all the time and the creek was running up until July. So it's——

Future Visits to the Ranch

Q. When are you coming back after——

The President. I don't know. I think we may have a scheduled trip in September. I'm giving a speech in San Antonio, if I'm not mistaken. And that will be just for a night. And I'm thinking about—I haven't decided when to hang my portrait in the State capitol, but it's finished. Or it's almost finished. One of the—the artist came out the other day just to get one final look. [*Laughter*] But I'm not sure how much time we'll spend then, and then Mr. Putin.

October is going to be taken up mainly with dealing with the Congress and going on the Far Eastern trip, about a 10-day trip.

Q. And then will you spend December, you know, around Christmas——

The President. No, we'll spend—look, the plans are right now, subject to change, that I would like to invite my entire family to Camp David, my mother and dad and brothers and sister and their kids. And then the day after, we'd fly down here and spend——

Q. For Christmas—at Camp David?

The President. No, no, the day—yes, Christmas at Camp David and then leave that day or the day after and come down here and stay down here until—I don't know—however long—whatever's appropriate.

Q. Sir, I don't want to be rude, but what does a ranch like this go for?

The President. You know, first of all, it's not for sale. You couldn't pay me enough.

Q. I believe that.

The President. Other than that, that's relatively rude.

Q. I apologize.

The President. No, no.

Q. Are you going to—are you going to bring Mr. Putin up through the canyons?

The President. I'd like to. If he wants to, you bet. He is a physical fitness person, and I bet he'd like to get up and go for a long walk.

Q. He's probably seen nothing like it.

The President. I'd love to show him the canyons. I will show him the canyons. And I think he'll like it out here. It will be a different look. The leaves—you get some colors down here. Some of the leaves——

Q. In the fall?

The President. Yes, you do. Nothing like New England, but you do get some colors.

Q. Do you know when he's coming, exactly?

The President. No, I don't. I'm not even sure, yet.

Q. You've done some work out here——

The President. I think he'd like to spend some time in Washington and do both, go to Washington and Crawford.

President's Working Vacation

Q. You've done some work out of here. Has it been more difficult to work out of here or——

The President. No, it's just the same. You know, when you pick up the phone and you call de la Rua to talk to him about Argentina, it's—it may be a different hookup, but it's the same voice.

Yesterday—as a matter of fact, in some ways, this place is better for work. Yesterday we spent—well, they arrived at 10 a.m. It took a while to get the press conference. We got back here at about 11:30 a.m. and met until—5:15 p.m., I think they left. That's the longest meeting I've had in a long time, on a very important subject. And so it gave us a chance to sit back and relax. It was a much less hectic schedule.

Therefore, we had a good chance to talk about a really important subject, which is our military strategies. And so in some ways, it lets—this place allows for more indepth discussions. Condi and I spend a lot of time just sitting around visiting about our foreign policy matters.

You know, Andy Card and I talked for a while yesterday. Josh is around. Karen Hughes was here. We spent a good deal of time with Karen talking about the fall and what we'll try to communicate in the fall.

I had a good visit with Vicente Fox on the phone. You know, we're working on immigration policy. And although I haven't been in the meetings, I have been in communications with—Margaret LaMontagne is heading up that task for us, and I think we'll make some pretty good progress there.

Q. When you have those business meetings, like the Joint Chiefs briefing, do you like to keep it separate from the living quarters on the ranch?

The President. Actually, you know, what we call the Governor's house, the place where you all came out during the—that's where we went. Condi and Karen Hughes stayed there. And right across the street from that is a—it's a nice looking government doublewide. [*Laughter*] And that's where the mil aide, the nurse, the WHCA head, the doc, they stay.

The CIA briefings I have on our porch, the end of our porch, looking out over the lake. When Tenet came up, that's where we visited, out there.

You know, everybody wants to see the ranch, which I'm proud to show it off. So George Tenet and I—yesterday we piled in the new nominees for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Vice Chairman and their wives and went right up the canyon.

Q. They didn't do this hiking in those uniforms?

The President. No, no, they didn't come up here. It was a quick tour.

Q. The marine would, though. [*Laughter*]

The President. But for large meetings and, you know—plus Laura had some guests and didn't want us traipsing around there. So it was a good idea to invite the wives. Laura thought of it. And I'm really glad she did. It was obviously a very sensitive decision on her part. They were thrilled to be here. As you can imagine, their husbands were nominated to be Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and they got to witness it. And, had she not caught it, they might not have been here. So it's good that she did.

Upcoming Budget Issues

Q. So when you go back, you're going to be immersed in all this budget stuff. Are you ready for this fight?

The President. Sure. I don't necessarily see it as a fight.

Q. Well, you drew a pretty strong line in the sand yesterday.

The President. Well, we've got a budget, see. The budget's been decided. So we're not fighting over the budget. The decision is whether or not Congress will stick to the budget. We had the budget discussion last spring, and I was very pleased with the outcome of the budget discussion.

As you know, discretionary spending grew at about 5 percent. I thought the priorities were pretty clear in the budget. And so the discussion will be, do budgets mean anything? And so far, the folks in charge of appropriations have answered the question affirmatively; budgets do mean something. And the supplementals and the emergency measures were, you know, right in line, and I appreciate that very much. So we'll see. We'll see whether or not there's the commitment to make national defense a priority.

Members of both parties are saying, well, we need to spend more, this, that, and the other. And that's good. What I hope they do is, they decide that the budget I submitted or the request I submitted for '02 is the right number and that they let us know that that's the number they will fund early, so that we avoid a fight, because I will fight for education funding and a national defense funding that I think is at the appropriate level. But fight isn't the right word yet.

Return to Washington, DC

Q. Are you sad that you have to leave here in about a week and go back?

The President. No, I'm not sad at all. I told Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News] life's a series of contrasts, and I will miss—I will miss Crawford, but I know I will be back here. And I think people have now got—are beginning to realize that this is our home, and I'm one of these guys that likes—I'm a homebody. I like my home. I like my own bedroom. I like hanging out with my family and friends here.

But I also know I can do my job from here, and I look forward to getting back to Washington and getting to work. I'll be all charged up. I think I'll have the right perspective. And you know, coming out here makes you realize that Washington is a wonderful place, but it's certainly not the center of all wisdom and knowledge. And there is a lot of wisdom in the folks of—you know, in the minds and souls of the folks of Crawford, Texas, just like there are amongst some of the elite in Washington.

Margaret LaMontagne

Q. Did you say Margaret LaMontagne is heading up immigration?

The President. She is the chief domestic policy adviser who is—and since that's domestic policy, she is in charge of that aspect of the—of domestic policy, and doing a great job. I'm really glad Margaret came to Washington. She is newly wed, by the way—Austin wedding.

Q. But she is known mostly as an education person here in Texas. Is she branching out these days?

The President. No, she was branched out from day one, as you—David, I'm surprised you didn't know that we made her—from the minute I got sworn in, she was the head of domestic policy, which means on every issue that has been in the domestic scene, she has been very much involved, whether it be Medicare reform or—she's doing a great job. Margaret is a very smart woman. You bet, she was an education person in Texas. But I realized how brilliant a woman she is, and she can handle just about every task we give her. So she's doing a good job. I've got a good team.

All right. Let's go.

Q. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Q. Thank you for having us out here.

The President. I'm thrilled you got to see it. It will help you understand.

Q. What you do out here all day?

Q. It was a real treat. Thank you.

The President. Thanks, I'm glad you came.

Q. There may be a story about Ms. LaMontagne appearing in the Dallas Morning News.

The President. Got it. Okay. I appreciate you asking.

Thank you, David.

Q. Thank you.

The President. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be sarcastic. I thought you didn't know, seriously.

Q. I always like to play dumb, and it's an easy role for me to fill, too.

The President. No false modesty. [*Laughter*]

[*The tour continued.*]

Ranch Tour

The President. I'm going to give you a little tour to get out of here, so everybody can see this. Whoa baby! I may be going in the "whining pool." [*Laughter*]

Q. Can we come?

Q. Can we all come?

The President. I must confess, it was a great addition.

Q. They won you over on that, didn't they?

The President. That's the canyon we went up, the top—obviously. And there's a series of roads out of this place. But I want you to see this in here. This is—this greens up really nicely.

In the evenings—you'll see some cliffs over here that really are—I think are really special. See them over there. I'll give you a better view up here.

I just want to practice driving. [*Laughter*]

Q. I've got to ask, who does your laundry? Because that's pretty filthy.

The President. Yes, it is.

Q. I can't imagine Mrs. Bush wants that stuff in her——

The President. Well, we've got a washer—the washer/dryer room is right off the porch. And so I'm not saying I strip down outside on the porch or anything, but I am saying I don't traipse this stuff into the house, either. [*Laughter*]

Maria Galvan is with us, as well. Maria is a—lived with us in Austin, and she lives with us in Washington.

Q. Have your parents been down? Or are they still sucking up the salt air up north?

The President. They haven't been down this summer.

Q. Are they coming?

The President. Mother and Dad have been here twice. Both times they were here, it was just green.

See these cedar elms? These are spectacular cedar elms. I'll show you another tree that I think is really special.

There's a whole stand of cedar elms. This is a pecan right here, lot of fruit on it.

In the evenings, this is where the deer lie down, in here. It's kind of tight, and they feel protected. These are called motts. When you see the same type of tree growing close together, it's called a mott, m-o-t-t.

Q. Is the red deer still here? The——

The President. Died.

Q. Oh, no! What——

The President. Ate Johnson grass, and the Johnson grass ended up poisoning it. Our neighbor to the north of us—I think it was our neighbor to the north—saw a bunch of buzzards circling and thought he lost one of his cows. He went up there, and the red stag was there.

This is the middle fork of the Bosque River we're coming up to now. We've been paralleling it. You'll get a sense of what it's like. It's a very gravelly-bottom river.

And we've got a beautiful bur oak stand in here. That's a bur oak, these great big oaks. And we discovered what's a pretty rare tree, this tree right there, is a chinquapin oak, which is mainly found in the Houston area. I think it's the Houston area. It's not found here; it's more of an east Texas tree.

That's a bur oak. See that——

Q. Like Adam Burr?

The President. Yes. And that is the——

Q. Aaron Burr.

The President. Are you reading "Shining Brothers"? [*Laughter*] I am.

Anyway, see, that's the middle fork of the Bosque. That's our neighbor on the other side there.

Q. So this is the fence line of your property?

The President. Well, the middle—and there's some water pooled in there. Not much. It's pretty dry. But there are some places where the water has pooled up.

Q. How did you learn all this stuff about these trees? Did you have someone come out here and drive you around?

The President. Well, we've got a book. And I knew some of the trees, you know. The oak trees are pretty—the pecan trees, that's the Texas tree.

But we had a guy Thursday—two men Thursday that are professors at Texas A&M that Dianne White Delisi, who was a State rep and good friend of mine—you remember her, David—she is the State rep from Temple. Do you know her, David?

Q. Yes.

The President. She came out and brought them over here. They wanted to see the place. They had heard we had some beautiful hardwoods on it. And they came and were really pleased with the health of our trees and the quality of our trees.

That's the middle fork, and then it hits the Rainey Creek, which I'll show you up here.

Hunting

Q. Do you know if you're planning to be out here for Thanksgiving?

The President. I'm not sure, Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

Q. Can those wild turkeys rest easy?

The President. Yes.

Q. Have you been hunting them?

The President. No, I'm not going to hunt the turkeys.

Q. The pigeons? Do you hunt the pigeons?

The President. No, we don't have any pigeons—yes, the doves.

Q. The doves, I mean.

The President. Dove season is September 1st.

Q. Oh, it's not the season. Okay.

The President. I won't be here. Plus, we don't have that many doves yet. We usually don't get a lot of doves until there is a cold front pushing them south. I hunted last year up here.

Q. That was the day you grilled up the doves, right?

The President. Did what?

Q. The doves.

The President. With the bacon and the jalapeno?

Q. Yes, we had a bet.

The President. Did you eat them?

Q. I had a bet with an AP reporter that we couldn't get it on the wire.

The President. Did you get it on the wire?

Q. Oh, yeah.

Ranch Tour

The President. The broad-leaf tree that was a little yellow there is a sycamore tree, which are pretty unusual, and they grow in the creeks.

See the size of these cedar elms here? They are magnificent trees.

Q. Quite the arborist——

The President. I am. Tree man.

Q. Tree man. [*Laughter*]

Q. Were you always a tree man?

The President. No, I wasn't. I like trees, but I have come to appreciate them a lot. And I'm guarding them jealously against water suckers like cedars.

Here's the creek, obviously now dry. But it will give you a sense of what it's like. And for most of the year this year, water was running over the crossing.

And again, the broad-leaf trees in the middle are the sycamores. That is an ash. That is a willow of some kind; see that in the middle there? And then you've got oaks and pecans. So you have four or five different types of trees along here. These are pecans. That's a sycamore, and that's a huge pecan tree.

Q. Do you get rattlesnakes on the property?

The President. I haven't seen any but have seen cottonmouths, which are poisonous water snakes. We found them in the creek. I actually had a man come up in here, into some of the canyons where we suspect there's rattlesnakes. And he's a rattlesnake hunter, and he's a local guy. And what they do is they come up and stake it and spray diesel fuel up in the hole and drug the snakes and extract them.

Q. For what?

The President. To get rid of them. And they use them to suck the venom—to milk them to get the venom as an antidote.

Q. Have any of your guests gotten poison ivy or snakebites or anything like that from walking around?

The President. Not yet.

Q. But you're hoping some day?

The President. I hope they're not.

Q. Just kidding.

The President. Put the doctor to use.

Here is one of our places that have held water.

Q. Oh, yes.

The President. We've got a couple of them on this place like this. And anyway, the creek goes for a while. And this will give you a sense of the cliffs up there. See up there?

This property—this part of the ranch goes another—the trail goes another three-quarters mile, and then we go another probably quarter mile beyond that, but there's no road. This will give you a sense of the cliffs right here. We own to the top of these cliffs.

Q. Wow! Look at the buzzards on the top.

The President. They're watching us.

Q. Guarding your border.

The President. Making sure. First the red stag and then——

Q. A few reporters?

The President. Yes. [*Laughter*]

Q. How many miles does this dirt road snake through here, do you know?

The President. David, I'm not even sure. I should measure them. I paid for them.

Here's another one of the canyons. It's got a stairstep to it, a very long, gradual stairstep.

Q. I think that's the one you showed us the first time.

The President. Yeah, it was.

Q. You said there were seven?

The President. Seven, yes.

Q. How many different properties did you look at before buying this one, or was this love at first sight?

The President. Well, this was—it was for me, actually. We had seen some—we had seen a lot of property in Texas, you know. And a guy said, you know, we ought to look in this area of Texas. He had bought a ranch in Gatesville, which is right up the road. And we went and looked at his place, and he said, "Oh, by the way, you ought to come and see this Engelbrecht ranch." And we came over here, and I thought it was fabulous.

Laura was a little worried that it would be hard to access the really beautiful parts of the ranch. And I told her I would build the roads necessary to make sure all of us could get down there easily. And it took a couple of months. And then another buyer came in, and they didn't honor the deal.

There's the house. See how it sits in those trees? The guy did a fabulous job of—and it's facing south so it picks up a lot of the southerly breeze. I'll take you——

Q. This is manmade, this lake?

The President. Yes, I made it. I paid for it. Obviously, with no rain, it evaporates. And we've had some good rains. There are pumps over there. We keep it pumped because when it does rain, it fills up that little island, and we don't want to kill those oaks.

But it's stocked. I bought a little bass boat. It's stocked——

Q. Very little.

The President. It is. It's perfect for that size lake.

It's stocked with a lot of bait fish, and I put in 600 fingerlings. So we started—didn't put any big bass in to begin with. And I've caught nearly a pound in size.

This will give you a sense for the place. The place on the left there is the guesthouse, bedrooms, sitting room. And then on the right, you can see, it's kind of sectioned. And in between—there's three sections, and in between each section there is what they call a dogtrot, which is a screened-in porch built to capture the southerly breezes. And the porch you see out there, we sit out there in the evening—as you can see, the chairs lined up there, looking east, so the sun is not in our eyes. And there is a beautiful fireplace there that we use in the winter.

This is the—right here is an old hand house that we've refurbished. And now one half of it is a gymnasium, free weights and exercise machines, and the other half is a room.

Q. I've got to ask, do you drive from there to there to work out, or do you walk?

The President. Actually, I walked yesterday when I went to lift weights, but I've got a little golf cart.

This is the Secret Service. They're building this. And the doublewide will leave. This is their command post. And they were kind enough to ask, you know, whether or not—you know, what kind of design would be helpful to make it blend in. We helped, obviously, put it in that mott of oaks so it doesn't stand out too much.

We own over to that fence line there. So we go from here about a mile that way, and from here about a half mile that way, maybe a little more. And then that's our western fence line.

Q. Was that your white pickup truck outside the house?

The President. No. That is Kenneth Engelbrecht's, which I use.

Q. The Secret Service is not nervous about you driving?

The President. I haven't hit anything yet. But this is the one place I drive.

I built this little pond over here. Actually, it's got more water than it looks. And that's a fun—fun little place to go fly-fish. One of my favorite things to do is when it cools—it never cools off—when the sun starts going down, I walk the dogs over there, and they'll play around in the water.

We planted all these oaks along here, and this is going to be spectacular, as you can see, the walkway.

I don't think we'll be able to get around. By the way, one of Laura's projects is going to interest you. This is buffalo grass, which is the native grass. And she's planted buffalo grass here, and we're trying to restore—starting with the land between the house and the lake, including front and back yard—restore all this country to its native—native grasses. And one of the A&M guys was an expert on native grass, as well. And we've got a man out here from the local area that is a

wildflower and native grass expert. The dam has got native grass on it.

And the idea is to have these grasses that will be able to sustain themselves, particularly in the hot—in the heat, all around, particularly the house and as far as you can see around the house. They are not good for, you know, cattle necessarily, although they could be.

Q. Otherwise, do you have a sprinkler system?

The President. We do have a sprinkler system. The roof drains off into a gravel—see the gravel in front of the guesthouse there? That's a gravel collector that drains into a cistern. And we water the trees and the yard.

Obviously, if there's no rain, like we've had recently, then we are on city water, and we water at night. We're not using much water now because the grass has pretty well taken hold.

The guy laid this house in these oaks and did, we think, a beautiful job of placing it in the landscape. There's native rock on the house. It's a pretty good-size house.

Q. It's modest size.

The President. Yes. It's modest, but it's pretty good size. I mean, the tall ceilings—you can't see how tall the ceilings are, because the perspective is different because of how it sits in the trees, but it's perfect for us.

And you see straight ahead is the screened-in porch there. And then the darker windows there, those are screened-in porches, as well. And the girls' two bedrooms are on this end. Laura and I are in the middle. And what we call the great room, which is a combination sitting room and dining room, is right there.

Q. On the end, by where the Adirondack chairs are on the porch?

The President. Right. And then this is the guesthouse and the garage.

Q. Do you expect Putin to stay in this guesthouse?

The President. I don't know what we are going to do. We haven't figured that out yet. It's going to be——

Q. It's pretty close, if you're right there.

The President. I would love Putin to stay there. He can go down to the Governor's house. I don't know what we're going to do. You can imagine, it's going to be a mass scramble of who gets to stay on the property and where everybody else will stay. We haven't figured out the logistics. We're still working on the Mexican state dinner. [*Laughter*]

[*The tour continued.*]

Q. You mean you're going to sneak out to Ohio without telling us?

United Nations Conference on Racism

The President. Your question didn't get much news yesterday, on the—or did it—on the conference?

Q. Did you expect it to?

The President. No, not really.

Q. They took notice in New York and overseas.

The President. Did they? Good. What did they say?

Q. You saw the U.N. human rights woman, Robinson——

Q. Yes, she said again she'd go.

The President. Well, she ought to clean up the language. It's discriminatory, it seems like to us. And—yes, maybe they will.

Ranch Tour

Q. So this is environmentally friendly?

The President. Yes, very much so, for a couple of reasons. One, it's got a natural water collection devices all around it, and it's got a heater and cooling system that takes water and circulates it and transfers the cold water to the heat and the heated water to the cold, because the ground temperature—the subterranean temperature stays constant.

So it's the same type of system that Vice President Gore put in the Vice Presidential house, which I didn't realize, but he did.

Q. Those aren't solar panels on the roof, it just looks——

The President. No, no, no, no. No, those aren't solar panels. That technology isn't quite worked out.

But even more efficient, however, is the transference of heat and cool as a result of circulating water below the—it's called thermal heating and cooling—okay.

Thank you all for coming. We'll see you.

Q. Thank you. Thank you so much.

The President. Thank you for coming. I'm glad you're here. David "Action" Jackson, thanks.

Okay, we'll see you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:05 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to ranch foreman Kenneth Engelbrecht; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; State Representative Dianne White Delisi of Texas; and Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at a Steelworkers Picnic in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

August 26, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Governor, you don't look a day over 60. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate my friend Tom Ridge. I really care for him a lot. He's a really decent man, and I know the people of Pennsylvania are going to miss him when he retires from the Governor's office. He's done a good job—a good, even-handed fellow who, like me, married really well. [*Laughter*]

I'm thrilled that my wife has traveled with me today. We came up from Crawford, Texas. I was wondering what that wet stuff coming out of the air was for a while. [*Laughter*]

But I can't tell you how proud I am of Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. [*Applause*] There's always one in every crowd. [*Laughter*] But like that public school librarian, she not only loves books; she loves children. And one of the things she is going to work with me on is to make sure that every child—I mean every child—in America gets a first-rate education by starting with making sure every child in America learns to read.

Thank you for coming, Laura.

We both grew up in Midland, Texas. She remembers me—I think she remembers me as a Little League baseball player, so she is somewhat in shock over the fact that I'll be inducted into the Little League Hall of Fame this evening. [*Laughter*]

It's an honor to be here in Pennsylvania. I'm proud that two of my Cabinet officials are here. My long-time friend from Texas Don Evans—one thing about old Don, and even Leo will admit this, he'll answer the phone call from the people who work in the steel industry. When you call, he'll be on the other end of the line.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Come on.

And Elaine Chao, I'm proud of her representing the working people of America in my Cabinet. She's smart; she's capable; and she brings a lot of dignity to her office, as well. Thank you for being here, Elaine.

I've enjoyed working with Senator Santorum and Melissa Hart and Bob Ney from Ohio. Every time I see them, they say, "Steel—Mr. President, you must understand steel and its woes." You've got three great advocates for the steel industry and its workers in those three elected officials who took time out of their day to be here. Congress is on vacation; the country has never run better. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate them coming over to say hello.

I want to thank Tom Usher and congratulate the folks at U.S. Steel for 100 years of productivity for America. I want to thank Leo. I was sitting there watching during the speeches. Leo was sitting there working the Secretary of Commerce the whole time. [*Laughter*] He never misses a moment to say what's on his mind, and I appreciate a straightforward fellow, a fellow who you know where he stands.

And I was asking the folks at the table I was at, "How is Leo doing?" They said, "We like him. He represents us well." And I appreciate your service, Leo, and we look forward to working with you to do what's right for the steelworkers and the steel industry of America.

I got to say something about Ross. Where are you, Ross? There he is. He's my table host. Ross made sure I got through the line in a record time, 45 minutes. [*Laughter*] It's not that he stopped and ate every dish along the way, but he was gracious in letting me say hello to as many people as I could.

I love people, and I love the American citizens. It doesn't matter whether you're Republican, Democrat—don't care about political parties. I love representing this great country because it's a people full of good and decent, honorable folks.

Ross told me he's been in power for 30 years. Tell me how you do it, Ross. It's not because of your looks. [*Laughter*]

Well, at any rate, thank you all for coming. I have been on what they call a working vacation. I've been at our place in Crawford, Texas, and then I've been traveling out of the place to go to what I call a heartland tour, which is really a way for me to herald the great values of our country.

See, Washington passes laws, but it doesn't pass values legislation. Values exist in the hearts and souls of our citizens. And I am here to trumpet one of the great values of America. That's the enterprise of the American worker, the hard-working American citizens who make this economy go. And those are the steelworkers of America. I appreciate what you do for our country.

I've had the honor of traveling the world. We're the envy of the world in many ways, and one reason why is because of our work ethic. People work hard in America, and they're not afraid to do so. And one of the reasons we're as strong as we are is because of the productivity based upon the hard-working American citizen. And I appreciate you for your work.

There's another value I herald when I travel the country, and that's the value of family. I want to thank all the families who are here, the moms and dads who have brought their children out. I love the American family. And I understand how important family is to our country. I like to remind our fellow citizens, if you're a mom or a dad, the most important job you'll ever have is not going to take place inside this building; the most important job you'll ever have is to tell your children you love them with all your heart and show them you love them with all your mind and all your soul.

We're a great land because of the values we hold dear. And there's another reason to get outside of Washington, because there's a lot of common sense outside of the Nation's Capital. And it makes common sense to be secure. One of my jobs as the Commander in Chief is to make sure our defenses are strong, and the Nation is secure. It's common sense to make sure that we have an energy policy that becomes less reliant upon foreign sources of energy. I want to appreciate and thank the U.S. Steel and its workers for a good conservation policy. That's part of a good energy policy. But the other part is to make sure we've got ample coal and natural gas, found right here in our own hemisphere, to fuel our own plants so our workers can have jobs, and we can have good product for the American people.

It also makes sense not to be reliant—if you're the Commander in Chief, it makes sense, common sense, not to be heavily reliant upon materials such as steel. If you're worried about the security of the country and you become over-reliant upon foreign sources of steel, it can easily affect the capacity of our military to be well supplied. Steel is an important job issue; it's also an important national security issue. And that is why we took the actions we took in this administration.

I'm upbeat, and my spirits are high. But I must confess I'm worried about the fact that our manufacturing sector in our economy is a lot slower than I would hope. As a matter of fact, our economy has grown at a paltry one percent for the last 12 months, and that worries me. It worries me, first and foremost, for the effect that's going to have on the families all across America. I worry about—I worry about our citizens who work. And we're taking action.

We're paying down record amounts of debt to ease the pressure on interest rates. We've got a trade policy that's going to have a level playing field as its component. And the other thing we've done at the administrative level is we sent money back to the people who pay the bills in America.

We said that there's obviously a role for the Federal Government, and let's fund our priorities. Educating our children is a priority; national defense is a priority; helping people who cannot help themselves is a priority. But folks, when the economy slows down, it's time to understand how to get it started again. And one way to help is to give people their own money back.

You see, there's a big debate in Washington about the money in Washington. Sometimes, folks up there lose sight about whose money it is. That money is not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And we did the right thing with sharing that money with the people who pay the bills.

We've taken action. As you can see, this is an administration that, when we see a problem, we move. We don't stick our finger in the air trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing. I don't need a poll or focus group to tell me what to think. I do what I think is right for the American people. And we'll just let the political chips fall where they may. And the right thing to do was to cut the taxes.

But really, the right thing for me to do is to travel our land, come to places like the Mon Valley, and thank you all very much for what you do; thank you for your hard work; thank you for loving your families; thank you for helping a neighbor in need; thank you from the bottom of my heart for walking across the street when you see somebody in your neighborhood who needs a helping hand; thank you for going to your places of worship and rallying the good faith and good charity inherent in programs all aimed at helping somebody help themselves.

Now, this is a great land. It's a great land because we're blessed with the greatest people on the face of the Earth. It's my honor to be amongst such people today.

Thank you for having me. May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. at the Irvin Plant facility of U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Leo W. Gerard, international president, and Ross McLellan, Local 2227 president, United Steelworkers of America; and Thomas J. Usher, chairman and chief executive officer, USX Corp.

Remarks on Induction Into the Little League Hall of Excellence in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania

August 26, 2001

Steve, thank you very much. You know, years ago, when I was playing on those dusty Little League fields in west Texas, I never dreamt I would be President of the United States. And I can assure you I never dreamt I would be admitted into the Little League Hall of Excellence. It's a high honor to be here. It's a high honor for Laura and me to be here. I want to thank you so very much for your hospitality.

One of the things I did dream about, though, was making it to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the Little League World Series. And to all the teams that got here, I want to offer my heartiest congratulations. I particularly want to welcome the Japanese team and wish you all the best. Welcome to America.

I must confess, I have a soft spot in my heart for the Florida team. I know and like your Governor. [*Laughter*]

But to all the teams that were here, congratulations.

A couple of words I want to say: First, I want to say thanks to all the moms and dads who participate in Little League all around the world. Little League is a family sport. I can remember my mother sitting behind the—behind the backstop in Midland, Texas, telling me what to do. [*Laughter*] She's still telling me what to do. And my advice to all the players is, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*]

But for all the moms and dads who take special time out of their lives to make sure their kids are able to play the great sport of baseball, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You prioritize your family, and that's crucial for a healthy world, to make sure our families remain strong. I equate Little League Baseball with good families.

I want to thank all the coaches for working with the kids. You're not only teaching the

kids how to throw and hit; you're teaching them incredibly important values, the values of good, clean competition, the values of teamwork, the values of working with somebody to win for something greater than yourself.

It's an honor to receive this award from such a fabulous organization as Little League Baseball and, on behalf of the Presidency, thank you for what you do.

May God bless the teams who play here, may God bless the families represented here, and may God bless the great United States of America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:35 p.m. at Howard J. Lamade Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer, Little League Baseball, Inc.; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

August 27, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period from June 1 through July 31, 2001. The previous submission covered from April 1 through May 31, 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to resume the proximity talks that started in December 1999. During the reporting period, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to provide diplomatic support to this process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.

Remarks at the American Legion Convention in San Antonio, Texas

August 29, 2001

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's my honor to welcome you to my home State. We need the rain, so I appreciate you bringing it from all around the country. I want you to know, you're in a military town. The people of this city are always proud to honor those who serve and those who wear the uniform today.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I know on behalf of all the folks who have come to this convention, they thank you and your able staff, the good folks of San Antonio, for being such great hosts to this wonderful convention.

It's an honor for San Antonio to host you. And it's a high honor for me to stand before my fellow Legionnaires as the Commander in Chief of the United States Military. And it was a higher honor to escort to this podium the Legion Auxiliary's Woman of the Year. You couldn't have made a finer choice.

I want to thank Ray Smith, the national commander, for giving me a chance to come. And I want to thank him for his service. I want to thank Kristine West for her service, as well. I want to thank Bob Spanogle, the national adjutant. I want to thank the man who runs your Washington, DC, office, John Sommer, for working so closely with my administration. I want to welcome members of my Cabinet who are here, Tony Principi, Elaine Chao. And I understand that Henry Bonilla, the Congressman from this area, is here, and I want to say hello to Henry and his wife, Deborah.

And finally, I want to introduce you all, if you haven't met him yet, to a fine man who's making a great Governor for Texas, my friend, the 47th Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry. Rick, you need to know, we've just come in from Crawford, Texas, and a lot of folks down there can't wait to vote for you.

The American Legion was chartered in the years after World War I, just about the time

that Dwight Eisenhower was a junior officer, living right here in San Antonio, Texas, at Fort Sam. You've seen wars and their aftermath. You've received millions into your ranks. You've seen our culture change for better and sometimes for worse.

And yet, from that founding day in 1919, to this very day, the American Legion has never compromised its principles. As General Douglas MacArthur said at your 1951 convention, "The American Legion has been invincibly faithful to God and to country." Those of us honored to serve in high office have commitments of our own to our Nation's veterans.

I made my own commitments last year, when we met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Those commitments are now becoming policies. And the needs of our veterans are once again priorities of our Government.

If you've worn the uniform, you know just how efficiently Government can sometimes work. When Government needed your services, it moved pretty fast. There weren't many delays, and that's exactly how Government ought to operate in repaying you for your service, in giving you the benefits you earned. Some of you are among the thousands of veterans whose claims have been delayed or, sadly enough, lost in the bureaucracy.

At my direction, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun to change the way it does business. And I put a good man in charge, my friend and your friend, Tony Principi. Tony is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the VA claims processing.

Reform has begun, and we're starting where the need is greatest. At present, there are more than 600,000 pending applications. A full 53,000 of them have been pending for more than a year. And many were filed by veterans over the age of 70. Think about that: Here are thousands of men who served their country in Korea and World War II, or both. The last thing they need to hear from any Federal office are more routine excuses. That's wrong, and this administration is going to get it right.

Under Secretary Principi, these claims are being given the highest priority. They will be brought to a fair resolution without excuses and without delay. I've also set the goal of improving cooperation between the VA and the Pentagon in providing care to those who served. By Executive order, I have created a task force to recommend major reforms in the delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees.

Two distinguished Americans will lead the task force, Dr. Gail Wilensky, one of the Nation's leading authorities on health policy, and former Congressman Gerry Solomon, a long-time veteran's advocate, who served our Nation as a marine in the Korean conflict. I'm pleased to announce that Bob Spanogle of the American Legion has agreed and will serve on this task force to represent the American Legion.

My administration is also serious about implementing the Veteran's Millennium Health Care Act, to ensure high-quality care. In my first budget, I asked Congress for an additional $1 billion for veteran benefits and services. And Secretary Principi recently announced six new centers for Parkinson's disease research and care and 41 new outpatient clinics in 28 States. All the better to serve our Nation's veterans.

In the budget I submitted, veterans are a priority. My budgets will also discharge in full the most basic responsibility for the President, to provide for the security of the United States. In that responsibility, a President needs capable partners, and I have chosen well. I receive outstanding policy advice from Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Colin Powell. I'm so pleased that Don Rumsfeld is back for a second tour at the Pentagon. And the Nation has never had a finer Vice President than Dick Cheney. Well, maybe it's a tie.

Last week in Crawford, I had the honor of selecting a new Chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to replace a good and honorable man who served our Nation well, and that's General Hugh Shelton. I picked a native of Kansas City, Missouri, Air Force General Richard Myers, and as Vice Chairman, I picked the first marine ever, Pete Pace. I have assured both men and every man and woman serving today that the services will receive the support and means they need to operate.

I recently signed a bill allocating over $2 billion in supplemental appropriations for

military pay, benefits, and health care. In order to boost the morale of our military, it starts with taking care of our people.

But there's more. This budget I submitted to Congress makes national defense a priority. I've asked Congress to provide the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the President and Commander in Chief of the United States.

And to meet any dangers, our administration will begin building the military of the future. We must and we will make major investments in research and development. And we are committed to defending America and our allies against ballistic missile attacks, against weapons of mass destruction held by rogue leaders in rogue nations that hate America, hate our values, and hate what we stand for.

We have a clear eye on foreign policy. We recognize it's a dangerous world. I know this Nation still has enemies, and we cannot expect them to be idle. And that's why security is my first responsibility. And I will not permit any course that leaves America undefended.

In all of these efforts, I hope to have the support of the good people in this room. The American Legion is one of the most respected institutions in our Nation and one of the most familiar. After all, on the main streets all across America, the Legion hall itself is a center of civic life, a place where speeches, sometimes too long—[*laughter*]—are heard; it's where the Scout troops meet; it's where special events are celebrated.

I recently had the honor of welcoming the leaders of tomorrow, those of Boys and Girls Nation, to the White House. And I applaud you for your efforts at promoting character in our young. And I also can't thank you enough for promoting baseball as the American pastime.

With nearly 15,000 posts and close to 3 million members, the Legion helps make America better every single day. You're recognized not merely as an organization of interests but, as importantly, an organization of values. You represent an ethic of service. When you teach the values of honor and patriotism and personal responsibility, you teach by example. And when you speak of the American flag and the legal protection it deserves, you speak with authority. And you are right.

You may have heard recently, this past month I've been outside of Washington. I set up a Western White House, right up the road in Crawford, Texas. But I've been spending a lot of time traveling the heartland of America. And I'll do more traveling this fall, speaking about my agenda and the values behind it.

I plan to speak about the values of service and good citizenship that sustains our country. That's where the greatness of America shines through, not in the halls of Government but in the character of our citizens.

One of the important goals of my administration is to invigorate the spirit and involvement of our citizens, to make sure no one is left out of the great American Dream. I've created an Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the White House. And I'm asking Congress to join me in my efforts.

It's time to bring new support and new resources to institutions that help people in need. When people of faith provide social services and the love that is needed, Government must welcome them with open arms and not discriminate faith-based programs in America.

Oh, there's a lot we've got to get done this fall, and I'm looking forward to getting back to work. In the coming weeks, Congress will be going to what they call a conference committee on a Patients' Bill of Rights. I support a good bill that's already passed the House, one that serves patients first and doctors but one that will not encourage frivolous or junk lawsuits that could conceivably throw people off their health care insurance. I'm hopeful they'll move quickly and get a good bill on my desk.

On Medicare, I've laid out commonsense principles for strengthening the program, including overdue—long-overdue coverage for prescription drugs in Medicare.

As parents, grandparents, concerned citizens, all of you are concerned about the quality of our public schools, and I appreciate your involvement. We want the best for our children, and no question it begins with making sure every child is educated and making sure our public schools not only teach how to read and write and add and subtract but

teach our children the values that have been sustained over a long period of time, the values necessary to become good citizens.

There's a bill that passed the House; there's a bill that passed the Senate. When they get back, I hope they don't play politics with the education bill. They need to get it to my desk quickly, so I can sign it and reform the public schools all across America.

And of course the Members will be coming back to consider the pieces of legislation as well as to make necessary spending decisions. So far this year, the signs have been pretty good about how they're going to spend your money. We got a bipartisan budget passed. That's an important guideline as how best to spend taxpayers' money.

In record time, as well, Congress passed, I signed, and the mailman is now delivering the largest tax cut in a generation. Our economy began slowing down last year, and that's bad news. And I'm deeply worried about the working families all across the country. According to today's GDP figures, the recovery is very slow in coming. But with the tax reduction already in place, Americans will have more of their own money to spend, to save and invest, the very things that make our economy grow. Tax relief is exactly the right time—thing, the right prescription at the right time for the American economy.

Now, there are some who are second-guessing tax relief. You hear the voices beginning to filter out of their home States. I presume those who now oppose tax relief are for raising your taxes. That would tie an anchor on our economy, and I can assure you I won't allow it.

In the next few weeks, Congress will face some critical choices and some old temptations. I'm asking them to let go of some of the old ways of doing business in Washington, DC. Most of you have been around long enough to know how the process works. Often the important things are put off to the last, and in the meantime, lots of new spending gets thrown in. Near the end of the process, suddenly we hear that Congress is about to go over the budget, so the items that have been saved for last are the ones most likely to get cut.

And guess which—guess what usually has been saved for the last? The defense bill, leaving our national security at the mercy of budget games and last-minute cuts. This year, we might even see our administration's two highest priorities, education and national defense, being played off against each other.

That's the old way of doing business, and it's time to stop it. We may have different agendas in Washington, but we all have the same basic obligations. We must start with the things that matter most to the future and security of our country. This time, and from this time forward, let us put education and national defense at the first of the line, not at the last.

I return to Washington tomorrow, ready to make my case and ready to work with folks on both sides of the aisle. Dick Cheney and I didn't seek our offices so we could just settle in and mark time. We didn't come to rubber stamp the status quo. We came to challenge old assumptions and to provide new directions. We came to get something done for the country and to change the tone in our national discourse.

I'm proud of the progress we have been making, yet there's a lot to do. And I realize the American people are counting on us. You have given me a perfect sendoff. I leave honored by your support and grateful for your service to our great land.

Thank you all very much. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Edward D. Garza of San Antonio; Ray G. Smith, national commander, Bob Spanogle, national adjutant, and John F. Sommer, executive director, Washington office, the American Legion; Kristine West, national president, the American Legion Auxiliary; and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. He also referred to the American Legion Auxiliary's Woman of the Year award, which was awarded to First Lady Laura Bush; Executive Order 13214, President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, published in the *Federal Register* on May 31; and Public Law No. 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, approved November 30, 1999.

Remarks at the Dedication of the Mission San Jose Grist Mill in San Antonio

August 29, 2001

Thank you very much. *Sientese.* Looks like the Federal drought relief program is working. [*Laughter*] It's wonderful to be here in San Antonio. I want to thank Boo and Nancy for inviting Laura and me to come down for this event. I want the people of the country to be able to get a sense for the majesty and history and tradition of one of the Nation's greatest cities, and that's San Antonio, Texas. We're honored to be here to celebrate the opening of the grist mill at the Mission San Jose.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I appreciate you riding over from the convention center in the limousine, bringing me up to date on the good works that the people of San Antonio. I'm impressed, and obviously the voters of San Antonio were impressed, too, when they elected this young leader to a high office.

I'm honored to be traveling today with the National Parks Director, Fran Mainella, who I promoted—I pulled her out of the clutches of the Governor of Florida. [*Laughter*] She's going to do a fabulous job for the parks system in America. She's a great leader. I don't know if you've had a chance to meet Fran yet, but Fran, why don't you stand up. [*Applause*]

Steve Whitesell is—represents thousands of hard-working Government employees, who work hard to make our Park System the best in the world. Steve's assigned here in San Antonio. Fran tells me he's doing a heck of a good job. If she says he's doing a good job, that's good enough for me. But Steve, I want to thank you, and on behalf of the—literally hundreds of people that work hard to make our Park System accessible and available for all Americans, thanks for what you do.

Archbishop Flores, it's great to see you, sir. Thank you very much. Again, the Loefflers and the Haussers and all of you who are involved with this worthwhile project, I appreciate very much the chance to come and herald a couple of points.

One is that historic preservation is an important part of government, because it heralds our national heritage. It's important for people to know where we've come from, to understand where we're going. In order to understand Texas and San Antonio, it's important to understand the missions and the role they played in our State's history.

The missions not only were outposts of religion, which is an incredibly important part of our country; they were also the outposts of aid and comfort and help, which must always be a part of the fabric of America. I just went to the American Legion. I reminded people that the greatness of America is not in the halls of Government; it's in the hearts of our citizens. We're a compassionate Nation because we're compassionate people. And to me, the church and the mission represents that compassion. And we must preserve that which is a part of our national heritage. And so I want to thank the citizens of San Antonio for doing just that.

And the second thing to herald here today is the private-public partnership that exists with Los Compadres, who have raised over $2.5 million to provide support for the Park System here in San Antonio, to preserve the unique legacy of the missions and what they meant to the people from all walks of life. And so I want to thank the good folks. Fran tells me that what she is attempting to do is to rally what they call friends groups, groups such as Los Compadres, all across the country, to say to people that have got a stake in the National Park System in their neighborhood, do something about it. Follow the example of Los Compadres. Raise money to support the good people that are working to make the Park System the best it can possibly be.

So Laura and I are here to thank the citizens who understand the value of our heritage, understand the value of the mission system in San Antonio, and thank you for your generosity and vision and good work, not only on behalf of the people of Texas but on behalf of the millions of visitors who come to Texas, to be able to understand what our State has been all about.

And finally, it's important to be here because it's important for America to know the American story has been written and spoken

in different languages. That the unique thing about America is our ability to welcome people from different backgrounds into our Nation and to be able to assimilate around common values, values of family and faith, values of community and hard work. That's what America's really all about.

I'm getting ready to meet with Vicente Fox for my first state dinner next week. As you know, we've been in Crawford, Texas, on what they call a working vacation. [*Laughter*] Part of our working vacation has been to travel the Nation to talk about the values of the heartland. And one of the values of the heartland is family and faith and the willingness of people to help each other in need. And those values aren't just a part of one ethnic group in America. They're a part of every ethnic group in our country. And I can't wait to share my enthusiasm about our neighbors and our relations with Mexico with Vicente Fox. And these missions remind me about the important role that Mexico has played in the history, not only of Texas but our Nation.

And like the values of neighborliness, those values must extend beyond the Rio Bravo as well. It's important to be neighbor—friendly neighbors with people across the street. It's important to help a neighbor in need in America. But it's also important to live—understand we live in an international neighborhood. And Mexico is our neighbor, and we want Mexico to prosper. We want our neighbor to do well.

If you're in a neighborhood, don't you want all the neighborhoods—the neighbors to be successful? I do. And we want Mexico to be a successful country. And so we're—as we say in Texas, we're pulling for President Fox to succeed. We want the marketplace to take hold. We want people to find work close to home. But we understand that if you can make a living in America and you can't find a job in Mexico, family values don't stop at the southern border. People who share a desire to provide for their families, that exists all across the country and in our hemisphere. And so people are coming to work to provide food for their families. And that's why we want Mexico to succeed. It's in our national interest. It's in our national interest that relations are strong with our neighbor. Those are values that are important, not only at home but internationally. And so I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm about our relationship with our neighbor to our south.

These missions remind me of the visit this coming week. It's an important visit, because good foreign policy starts in your own neighborhood. And I'm pleased to report, we've got good foreign policy with our neighbor to the south. We've never had a better relationship, and we'll continue to work to make sure our relationship with our friends from Mexico are as strong as possible.

And the reason why it's important to preserve heritage is because it reminds us of the close link we've had with Mexico and the Hispanic culture for a long period of time. America is richer as a result of that culture.

I want to thank you all for giving us a chance to come. I'm looking forward to breaking the proverbial ribbon on the old grist mill. [*Laughter*] Again, I want to thank the Loefflers. I want to thank Boo. And I want to thank all the good citizens. "Thank you, Mr. President, for our tax refund." [*Laughter*] Thank you for holding that sign. [*Laughter*] If you're looking for something to do with your refund, you got a little extra money, give it to Los Compadres.

We're sure glad to be back in Texas. Our batteries are charged, and Laura and I are looking forward to going back to work tomorrow, to the Nation's Capital. But even though we've changed addresses, Texas will always be home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in front of Mission San Jose. In his remarks, he referred to Albert F. "Boo" Hausser, chairman, Los Compadres, and his wife, Meta; former Representative Tom Loeffler and his wife, Nancy; Mayor Edward D. Garza of San Antonio; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Stephen F. Whitesell, superintendent, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park; Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, Archdiocese of San Antonio; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Remarks on the Last Flight of Air Force One Tail Number 27000 in Waco, Texas

August 29, 2001

Any Air Force plane carrying the President bears the name Air Force One. This plane, tail number 27000, wore the name of Air Force One for 444 missions and more than 1 million miles. Today this plane carried a President for the last time, and soon it will be taking its last flight. It will carry no more Presidents, but it will carry forever the spirit of American democracy.

Tail number 27000 entered the service of the United States in December 1972 and first served President Richard Nixon and then President Ford. It flew former President Carter and former President—Vice President Mondale to Germany to greet 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran. My father flew it frequently, but the President who used it the most was Ronald Reagan. It was from this plane that President Reagan disembarked in Berlin in 1987 and demanded, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

And none of those flights would have been possible without the skill and commitment of the air crews of old 27000. For almost three decades, the pilot and crew of tail number 27000 have performed flawlessly, for not only Presidents but Vice Presidents and Cabinet Secretaries and Members of Congress. I'm delighted that former crew members can be with us today.

Ralph Albertazzie, President Nixon's pilot, is here; Colonel Bob Ruddick, the pilot for President Ronald Reagan; Danny Barr, who flew my dad; Chief Master Sergeant Joe Chappell, he was the chief flight engineer who rode the plane on its original voyage from the Boeing factory to Andrews Air Force Base; Chief Master Sergeant Charles Palmer; Chief Master Sergeant Denny Stump; Chief Master Sergeant Kim Johnson; Chief Master Sergeant Tim Kerwin; Chief Master Sergeant John Haigh; and of course, the man who flies me, Colonel Mark Tillman.

Between you, you have served seven Presidents, and you have served your Nation well. Thanks to you, American history has been a little less turbulent than it might have been.

Tail number 27000 flew two Presidents back home from Washington to California; it carried Richard Nixon in 1974 and Ronald Reagan in 1989. And today it will follow its distinguished passengers to its own retirement in California. A new hangar will be built for 27000 at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California. Visitors will soon be able to tour this aircraft. It will remind us of Ronald Reagan's achievements for peace and international security and permanently symbolize the soaring spirit of this great man and our great country. Soon it will take its final flight westward into history.

Thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at Texas State Technical College Waco. In his remarks, he referred to former General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7459—National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, 2001

August 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Experts predict that more than 23,000 cases will be diagnosed in 2001, with an estimated 13,900 women dying from the disease this year.

Ovarian cancer is very treatable when detected early, but only 25 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in the early stages. The vast majority of cases are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries, often because symptoms are easily confused with other diseases and because no reliable, easily administered screening tool exists.

When the disease is diagnosed in advanced stages, the chance of 5-year survival is only about 25 percent. Currently, 50 percent of

women diagnosed with ovarian cancer die from it within 5 years. Among African-American women, only 48 percent survive 5 years or more.

Early detection of this disease remains the best way to save women's lives. Symptoms may include abdominal pressure or bloating, persistent digestive problems, excessive fatigue, and sometimes abnormal bleeding. Women also should be aware that risk factors are higher for those who are over 50 years of age, who have a personal or family history of ovarian, breast, or colon cancer, and who have not borne a child.

National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month serves as an important time to recognize Federally funded research efforts by the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program. Their work has achieved great strides, and my Administration is committed to continuing funding of research that will decrease the high mortality from ovarian cancer and ultimately prevent the disease. At the same time, the medical community and nonprofit groups are working together to create more awareness about the disease and spotlight the need for continued research into prevention, early detection tools, advanced therapies, and possible cures.

During this special observance, I commend the scientists, physicians, and other medical and health professionals who are working to advance knowledge and understanding of ovarian cancer. I also encourage all Americans to learn more about the disease and the importance of early detection. Doing so can save lives and protect the health and well-being of countless women.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:52 a.m., September 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 5.

Remarks on Launching the New White House Web Site and an Exchange With Reporters

August 31, 2001

The President. Jane, thanks, you did a great job. And thank all the folks who worked on it. I'm very impressed. And I think the people who access this Web site will be impressed, as well.

A couple of points I want to make: One, I appreciate so very much the Web site being available in more than just one language. There are a lot of Spanish-speaking folks in America, and they'll be able to access the Web site. And that's important because I want all Americans to understand that our priorities coming into the fall will be our economy, education, opportunity, and security. And concerned citizens can read about those four categories, those four priorities of the administration, across the Web page.

I was particularly impressed that Barney plays a major role—[*laughter*]—in helping the young understand what's going on in Washington, DC. I say that somewhat in jest, but I'm very serious about the need for all of us involved in Government to do all we can to involve our citizenry in government. There is a lot of cynicism about politics in Washington, DC, and it seems like to me the more accessible Washington becomes, the more likely it is people will participate in the process.

And clearly, one way to do so is across the Web page. I appreciate so very much, Jane, your artistic talents and your creativity and the team that worked with you, as well. This page will be updated on a regular basis, obviously, as the news unfolds. But we'll be looking for more imaginative ways to continue

peoples' interest in accessing the White House.

Finally, it's good to be here with the First Lady. As we say in Texas, she cut her teeth in libraries, and she, too, is concerned about making sure that information flows freely and that, as importantly, people are able to read what comes up on the screen.

As I said, education, the economy, opportunity, and security will be our priorities. And one of the things that I hope Congress does is work and act quickly on the education bill and get it to my desk as soon as they get back. It's an important piece of legislation. The House has passed a version; the Senate has passed a version. And I know that the leadership has had their teams working to resolve differences over the last couple of weeks. And I'm confident that if the will is there, they can get a bill to me quickly. I look forward to signing one.

I'd be glad to answer a few questions.

Funding the Legislative Agenda

Q. Sir, you talk about your priorities. Are you confident that the money will be there to fund all those priorities?

The President. Yes, I am, so long as Congress doesn't overspend.

Yes, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Little League

Q. What is your reaction to this 12- or 14-year-old boy who—it turns out he is 14 years old, the Little Leaguer?

The President. Well, my answer is, I'm disappointed that adults would fudge the boy's age. I wasn't disappointed in his fastball and his slider; the guy was awesome. I mean, he's a great pitcher. But I was sorely disappointed that people felt like they could send in a false age—particularly when it comes to Little League baseball, of all places.

And so Little League, I'm sure, will take the appropriate actions.

Q. What do you think the appropriate action is?

The President. I guess disqualification of the team. I'm sure there are rules at the Little League level. Laura and I went to the Little League World Series. It was an amazing event, by the way. As I told them, I said, really, when I was a kid, I never dreamt that I would be standing in front of a bunch of Little Leaguers as President, but I did dream about making it to Williamsport as a Little League player.

Mexico and Immigration Policy

Q. Are you disappointed, sir, that you were unable to come up with more concrete agreement with Mexico on immigration?

The President. I'm thrilled at the progress we're making with Mexico. What you'll see is that our administrations, mine and that of Vicente Fox, are cooperating better than any administrations in the past on a wide range of issues. And I'm very pleased with the progress we're making. The immigration issue is one that is a complex issue. We've made progress on principles.

And President Fox knows that the issue will require more than just the administrations' involvement; it requires a willing Congress to address the issue. So we'll be discussing principles, starting with, people need to be treated well and treated respectfully. And then it makes sense for the United States to help match willing—a willing employee with a willing employer. It's in our Nation's interest, that if someone's looking for a worker, that we figure out how to combine the two.

And we made great progress. I was briefed this morning by Colin Powell and John Ashcroft on their meetings with their counterparts in Mexico. I think it's safe to say, without hyperbole, that the interaction between our administrations is the best it's ever been, of any administrations in the past.

High Speed Internet Access

Q. Mr. President, what role should the Federal Government play in helping deploy high speed Internet access?

The President. Helping?

Q. Deploy high speed Internet access?

The President. Well, a lot of that is going to be taking place through the market. And technology is such that areas that might not get access quickly as a result of no economies of purchase, or economies of scale, will be able to have Internet access.

I think, for example, of Crawford, Texas. It's a place where you're not going to generally get a lot of fiber optics, although I think there may be some there as a result of Laura's and my presence. Hopefully that high speed access will come as a result of—over the air as opposed to through fiber optics. And once we get over-the-air high speed access, then a lot of rural America that heretofore hasn't had access will get it. The technologies are evolving.

One of my concerns, of course, is the economic slowdown will perhaps slow down some of the progress made, as far as high speed access. And we've done something about it. I'm going to remind Congress that they need not overspend and should not overspend. It's going to affect economic growth; that all of us in Washington need to be thinking about how to grow the economy.

And I've laid out an economic growth plan, starting with tax relief. I hear there are some up here that are now second-guessing tax relief, and surely they're not advocating a tax increase, because if they are, they will find mighty resistance in the White House. Plus, that's bad economics. So for those who criticize the tax relief plan, the next step is, what do you have in mind? And if it's a tax increase, that would be bad for America.

Good to see everybody. Thank you. Fournier, we missed you in Crawford.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Executive Office of the President Library in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to White House Webmaster Jane Cook; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 2001

August 31, 2001

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing Labor Day on September 3, 2001.

The great strength of our Nation's economy is our workforce. From teachers and entrepreneurs to factory workers and scientists, hardworking Americans serve in a wide and diverse range of professions that are vital to protecting our health, well-being, and quality of life. By providing important goods and services and building and generating wealth, American workers help lay the foundation for our continued progress and advancement.

Falling on the first Monday in September, Labor Day serves as a time to honor and celebrate the achievements of our workforce and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every American worker. Workers must have the education and training they need to succeed, and they are entitled to expect fair treatment from their employers. We owe workers the chance to build a nest egg that will help them maintain a high standard of living in their retirement years. The last barriers to full participation in the workplace for Americans with disabilities must be removed. The Office of the 21st Century Work Force at the Department of Labor and my New Freedom Initiative reflect my Administration's commitment to furthering these important goals.

As our Nation observes Labor Day this year, I salute every hardworking American for your role in helping this country to grow and thrive and for your innovation, creativity, and energy on the job. I also encourage you as you strive to keep in balance the demands of work alongside vital responsibilities to family, friends, and the community. Your efforts carry on the proud traditions of past generations of American workers and demonstrate your adaptability and enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Best wishes for a memorable observance.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to West Mifflin, PA, and in

the afternoon, they traveled to South Williamsport, PA. In the evening, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 27

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen Burton Clarke to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of the Interior.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 17–18.

August 28

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia to Washington for a working visit on October 5.

August 29

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Antonio, TX, and in the afternoon, they traveled to Waco, TX. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the Presidential Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans: Everett Alvarez, Ross Anthony, Terry Clark, Mack Fleming, Susan Hosek, Robert Krasner, Anthony McCann, Arthur Porter, Susan Schwartz, Robert Spanogle, Robert Wallace, Harry Walters, and Josh Weston.

August 30

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rockwell A. Schnabel to be U.S. Representative to the European Union, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy L. Austin to be Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

August 31

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Wisconsin and Michigan on Monday, September 3, to participate in Labor Day events.

The White House announced that the President and President Vicente Fox of Mexico will travel together to Toledo, OH, on Thursday, September 6.

The President announced that he will make a recess appointment for Peter J. Hurtgen to stay on as Member and Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) until the President's nominees to the Board are confirmed.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 27

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Anna M. Perez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Counselor to the National Security Adviser for Communications at the National Security Council

Released August 28

Statement by the Press Secretary: Georgian President Shevardnadze to Visit Washington

Released August 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Memorandum on Presidential Determination on the Proposed Protocol Amending the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

August 31, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy

Subject: Presidential Determination on the Proposed Protocol Amending the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

I have considered the proposed Protocol Amending the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed at Washington on May 30, 1980, along with the views, recommendations, and statements of the interested agencies.

I have determined that the performance of the Protocol will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Pursuant to section 123 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b)), I hereby approve the proposed Protocol and authorize you to arrange for its execution.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Continued Deployment of United States Forces to East Timor

August 31, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of March 2, 2001, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in support of East Timor's transition to independence. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed regarding U.S. Armed Forces in East Timor.

As you are aware, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1272 established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on October 25, 1999. The UNTAET's mandate includes providing security and maintaining law and order throughout East Timor, establishing an effective administration, ensuring the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting capacity-building for self-government. The United States currently contributes three military observers to UNTAET. These personnel are assigned to the United Nations pursuant to the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79–264) and operate under U.N. operational control.

The United States also maintains a military presence in East Timor that is separate from UNTAET. This includes the U.S. Support Group East Timor (USGET), comprised of approximately 20 U.S. personnel, including a security detachment, which facilitates and coordinates U.S. military activities in East Timor, and a rotational presence of U.S. forces through temporary deployments to East Timor. These rotational presence operations include monthly U.S. Navy ship visits, and deployments of military medical and engineering teams that conduct humanitarian

and civic assistance activities in areas critical to East Timor's citizens. United States forces assigned to USGET and those conducting rotational presence operations operate under U.S. command and control and U.S. rules of engagement. The United Nations, and Australia as a leading contributor to UNTAET, have indicated that East Timor has benefited greatly from U.S. military deployments to and engagement activities in East Timor. Both the United Nations and Australia strongly support continued U.S. presence in East Timor.

At this point, U.S. rotational presence operations are envisioned to continue through December 2001. We are reviewing options for our military presence in 2002. My objective is to reduce the rotational presence operations, as well as to redeploy USGET, as circumstances permit, giving due regard to the situation on the ground and the views of our friends and allies in the region, including Australia.

I have authorized the continuation of this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 1, 2001

Good morning. On Monday, Americans will celebrate Labor Day. It's a day to salute the most productive person on Earth, the American worker.

Whether you work on a farm, in an office, or on a factory floor, whether you design computer chips, build houses, or teach school, whether you're just starting out or whether you built your own company from nothing, your Nation thanks you for your labor.

American productivity has risen so high because Americans work hard and because they work smart. When Congress recognized the Labor Day holiday in 1894, most of this country's jobs demanded only a strong back and willing hands. Today, good jobs demand math skills, technical knowledge, and fluent reading.

The progress of our economy and the future of our children starts in the classroom. And that's why education must be our Nation's highest priority.

At this time of year, many of our children have already returned to school, and others are about to return. Congress, too, is returning from its summer recess, and it left behind some unfinished business: my education reform plan. Different versions of this plan have passed the House and the Senate. Congress should now produce a single bill that incorporates the strong reforms I have proposed.

It is vital that this bill uphold clear standards, require regular testing, and provide real accountability. Our children need the help my education plan will provide, a new commitment to reading and early intervention to catch those who fall behind.

Our educators need to get ready for the new accountability era that's coming to our schools. The more swiftly Congress acts, the more time educators will have to prepare. If Congress delays to play political games, they put another generation of students at risk.

The education reform bill I support offers new resources to schools. In return, it calls for improvements in math and reading, proven by testing, from every school in America. Higher standards will lead to higher quality education; yet, meeting those standards will require careful planning in local districts. Every day counts, and the sooner we start, the better. We want to start adopting reforms this school year so they can be up and running by the beginning of next school year. We've made good progress; now we must finish the job.

There is always something exciting about the new school year, the eager faces, the new books and shoes, scrubbed hallways. It's a

new start and a new opportunity. That's true for students; it's true for teachers; and it's true for Congress.

I'm looking forward to welcoming Congress back to Washington and back to work. Together we can make this a year of accomplishment. I challenge the Congress: Send me a good education reform bill to sign, and send it quickly, so that our children will return next year to schools that prepare them for good jobs through many Labor Days to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:40 p.m. on August 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Labor Day Greeting to the Nation

September 2, 2001

Hello, and happy Labor Day. On this day we celebrate the hard work of Americans. Teachers and doctors, farmers and factory workers, policemen and engineers, bankers and mechanics—the working men and women of America are a model for the world.

Work is important to our human dignity. Everyone should know the satisfaction that comes from working hard and seeing results from your labor. That is why we need a strong and growing economy that creates jobs for all.

Americans everywhere have reason to be proud this Labor Day. We also have reasons to be profoundly grateful. We live in a blessed land, strong and free, at peace in the world, where we are able to enjoy the fruits of our labor and pursue our dreams. We should never forget what a rare and hopeful time in history this is. May God continue to bestow His blessings upon our land.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

NOTE: The greeting was videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. on July 30 in the Map Room for later broadcast. It was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 30 but was embargoed for release until 4 p.m. on September 2. It was fed by satellite to networks and local television stations on August 31. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this greeting.

Remarks to the Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters in Kaukauna, Wisconsin

September 3, 2001

Thank you all. I brought the A team with me. [*Laughter*] I tell you, I can't tell you how proud I am of the job that Laura is doing. Both of us are thrilled to be back in the great State of Wisconsin, in the neighborhood of the mighty Green Bay Packers. I'm old enough to remember the Ice Bowl—[*laughter*]—but I shouldn't bring up a sore subject—[*laughter*]—well, I mean, a fine subject. [*Laughter*] At any rate, we're thrilled to be here.

Doug, I want to thank you for a couple of things. First of all, I want to thank you for your leadership. Doug is a plain-spoken fellow. There's no question where he stands—[*laughter*]—which is good. There's also no question of where his heart is, and his heart is with the working men and women of the country, and I appreciate that, Doug.

There are a lot of talkers in Washington, DC, a lot of fancy-footwork people, but there's also some doers. And Doug puts his mind to getting something done; he can get it done. And as he said, "Sometimes we agree; sometimes we don't." But I will tell you, we'll always answer his phone; we'll always listen to what he has to say.

He brought a severe problem to my administration that relates to the carpenters and hard-working people of America. It had to do with pension benefits, that the pension plans weren't fair for the carpenters and for the working people. So we sat down with Doug and his folks and worked with some Members of Congress. And part of the tax relief plan that we got passed is a part that Doug had a lot to do with, which is pension reform, 401(k) reform, IRA reform—reform that's good for everybody in America who works with their hands, who works every single day.

Doug McCarron is a can-do guy, and I'm honored to call him friend, and I'm honored to be able to work with him on behalf of the working people of America. Thank you, sir.

I want to thank Jim Moore. I want to thank old Jim Moore. [*Laughter*] First person he introduced me to was his wife, and the second person he introduced me to was his mother—[*laughter*]—which reminds me of one of my favorite stories about my mother.

I had just been elected Governor of Texas. Laura and I were in a central Texas town called Fredericksburg, Texas. Mother and Dad were going to be there to pay homage to the folks that had fought in the Pacific Theater in World War II. And by the way, all the World War II vets not only deserve a sense of thanks from us, but I'm proud to announce we're going to build a World War II memorial in Washington, DC.

At any rate, you may relate to this story, Jim. I got up, and I said, "Welcome to central Texas," to my dad, and everybody gave me a nice round of applause and gave him a nice round of applause. And I said, "It's also a privilege to welcome my mother." And before I could get the words out of my mouth, people went wild. [*Laughter*] And I said, "Mother, it's clear the people of central Texas still love you, and so do I. But you're still telling me what to do, after 50 years." [*Laughter*] And a guy in a cowboy hat strode right out in the middle of Main Street, Fredericksburg, and he said, "And you better listen to her, too, boy." [*Laughter*] I asked Jim if he was listening to Evelyn—your mother's name is Evelyn? Yes, he said he's still listening to Evelyn. [*Laughter*] I'm still listening to Bar. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Elaine for traveling with me, too. Elaine is the Secretary of Labor. She's doing a fabulous job. There is another member of my Cabinet who isn't here, but comes from the great State of Wisconsin, is doing a fabulous job—you trained him well—and that's Tommy Thompson.

Tommy has been replaced by a good man, and he's with us today, the Governor of the great State of Wisconsin, Scott McCallum, and his wife, Laurie. Thank you, Scott.

You sent a good Congressman from here up to Washington. He's a good, solid fellow. He's down to Earth. He cares deeply about the folks in his district in Wisconsin, and that's Mark Green.

As well traveling with us today, and we're honored to have him with us, is a fine fellow, as well. He's got a lot of experience in the Congress. He represents the folks in his district well, from Wisconsin, that's Tom Petri. Thank you, Tom, for coming. I appreciate it.

And I want to thank you all for coming today. Thanks for taking time out of your Labor Day to come and say hello to Laura and me. We are honored to be here. We're honored to be able to deliver a Labor Day message here in Wisconsin, particularly in the midst of—in a hall of a group of hard-working folks that really make America go.

Labor Day, as Doug mentioned, is a day in which we celebrate truly one of the great strengths of the country, and that's the working people of America. The thing that makes our Nation unique is that American people work hard to provide for their families. They're not afraid of hard work. They welcome hard work. The productivity of America is high because of the working people.

And today our Nation takes a moment to say thanks: Thanks for what all you do; thanks for those who are on the—who carry a hammer; thanks for the police; thanks for the schoolteachers; thanks for the firefighters; thanks to people from all walks of life who work all across our country. It's fitting we honor the strength of America.

I must say that our life in Washington is exciting. It's been a fantastic 8 months. We've got some problems on the horizon. One of my jobs is not to shirk problems; it's to deal with them. And on this Labor Day, I've got to tell you, I'm concerned about working families. I'm concerned our economy is not as strong as it should be.

For the past 12 months our growth in our economy has been anemic, at best. It's been a paltry one percent over 12 months. That's not good enough for America. You know, they talk about unemployment statistics, and they're relatively good so far. But if you've been laid off of work, you're 100-percent unemployed, and I worry about it. I worry about the families affected. I'm concerned about the children whose dad or mom may not be

able to find work right now. And I intend to do something about it. I intend—and it started with doing something strong for our economy, and that's taking your money and sending it back to where it belongs, the taxpayers of America.

Make no mistake about it: Tax relief was the right thing to do at the right time. The rebate checks are now hitting; people have got more money to spend or invest, the very things needed to make sure that we sustain economic vitality and growth.

There are some second-guessers in Washington. There are folks who, on the one hand, wish they had more money to spend. But I'm going to tell you, we've got ample money in Washington, DC, to spend if we set our priorities, if we do what you do on a regular basis—say, "Here's my budget. Here are the priorities." If Washington would only prioritize, we've got plenty of money to spend in Washington, DC.

Like any piece of policy, there will be second-guessers, and you'll hear them. They'll say, "Oh, we shouldn't have had tax relief." My question to them is, do they want to raise taxes? My question to the critics is, if you're against tax relief, does that mean you're for now raising peoples' taxes? The worst thing that could happen to our economy, the absolute worst thing, is to raise the taxes on the working people.

There is a fundamental difference of opinion in Washington, and it starts with folks in Washington forgetting whose money we're spending. All that money is not the Government's money; it's the working people's money.

It's the right thing at the right time to make sure our economy grows. And even though people are hurting today—and I know they are—I'm confident in the basic underpinnings of the American economy. I'm confident in the productivity levels of our people. I'm confident that we'll recover. I'm confident that we'll have sustained growth. And I'm confident in the values, the hard work and values, that make our Nation—the values of hard work that make our Nation unique.

There's another issue that we've been working on that I want to talk to you about that's incredibly important for you and your jobs, and that's energy. We don't have enough of it. We import a lot of energy from parts of the world that are unstable. And we need more energy, and we need to do a better job of conserving the energy we have. And I applaud the conservation efforts that take place all across America.

And we're doing our part at the Federal level. We've told the military to increase savings of energy. We're beginning to use more cost-effective technologies to save energy. But the thing I appreciate Doug and the people who've got common sense in Washington, DC, is they also understand that we need to find energy in an environmentally friendly way. We, for the first time, have got an energy policy that's supported by members of the unions, because they understand good energy policy equals good jobs in America. And that's what we ought to be asking: How can our people find good jobs?

Part of a good economic plan is to make sure we've got a good education policy. And one of the reasons we came here is because of the training center that's here. It's good to see a union not only care about health care or pension benefits or wages but a union that cares about educating its workforce. This is a thoughtful union; this is a progressive union that understands.

So I appreciate what Doug and Jim are doing, and I hope you appreciate what's taking place in Washington when it comes to educating our children. We're working hard to reform public education. And let me tell you what the philosophy behind our reforms are.

The philosophy behind our reforms is this: We trust the local people to run their own schools; we trust the people of Wisconsin. I don't believe in federalizing education. I know that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to educating our children.

Now, having said that, I also believe we've got to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. Now, when you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results. We need to raise standards all across America. And the Federal Government can help. The Federal Government can help.

And I also believe in results. I'm a results-oriented person. It seems like, to me, it makes sense that if you spend money, you

ought to ask the question, "What are the results?" If we spend money at the Federal level trying to teach children, we ought to say, "Can they learn?" And so part of the reform is that we are going to insist upon strong accountability measures.

It says that States will measure because we want to know. We want to know whether or not children can read or write and add and subtract. That's what we want to know. That's a fundamental question we ought to be asking all across America. You in Wisconsin need to be demanding a return for your taxpayers' money. You ought to be asking the schools whether or not they're teaching the children to read. You ought to be demanding they use a curriculum based upon phonics, so that children can learn.

We got a good bill out of the House; we got a good bill out of the Senate. And I hope when the Members come back tomorrow, they don't play politics with an education bill, and they get it on my desk so I can sign it so the local folks can start planning for the school year coming up.

Good tax policy is important for our country, good energy policy, good education policy. We need to teach children more than just reading and writing and adding and subtracting. We need to teach them the right values. We need to not be afraid. We need to teach them right from wrong.

One of the reasons I love coming to a Labor Day rally is because so many of you brought your families. And let me tell you, one of the great values of America is our family, family life.

I think that one of my most important jobs is to remind the moms and dads of America that the most important job, if you happen to be a—well, since you are a mom or a dad, one of the most important jobs you'll ever have is loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. That that is the most important way you can make a contribution to our country, is to tell your children you love them and not be afraid to teach them the difference between right and wrong.

I talked about the strength of the country being the willingness of our folks to work hard. But there's another strength, too, and that's in the hearts and souls of Americans. We're a compassionate nation based upon fantastic values, a nation that's strong because our people are strong, a nation that's decent because our people are decent, a nation that's compassionate because we've got folks who will walk right across the street and say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" It doesn't matter whether you have a union card or not a union card; you love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, because there's a higher calling amongst many in America.

Now, on this Labor Day, we've got to remember the values not only of hard work but tried and true values of honoring your mother and dad and telling the truth, bringing integrity to whatever you do, and loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

This is a great land, and I'm honored to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I'm honored to be here in Wisconsin. Laura and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and your support. Thank you for coming out today to say hello. May God bless the American worker, and may God bless America.

Thank you very much. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:42 a.m. in the Hands-On Shop at the Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; James Moore, executive secretary-treasurer, Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters, and his wife, Jeanne; the President's mother, Barbara Bush; and Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin.

Remarks on Departure From Green Bay, Wisconsin

September 3, 2001

Happy Labor Day. Thank you all for coming out to say hello. Every time I've come to Wisconsin, I've been greeted by the friendliest folks that I've ever met. I'm so honored that you would take time out of your Labor Day celebrations to come and say hello to Laura and me. I look forward to saying hello to you after I give you a couple of remarks.

First, let me say something about your Governor. I appreciate so very much his hospitality. I know you appreciate his leadership. You've got a good one as Governor of Wisconsin, and make sure you send him back here in 2 years' time. And like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] We're honored to be here with the First Lady of Wisconsin.

And of course, I'm honored to be traveling with the First Lady of the United States. I'm really proud of the job that Laura is doing. She's spending a lot of time heralding literacy all across America. And she's also working on making sure we convince folks to spend time in the classroom. We need more teachers in America. We need to herald those who teach. We need to welcome new folks into the classrooms all across the country. And Laura's doing a great job of promoting the noble profession of teaching.

I'm also here with your fantastic United States Congressmen. I can't tell you what a great job Mark Green is doing on behalf—[*applause*]. We're also traveling today with Congressman Tom Petri, who is right south of here. I appreciate you reducing your immigration standards and letting him in. [*Laughter*]

I put together a fabulous Cabinet. A President can't do the job alone; it requires putting together a good team. And I brought one of my Cabinet officials with me. After all, today we're celebrating Labor Day, and so the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, is traveling with me. Please welcome Elaine Chao. [*Applause*]

By the way, my Cabinet has got a good man from Wisconsin in it. Your former Governor is doing a fabulous job, and that's Tommy Thompson.

Today is Labor Day. We had the honor of going down the road to meet with some carpenters and joiners, to thank them for their hard work, to remind our fellow Americans that the strength of our country is the fact that we've got hard-working people all across our land, people who aren't afraid of labor, people who work hard to enhance their communities.

Traveling with me today is a good, solid leader. He's the president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, a man named Doug McCarron. I'm proud to call him friend; the Carpenters are proud to call him boss; and he's a good American. Doug, thank you for coming.

I hope Coach Sherman noticed what kind of jacket I was wearing. A while ago, I had the honor of meeting Coach Sherman and members of the mighty Green Bay Packer team as they were working out at the stadium. He asked me if I was old enough to remember the Ice Bowl. I told him, "Just barely." [*Laughter*]

But Coach, I can't thank you enough for being here, and I want to thank Bob Harlan, as well. I wish you all the best this season. You've got a good man as the head coach of the Green Bay Packers.

And I want to thank the Bishop for being here as well. I'm so honored you're here, sir. Thank you very much for coming. And I want to thank my fellow Americans for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

We've been there 8 months. It has been a fantastic 8 months to represent our country. And I believe we're making a difference. I told the American people, if you gave me a chance to be President, I would work hard to get some things accomplished. I would work hard to try to change the tone in Washington, DC, to get rid of all the bitterness and all the ugliness and finger-pointing and name-calling. I felt that it wasn't serving our Nation well, that people would rather tear each other down than lift our Nation up.

And so I believe we're making progress on changing the tone in Washington, DC. It's going to require a lot of work. Old habits are hard to break. But one way to do it is to focus on getting things done. It's to say to the people up there in Washington, "Let's get some things done on behalf of the American people." And I'm proud to report we're making progress.

I had the honor of signing the first major tax relief in a generation. When I came to Wisconsin all those times during the campaign, I said, "Give me a chance, and I'll take your message of tax relief to Washington, DC." And guess what? It worked. They heard your voice. Mark Green didn't require much convincing. Evidently some of the Members of the Senate didn't hear too well. [*Laughter*]

But nevertheless, we did the right thing. Tax relief was the right thing for our country. Our economy is not clicking on all cylinders. As some of you all know, for the past 12 months our economic growth has been anemic at best. We haven't achieved the kind of growth levels necessary to keep our folks working. There's people in Wisconsin who hurt because they laid off their—they've been laid off their job. There are families who are hurting, and I understood that was taking place.

And one thing the Federal Government can do is to stimulate the economy, and we believe the best stimulus package is to give people their own money back. So tax relief was important for economic growth and economic vitality.

But it's also an important philosophical statement. You see, we said loud and clear that once the Federal Government meets its needs, we ought to trust the people with their own money. It's a fundamental question of, who do you trust? Do you trust the Government, or do you trust the people with their own money? I'd rather have the Wisconsin families—[*applause*].

So those checks are hitting home. I saw a sign coming in that said, "Mr. President, thanks for the $600." I felt like stopping the limo—[*laughter*]—and giving her a big hug, but reminding her, it wasn't the Government's money to begin with. It's not the Government's money. It's your money.

I'm proud of the tax relief package. It's going to make sense for our economy. It says loud and clear, we trust you with your own money. And by the way, there's a good feature in the tax relief plan that makes a lot of sense for Wisconsin farmers, and that is we're finally getting rid of the death tax, so people can pass their farm from one generation to the next without getting taxed twice.'

We have been working hard to fulfill another promise, and that's the promise of making sure every child in America gets a good education. A domestic priority of mine is to make sure every child—I mean every child—learns to read. I fully understand a literate child is one more likely to be able to learn. And yet, we've got to admit there's too many children that can't read in America.

Now, lest you think I forgot where I came from, inherent in the education bill that I proposed is this solid principle: I trust local people to run their schools. I would rather the people of Green Bay, Wisconsin, make the decisions on the public education than people in Washington, DC. So we passed legislation that has bills—has power coming out of Washington to empower local people to run the schools.

But inherent also in the education bill, as passed the House and passed the Senate—not only says we're going to spend more money, we're going to spend it more wisely. And in return for more money, we're going to ask the question, can our children read and write and add and subtract? We expect there to be accountability because by measuring, we will know. By measuring, we will make sure we correct problems early, before it's too late. By measuring, we will make sure that no child gets simply shuffled through the system.

And so we've got a plan that makes sense. And I call upon the House, and I call upon the Senate conferees to get together and get that education bill on my desk so I can sign it, so that public education fulfills its hope and promise for every child in America.

Dick Cheney and I made this promise. And by the way, he's doing just fine. I couldn't have picked a better man as Vice President of the United States than Dick Cheney.

We say this: We say we'll have a foreign policy that's clear-eyed and steady and realistic. And good foreign policy starts with making sure our military is well funded and that there's high morale amongst those who wear the uniform. And we're making good on that promise.

It starts with making sure our troops get paid well and are housed better. Morale begins with the understanding that those who wear the uniform deserve the utmost respect and the utmost help by their Federal Government. I signed an appropriations bill that does just that.

I also requested the highest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. A strong defense means we'll have a more peaceful world.

And I call upon the appropriators in Washington, DC, to let the country know the level of defense appropriations and the level of education appropriations early in the process, rather than late. These are national priorities, and they ought to be priorities of our appropriators in the Halls of Congress, as well.

And finally, we're making good progress—I want to thank Congressman Green for his work—on what I call a faith-based initiative. It's an initiative that recognizes there are still people who hurt in America. There are people who suffer. There are people who are trapped in addiction, in neighborhoods without hope. And yet, this Nation doesn't believe in leaving people behind. And so I proposed to the United States Congress that we capture the true strength of the country, and the strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We are a compassionate nation because we are a compassionate people. And there are faith-based programs and community-based programs all across our country that ask the question, "What can I do to make my neighborhood a better place? What can I do to love a child who needs love? What can I do to help a citizen who needs help?"

And the Federal Government ought not to fear faith-based programs. We ought to welcome faith-based programs. We ought not to discriminate against those programs based upon a universal call to love a neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

We passed a good bill out of the House. I call upon the United States Senate to get the faith-based initiative moving, to make sure that no person in America is left out of the great American experience.

No, we're making good progress, I believe, in Washington, DC. It's because I'm listening to the people. I understand the strength of the country lies not in the halls of our Government but lies in the hearts and souls of our people all across America. And that's why it's such a huge honor to be your President. It's an honor to be a President of a nation that's been blessed by great values and blessed with wonderful people.

Laura and I love the challenge. We respect the process, but we also understand we have responsibilities. And the responsibilities inherent in our job are to call upon the best of every American, and that begins by making sure that we set the right example for young and old alike. It's a challenge I accept. It's a challenge I welcome. And it's a challenge that—I am bolstered because of the prayers and thoughts of people such as yourselves.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. at Austin Straubel International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin, and his wife, Laurie; Mike Sherman, head coach, and Bob Harlan, president and chief executive officer, Green Bay Packers; and the Most Reverend Robert J. Banks, Bishop of Green Bay.

Remarks at a Teamsters Barbecue in Detroit, Michigan

September 3, 2001

The President. Thank you, all. Larry Brennan said there hadn't been a President come to a Teamster rally in 50 years—only he's been long enough to know if that's 50 years. [*Laughter*] I appreciate it.

Listen, I want to thank you all very much. First of all, thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for being so nice to my wife. Yes, I brought my wife. You think I travel without her, you're crazy. [*Laughter*] Best decision I ever made was to ask Laura to marry me. There's a lot of folks wondering whether the best decision she ever made was to say yes. [*Laughter*]

But we are honored to be here on Labor Day to celebrate the American worker. And it's a good place to be, right here in Michigan, where people work hard, with the Teamsters, who made an historical record of setting the example of how to work hard.

I want to thank the working families who are here to greet us, and I want to thank the working families all across America, who make our Nation unique and different. I mean, we're different because our folks aren't afraid of hard work, and they know what it means to support family, and they know what it means to make their communities better.

So thanks for having us and giving us a chance to celebrate. I appreciate the officials

who are here, your Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the mayor of the great city of Detroit, all out here to say a few nice words to the President. It makes me feel good on Labor Day.

I also want to thank Bill Black for his hospitality and the leadership of this local for letting me come. Some folks might have thought they took a risk inviting a Republican here, but I stand before you—I stand before you as a proud American, first and foremost.

And I'll tell you, another proud American is traveling with me—we just came from the Green Bay, Wisconsin, area, and Doug McCarron is the president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Where's Doug? There he is. He gave them a stemwinder this morning. But we were there to celebrate the carpenters of America, as well.

And I understand we don't necessarily agree on every single issue, but we agree to listen. And I agree about this, that you've got a good man running the Teamsters in Jimmy Hoffa. I don't know if that will help him or hurt him in his reelection campaign. [*Laughter*] But let me tell you something about him. Like Doug, if he's got an issue, he brings it forward in a straightforward way with the union workers—with the union workers in mind.

And we listen. We listen. Ours is an administration that answers the phone. We don't ask the question, "How did you vote?" We ask the question, "What's on your mind? Is it good for America?" And that's why we're working together on some key issues.

Let me tell you another thing about Jimmy Hoffa. He's running a good union. And in an above-board way, in an above-board way. And make no mistake about it, people are beginning to notice, particularly in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

Now, let me tell you, I'm a little concerned. I'm proud of our workers; I'm concerned about the fact that our economy is just bumping along. This is a Labor Day where we can't celebrate a booming economy. For the last 12 months—let me repeat—for the last 12 months the economy has been way too slow. And people are hurting. And people are suffering. And there are families who wonder about how they're going to feed their kids. And I understand that, and we've got help in Washington.

But the best thing we can do is ask the question, how do we make sure our economy grows? And I came up with this answer: Our economy can grow best when we give people their own money back, when we give the hard-working Americans their own money back in the form of rebates, so that you spend it. And that's what's going to help this economy rebound. The Federal Government must keep a lid on spending and remember that when the American consumer spends, it is the best way to kick-start a soft economy. The biggest threat to economic vitality and economic growth is if Congress overspends. And that's why I'm glad to have Peter Hoekstra on my side. He not only supported tax relief for the American families; he understands that Congress and Washington should not overspend.

Now, I came in, I saw a sign that said, "Thank you for the rebate, Mr. President," as if that's my money to give back. But the person holding the sign, I appreciate the thanks——

Audience member. It's my money.

The President. Yes. It's not the Government's money. It's the hard-working Teamsters' money. It's your money to begin with.

There's another issue that we're working on, and Jimmy Hoffa was on national TV yesterday talking about it. And that's energy. He understands good, sound energy policy means jobs for American workers. And if we run out of energy, if we become more beholden to foreign sources of energy, it's going to be hard on the working families in America. So he stood strong, as did Doug, with our administration as we developed the first energy plan in a long period of time for this Government.

Now, energy means we've got to conserve better, and we will. But it also means that when we can find exploration activities in our own country, it makes sense to do so. It not only means independence; it means jobs. And I appreciate the leadership that Jimmy Hoffa took on good, sound energy policy in America.

We're working hard on good education policy. One of the reasons I like to come to picnics like this is people bring their families.

They bring their families to say hello to the President. They bring their families because they want to celebrate their off days with their kids. That's what I like. And I understand a lot of folks in this audience understand the most important priority you have—and not necessarily driving a truck—but if you have a child, it's to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. The most important thing you can do—it doesn't matter what your job is, what your political party is. If you're a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your child and let them know that on an everyday basis. In order to make sure America works the way we want it to, we've got to have an education policy that starts at home, with moms and dads setting a good example for their children, surrounding their children with love, giving their children confidence.

And then we've got to make sure we've got a public school system that works. And that's why we're proposing education reform that insists upon local control of schools but at the same time that says, we're going to measure to find out whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we're going to praise the teachers. But if we find schools that won't teach and won't change, we'll demand something different. There are no second-rate children in this country called America, and there are no second-rate dreams, as far as I'm concerned.

We're going to be focusing on the economy and education. And another issue I'm focusing on is security. And for those of you who serve the United States in the military, I want to thank you for your service. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, let me assure you I understand a strong military is needed to keep the peace.

And finally, we'll be talking about opportunity. Opportunity not only means good education; opportunity means not only letting people keep their own money so you can spend it, so you can make the decisions for your families. But opportunity means also understanding there are people in our society who hurt.

And therefore, in order to make sure people realize the American Dream is meant for them, that we must rally the great compassion of America. And oftentimes that's found in our churches and synagogues and mosques. And our Government must not fear institutions of faith that exist to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. We shouldn't resist faith-based programs. We ought to welcome them. We ought to encourage them. We ought to spread them out in neighborhoods so nobody feels left out in America.

I was walking in the audience here and somebody stuck out their hand and said, "Mr. President, I pray for you." I can't tell you how good that makes me feel. They didn't say, "Let me check your voter registration card." [*Laughter*] They said, "I'm praying for you."

And that speaks to the greatness of our country. I want you to know that—that ours is a nation of people on bended knee. Ours is a nation that's got great values. One of the values is hard work; another value is family; and another value is faith. We're a nation where you're free to choose.

But there are a lot of faithful people in America, and that's what gives me great hope for the future of this country. I know we can work our way out of the economic doldrums we have. But I also know that we can love our way out of the problems we find in our neighborhoods, in our communities.

And my job as your President is to set a tone that will encourage the very best from each citizen. My job as the President is to lift our sights and raise our spirits. And my job as the President of the United States is to set an example for which you'll be proud.

I accept the challenge. I'm honored to be here as your President. Thank you for your hospitality, and may God bless you all. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. on a lot across the street from the Teamsters Joint Council 43 headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Larry Brennan, president, and Bill Black, D.R.I.V.E. director, Joint Council 43, and James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Gov. John Engler and Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus of Michigan; and Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott and an Exchange With Reporters

September 4, 2001

Legislative Agenda

The President. I'm honored to welcome my friend Senator Lott to the Oval Office. He is just back from an active month. I'm meeting with him, and I'm meeting with Senator Daschle a little later on today. I look forward to talking about our need to work together to accomplish some important goals—two goals I'd like to talk about with both Senators.

One is to make sure we get an education bill on my desk quickly. Many children are starting school today. Some have started prior to Labor Day. We need to get a bill. And Senator Lott worked with me very closely, and we got a good bill out of the Senate. I'm confident that the conferees can reconcile their differences and get a bill to my desk quickly.

And secondly, we're going to talk about the budget. There's been a lot of noise about the budget. I hope the budget—the appropriations process discards the old-style politics of trying to scare seniors. Our seniors have got to know that every Social Security promise will be fulfilled, and Social Security checks will arrive on time, and that there's not much difference in the overall numbers than what we proposed, what some others have proposed. I'm confident we can come together and get a good budget together, one that will reflect the priorities of the Nation, which will be education and defense.

There's been a lot of talk over August about the tax relief plan. Half the rebate checks have gone out. There are still more checks to go out, and I believe it's going to provide good stimulus for our economy, when the plan is fully implemented. And then, of course, come January, there will be an overall rate reduction, another rate reduction, which will be a part of the fiscal stimulus package that we all worked on.

Some are arguing that maybe we ought to roll back the taxes. I guess they're saying that. They're now against tax relief, and if you're against tax relief, it must mean you're for maybe rolling it back. I think that would be terrible for the economy. Most Americans understand that as well.

At any rate, I've had a good chance to recharge my batteries in Crawford. I'm glad to see my old friend. I look forward to working with him.

[*At this point, Senator Lott made brief remarks.*]

Capital Gains Tax

Q. Mr. President, speaking of stimulating the economy, do you agree with Republican lawmakers, including your guest here, that a capital gains tax cut would stimulate the economy, injecting revenue into a very tight budget?

The President. Well, I think—I agree with the assessment that a capital gains tax relief would pile up some revenues early in the process. As I mentioned, only half of our rebate checks have gone out, and the stimulus package that we all worked on prior to the recess is not fully in place yet.

What I'd like us to do is take a look-see to make sure that the stimulus package that we've now—are implementing works. And I'm openminded. I look forward to speaking to the Senator about it and to Speaker Hastert about it, as well.

Tax Cut Trigger

Q. Mr. President, you can't say for certain whether the tax cut will stimulate the economy the way you think it needs to. Even Alan Greenspan supported the idea of a trigger on the tax cut, if surpluses didn't materialize the way everybody thought they would. Why not consider that, given the fact that, in fact, the surpluses have vanished?

The President. We've got the second largest surplus in the Nation's history. And according to CBO, we'll have even a bigger surplus next year. We've got ample money to meet our Nation's needs. What we need is fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. We need to make sure we have—prioritize the spending and not overspend. No question tax relief was the right thing to do at this point in our Nation's history. And I repeat, I reckon some of them up here want to roll it back. But they're going to meet strong opposition, I know, from the White House and, I know, from Senator Lott, as well.

Mexico and Immigration Policy

Q. Mr. President, do you agree with President Fox's assessment that immigration reform would take 4 to 6 years? And are you going to—why won't you have a guestworker deal at the summit this week?

The President. Well, I look forward to talking with my friend again about this subject. Immigration reform is a very complex subject. It's one that obviously entails dealings with Mexico, but there are other immigrants in the Nation—other folks from countries other than Mexico.

I have explained to the President that there's no appetite for blanket amnesty in Congress. I've also told him our desire is to make it easier for an employer looking for somebody who wants to work and somebody who wants to work to come together. But that in itself is a complex process. And so this is a complex issue. This is going to take a while to bring all the different interests to the table. But we've made good progress so far.

And I'll tell him that this administration—I know many Members of Congress are committed to treating Mexicans with respect when they come to our country. We want them to be treated like you'd want any neighbor to be treated. Secondly, that we've got to do a better job of making our borders more safe. Thirdly, that we'll look at a guestworker program that will benefit America as well as benefit the Mexicans. But there's a lot of work to be done.

But we're making good progress. You're going to find that this is a—two administrations that are cooperating more closely than other administrations in the past have. And it's a—we've got a great relationship. You just happened to mention one issue that's quite complex.

Senator Lott. If I could just comment briefly on that, this is the first joint session of Congress that we've had in quite some time, certainly the first one this year. And I think that is a show of respect for the visiting President you are having here for an official state visit. And I think it is important that the Congress also hear directly from him, as we are going to hear from you, about the plans you're working on. And I think this is a very positive development.

The President. The other thing we will confirm is that there is a need to stay focused on the long term, as well. Trade with Mexico benefits American workers; it also benefits Mexican workers. The best way to take pressure off our border is for Mexico to grow a middle class, and the avenue for Mexico to grow a middle class is trade.

And that's why—and not only do we need trade with Mexico, I need trade promotion authority. And I look forward to working with the Senator on that. I hope Senator Daschle will move a bill as quickly as possible. There seems to be a consensus forming amongst Republicans and Democrats for the need for free trade as a part of an economic stimulus package as well. And I look forward to working with Members of Congress.

National Economy/Federal Spending

Q. A quick question on timing. For some time, economists said the second half of this year the economy would be coming back. Here we are about to—we're moving into the final quarter of the year. When do you think—barring any other changes by Congress, when do you think Americans will see the economy improve to the point where they can feel it?

The President. You know, this economy has been slow now for a year. The economic slowdown started last summer, right in the middle of our campaign. And growth is anemic. It's been about one percent for the year, and that's very disappointing. We looked at that fact and worked with Congress to pass a package of tax relief that hopefully will stimulate the economy as quickly as possible. I guess if I knew the answer, I'd be an economist, not the President. But I will tell you that we made the right decision.

And of course, there will be second-guessers here in Washington. And I suspect those who are second-guessing really are saying, "We'd like to get rid of that tax relief. We'd like to roll back the tax relief." And I'm going to resist that mightily, and I call upon the leadership on both sides of the aisle not to fall prey to a false set of economic assumptions that say if you raise taxes it'll help the economy. It will hurt the economy.

But Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News], to answer your question, I hope soon. But I'm

not a forecaster, and evidently there are not many good forecasters around.

Q. What kind of growth rate, sir, do we need to see to get Washington out of the fiscal straitjacket that it is in now?

The President. Well, you know, it's interesting—the question was, what kind of growth rate we need. I would put it this way: We need a new attitude, that in order to earn the confidence of the American people, Congress must set good priorities. And I know the Senator and I share the priorities of national defense and education. Those are our priorities, and we ought to meet those priorities.

There is a new attitude in Washington, DC. It used to be, let's see how much we can spend. Now it's going to be, let's show the American taxpayer we can be smart with taxpayers' money. And Congress is just going to have to adjust their appetites and realize they can't spend their way out of town. And I'm willing to work with them on that.

But we've got ample money to meet our priorities. Interestingly enough, if you'll look at the CBO revenue forecast and OMB's revenue forecasts, we're off by $1 billion for the year 2002. There's only $1 billion difference.

There's a lot of money coming into the Treasury of the United States: $2.135 trillion is what we project; $2.134 trillion is what CBO projects. Now, surely we can fit our desires and our appetites within those numbers without affecting the Social Security checks that go to the American people.

And I understand how politics works up here. There's always that scare tactic, trying to tell the American people that the budget process is going to lead them to not get their Social Security check. That's just ridiculous. It's just not right.

Social Security Surplus

Q. Can you say definitively that you will veto any appropriations bill that taps into the Social Security surplus?

The President. I can say definitively, every Social Security recipient is going to get their check. And that's what the American people need to understand. And I can also say definitively, we've got ample money to meet our needs.

And I can thirdly say, tax relief was the absolute right thing to do to make sure our economy grows. What we ought to be thinking about is, how do we grow the economy of the United States? And the Senator is going to have some ideas, and I'm interested in listening to them.

But we took action. This economy started slowing down 12 months ago. And this administration saw a problem, and we worked with our friends and allies on the Hill, and we addressed it. And one half of the stimulus package is out the door for this year, and then, of course, there will be another part of the stimulus package kicking in in January of next year.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—address that one question?

The President. I addressed your question.

Q. Will you veto, or will you not?

Q. You're not changing policy there, though, are you? Would you veto a bill that dips into Social Security?

The President. I answered your question.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senator Phil Gramm's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

September 4, 2001

The Senate is losing a principled leader with the decision of Phil Gramm to retire after over two decades of distinguished service to the people of Texas and America. Senator Gramm is a man of common sense and uncommon courage who bases decisions on principle and always fights for what he believes is right.

Senator Gramm has been a consistent and committed advocate of tax relief for working Americans, beginning with his work on President Reagan's tax cut in 1981 as a Member of the House of Representatives and continuing with his tireless efforts to pass this year's monumental tax relief package.

As chairman and ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator Gramm

has been responsible for major reforms, including the landmark Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act.

Senator Gramm is a close friend and valued adviser, and I look forward to working closely with him during the remainder of his term.

Laura and I extend our thanks to Phil, Wendy, and their children, Marshall and Jeff, for their family's commitment to public service and wish them all the best in the future.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Vicente Fox of Mexico

September 5, 2001

Mr. President, Mrs. Fox, members of the Mexican delegation, distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, it is my honor to welcome you to the United States.

Mexico is the first country I visited as President. Today it is my privilege to welcome President Fox for the first state visit of my administration. This is a recognition that the United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico.

The starting point of a sound foreign policy is to build a stable and prosperous neighborhood with good relations amongst neighbors. Good neighbors work together and benefit from each other's successes.

Mr. President, you are a Mexican patriot with a great vision for a great people, a vision of justice and prosperity. Your election signaled a new birth of freedom for Mexico and set an example for the entire world. The United States is proud to stand beside you as your partner and as your friend.

Our nations have an historic opportunity to build an authentic partnership grounded in trust and in freedom. Since 1994, the Free Trade Agreement amongst our two countries and Canada has created millions of jobs and lifted millions of lives. NAFTA stands as a model for the benefits that are possible when trade is open and free. Today, our two nations are working together to extend the benefits of free trade throughout our hemisphere and throughout the world.

Our common interests, however, extend far beyond commerce. We value the cultural contributions each nation makes to each other. We treasure the family ties that bind so many millions of our citizens. We understand that the border we share is a vibrant region that unites us.

We understand that our two nations must work together in a spirit of respect and common purpose to seize opportunities and tackle challenges on the issues that affect the lives of our citizens, including migration, the environment, drugs, crime, corruption, and education. And both our Governments share a great project, a fully democratic Western Hemisphere that grows in prosperity and trades in freedom.

Some have described the century that just passed as the American Century. Now, we look forward. We have a chance to build a century of the Americas, in which all our people, North and South, find the blessings of liberty. This goal is worthy of our two great nations.

A Mexican proverb tells us that "*Que tiene un buen vecino tiene un buen amigo*." "He who has a good neighbor has a good friend." Today, both our countries are committed to being good neighbors and good friends. Friends deal in good faith and disagree with respect. Friends stick together in good times and in bad.

Most of all, friends bring out the best in each other. Today, Mexico and the United States are bringing out the best in each other in commerce, in culture, and in our shared commitment to democratic values. We're building a relationship that is unique in the world, a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation. And this visit is a milestone on that journey.

President Fox, in February you welcomed me in your home in Guanajuato. Today Laura and I and the American people are honored to welcome you and Mrs. Fox to the *Casa Blanca nuestro pais*. [*Laughter*]

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Fox was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, he referred to Martha Sahagun de Fox, wife of President Fox. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Fox.

Remarks Following a Joint Cabinet Meeting With President Fox of Mexico

September 5, 2001

President Bush. Mr. President, first, let me introduce you to many of the members of our press corps, which are fine Americans. [*Laughter*]

We have had an extraordinary meeting. Not only did the President and I meet in the Oval Office for a continuation of our frank discussions on very important issues that relate to our two countries, we then just had a joint Cabinet meeting.

I suspect this is the first time there has been a joint Cabinet meeting between the Mexican Government and the United States Government, or the United States Government and any government for that matter. And some of our Cabinet officials briefed the President and me on a variety of subjects: crime, agriculture, water issues, energy, migration, and foreign policy within the region.

What I came away with is that the spirit of cooperation has never been stronger, that not only do the President and I consider ourselves friends but our Cabinet officials have gotten to know each other on a personal basis. And the dialog is very important and very frank.

Our relationship with Mexico is an incredibly important relationship. It's one where there's a lot of opportunity, and it's a relationship where there are problems. And in order to deal with those problems and take advantage of those opportunities, it's important to have discussions at all levels in our government. And this is what we've begun.

Mr. President, I'm so honored you are here. This is the first state visit that I've had as the President, and I can't think of a better state visit and a better way to culminate the morning than to have had a frank discussion amongst the able team that you've put together and the able team that I've put together.

I'd be glad to have some of your comments, Mr. President.

President Fox. Thank you very much. I think there are a lot of expectations out of this visit, the state visit to the United States. We are very pleased and honored to be here, especially to witness the effort, the amount of jobs, the amount of work and meetings that have gone through since we last met in Mexico.

As was mentioned here, the *ambiente* is the correct *ambiente*; it is of a professionalism; it is a frank and open discussions; it is of productivity, this *ambiente* which we are living during the day.

It was mentioned here that today we have an everyday contact on most of the working teams that are doing this job behind the scene that we're seeing here. I'm very, very satisfied, where we have been reported today as the work that has been done in the last 6 months. And there is clear advantage on each of the subjects.

But more so, there is a clear advance on this philosophy of trust that we are building in, that we have built in the process, and that is the foundation of the actions, the deliberations, the discussions, and the conclusions and decisions that are being taken all along through the process.

So to us, today we reaffirm that this friendship, this strong relationship that has been built between Mexico and the United States, is becoming now very productive. So we make—that this will come on flowing in this close future and keep advancing on each of the subjects that we have discussed.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:33 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. President Fox spoke partly in Spanish, and those portions of his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President Fox of Mexico

September 5, 2001

It's my honor to offer a toast to the—our guests from Mexico. After I do so, President Fox will offer a toast, and then Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles, California, will offer to bless the meal.

Mr. President and Mrs. Fox, on behalf of the American people, Laura and I welcome

you to the United States and to the *Casa Blanca.* [*Laughter*]

This is not only a state dinner; it's like a family gathering. The most important ties between your country and mine, Mr. President, go beyond economics and politics and geography. They are the ties of heritage, culture, and family. This is true for millions of Mexican and American families, including my own.

The Mexican people have changed and enriched America. Together, our nations are now working to strengthen the Americas. A long border lies between us, but it does not divide us. Nearly one million people cross that border every day; a quarter-trillion dollars worth of trade crosses it every year. Because of the visionary NAFTA agreement of 1994, the trade between us crosses in ever greater freedom. That's a benefit to both our peoples and a model to the world.

A sound foreign policy begins by ensuring the safety and security of the neighborhood we share. A good neighborhood is made by good neighbors. And good neighbors work as we are working, with shared obligations and mutual respect.

Mr. President, you and I are keeping the pledges we made in Guanajuato this past winter to expand the freedom of trade, to build an equitable prosperity, and to honor the rule of law.

We have before us a great prospect, an era of prosperity in a hemisphere of liberty. In this task, our cooperation is broad and unprecedented. Our sense of trust is strong, and it's growing.

A century and a half ago, another occupant of this house, Abraham Lincoln, paused in the darkest hour of this country's history to send a word of hope to Mexico. Lincoln knew how closely the fates of our two countries were linked. And he never lost faith in the character of our two people. In April of 1861, he directed his Secretary of State to tell Mexico of his high respect for the heroism of their people, and above all, their inextinguishable love of civil liberty.

My message to the Mexican people is the same. The respect of my Nation endures, and it deepens. The United States has no more important relationship in the world than our relationship with Mexico. Each of our countries is proud of our independence, our freedom, and our democracy. We are united by values and carried forward by common hopes.

And so, Mr. President, speaking friend to friend, partner to partner, neighbor to neighbor, I offer a toast to you, to your gracious wife, and to your great nation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles; and Martha Sahagun de Fox, wife of President Fox. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Fox.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of John Danforth as Special Envoy for Peace to The Sudan

September 6, 2001

I'm pleased to announce today my appointment of John Danforth of Missouri as America's envoy for peace in the Sudan. It's my honor to welcome the former United States Senator, his wife, Sally, and distinguished guests here to the Rose Garden for this important announcement.

I am under no illusions: Jack Danforth has taken on an incredibly difficult assignment. The degree of difficulty is high. But this is an issue that is really important. It is important to this administration—it's important to the world—to bring some sanity to the Sudan.

I'm honored to be on the stage with our Secretary of State, who is doing a fabulous job for America. When he speaks, the world listens. And when he speaks on this subject, the world will listen.

I'm honored to welcome Members of the United States Congress who have taken this issue very seriously. Thank you all for coming. And I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps who are here, as well.

For nearly two decades, the Government of Sudan has waged a brutal and shameful war against its own people. And this isn't right, and this must stop. The Government has targeted civilians for violence and terror. It permits and encourages slavery. And the

responsibility to end the war is on their shoulders. They must now seek the peace, and we want to help.

Today, the tragedy in Sudan commands the attention and compassion of the world. For our part, we're committed to pursuing a just peace, which will spare that land from more years of sorrow.

We're committed to bringing stability to the Sudan, so that many loving Americans, nongovernmental organizations, will be able to perform their duties of love and compassion within that country without fear of reprisal.

Recently, I appointed a humanitarian envoy, Andrew Natsios, the administrator of USAID, to address the material needs. Today I take a step further. By naming a distinguished American, a former United States Senator and ordained minister, a man of enormous respect, the United States will continue to signal to the rest of the world our interest in this subject, our desire to bring governments together to achieve a lasting peace.

I will repeat what I told Jack in the Oval Office: Our administration is deeply committed—is deeply committed—to bringing good folks together, from within our country and the leadership of other nations, to get this issue solved once and for all. It's a test of the compassion of the world.

As I said, the degree of difficulty is high. Jack Danforth brings a realistic assessment to what is possible. But he also brings a big heart and enormous amounts of energy and a great commitment. And so it is my honor to bring a good man back into Government to take on a difficult yet important assignment.

Please welcome John Danforth.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former Senator Danforth.

Remarks on Departure With President Fox for Toledo, Ohio, and an Exchange With Reporters

September 6, 2001

President Bush. Thank you very much. The President and I are about to get on Marine One and then Air Force One and fly to Toledo, Ohio. I look forward to a joint appearance in the heartland of America. We're going to have a great day in Toledo.

We had a great day here yesterday as well. Not only did we have a successful state dinner last night, but we had a series of meetings that confirmed our close relationship and built on our trust. As I said, Mexico is an incredibly important part of the United States' foreign policy. It is our most important relationship, because Mexico is our neighbor, and neighbors must work together. And we do.

We're confronting a series of opportunities and issues. Over the past hours, we discussed the importance of NAFTA, not only between Canada and Mexico and the United States but free trade throughout the hemisphere.

We discussed a variety of issues that relate to trade. Trucking is an issue about which we had a long discussion. Mexican trucks ought to be moving in the United States. I call upon Congress to take that provision out of the appropriations bill. Otherwise, I will veto the bill.

We talked about some commodity issues that we have faced. We had an issue on avocados, for example. For those of you avocado lovers, you'll be pleased to hear that we've solved that problem, and I believe the President is pleased with the progress we're making.

When we trade as much as we do, there are going to be issues that inevitably arise. And we will deal with those with mutual respect and honest discourse.

Secondly, I'm pleased to report that we've made great progress in cooperation in fighting crime. The President told me yesterday about some additional criminals who have

been arrested in Mexico. This is a crime-fighting President. He is dedicated to working with our law enforcement officials to interdict drugs and guns and "coyotes" on the border. And Mr. President, I appreciate your effort.

Our Congress ought to change the decertification process that, to me, sends the wrong signal to our friends to the south. To have an annual certification process really, I don't think, is fair to Mexico, and I think it's counterproductive. And I hope they change the law on decertification.

And finally, an area that has gained a lot of interest, because it's an important issue, of course, is the issue of migration. We've had a lot of frank discussions on migration. We share a lot of principles: one, that we both recognize how important the contribution to our economy the Mexican workers have made; that we want people treated with respect; that we both have a mutual and shared responsibility to make sure our border is safe and that we enforce the border; that I hope to come forward with a program that will pass the Congress, that deals with guestworkers with some sense of normalization. And I would like to do that as soon as possible.

There's obviously a sense of urgency in the President's message. I hear that sense of urgency, and my administration is willing to work as hard as we possibly can to get something done in a constructive fashion.

Mr. President, I think this is a continuation on the road for trust, respect, and cooperation. And I want to thank you very much for your coming here. I appreciate so very much you bringing your beautiful wife. I look forward to our trip to Toledo, and then our dinner tonight at the Blair House with the President.

Mr. President.

President Fox. Okay, I will not have much more to add on this summary of what great has been these 2 days to us Mexicans and to us in Mexico. The trust factor, no doubt that is key. And these 2 days have been a great opportunity to advance in our conversations, in our frank speaking—all of this aimed at increasing that trust

And for the rest, I'm fully recognized and totally honored on the warm reception we have had, on the opportunity, extended opportunity, to discuss and dialog on different issues and matters with President Bush. And so, to me, if I would describe this, it's a process, a process that started back in Mexico in our first formal meeting, a process that has continued on an everyday basis by our working teams. And this I would call a station, one first station, which has been this state visit to the United States, where we had the opportunity to review the issues, to advance on each of the issues, and to keep on the commitment to work hard for the coming months and the coming years.

So that's totally satisfactory to us. I really thank the American people for the warm welcome we have had, and specifically from Mr. Bush and his lovely wife, the attentions we have had are just something that we—over-exceeded any expectations that we would have had.

[*At this point, President Fox made brief remarks in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

Immigration Policy

Q. Mr. President, even with this sense of urgency on immigration, tell me how difficult it will be to get a deal in the next year. And when you do give legal status to undocumented immigrants, how will you justify that action to the millions of Mexicans still waiting in line for legal entry and the millions more people who are living in this country now after plowing through the legal process?

President Bush. Right. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], you've just identified one of the complexities of the migration issue. I explained this to President Fox, that there are some—many in our country who are undocumented. And we want to make sure that their labor is legal. And so part of the issue is, how do we match a willing employer with a willing employee, to recognize the value of the work and to legalize that part of the process? And that's where we need to think creatively on a guestworker program.

I mean, the truth of the matter is that if somebody is willing to do jobs others in America aren't willing to do, we ought to welcome that person to the country, and we

ought to make that a legal part of our economy. We ought not to penalize an employer who's trying to get a job done who hires somebody who's willing to do that kind of work.

So that's part of the complexity. The second half of your question really does point out another problem that we have to work through, and that is there are—one of the things I have told the President is, I am willing to consider ways to—for a guestworker to earn a green card status. And yet I fully recognize there are a lot of people who have stood in line, who have said, "I'll abide by the laws of the United States." And we're trying to work through a formula that will not penalize the person who's chosen the legal route, and at the same time, recognizes the contribution that the undocumented has made.

That is part of the reason I say this is an incredibly complex issue. It is complex to the point where my administration is going to spend a lot of time on resolving that type of question. But to make matters even more complicated, we've got to work with the Congress, and we've got to come up with a solution that will—Congress can accept.

Now, I fully understand President Fox's desire for us to expedite our—to come up with a solution quickly, to expedite the process. And we're going to do that. I think one of the useful parts of this visit is for me to be able to sit down face to face, *ojo a ojo*, and to talk about why this is a complex issue within the country. That's precisely part of the issue.

Q. You don't sound like you can get it done in 4 months, though.

President Bush. Well, he's asked that we do it within the year. One thing he will find is that we will put 100 percent effort into it during the year, and I hope we can come up with a solution. I want to accommodate my friend.

He's got a very important role to play, and that is as a spokesman for Mexican nationals living in this country, as someone who is deeply concerned about their future, their lives. And I completely understand that, and I can assure the President and the people of Mexico, we have heard his call. He is a strong, forceful leader, and we will do everything we can to come up with a solution to this complex problem.

Q. Mr. President, along those same lines——

President Bush. Him? Which President? [*Laughter*]

Q. President Bush, I'm sorry.

President Bush. Here we go again, six to nothing. [*Laughter*]

Q. Sir, could you be more specific as to whether or not, among the set of issues, or the set of values or principles that you share on immigration, you share specifically the goal of finishing this negotiation by the end of the year? And——

President Bush. I share the idea of working as hard as we possibly can. Listen, we came—the President came to Washington—I'm sorry to interrupt you.

Q. Well, I'm sorry. I just wanted to say——

President Bush. Actually, I'm not sorry to interrupt you. I did it—it's an old trick here. [*Laughter*]

Q. I just wanted to ask you if—what would the United States want to see in return? Something——

President Bush. In return?

Q. In return for this negotiation, and for maybe regularizing a number of Mexican—illegal Mexican immigrants in the United States.

President Bush. Well, I think—first of all, I think that—I don't think we ought to view this issue necessarily as a quid pro quo issue. This is an issue that we must confront regardless of a Mexican response. This is an employment issue in the United States.

We've got employers who can't find workers and, therefore, then employ undocumented workers. And under our law, that's illegal. And it seems like, to me, we ought to have a direct and honest assessment of reality. But we are getting what we wanted from Mexico, regardless of the details of this particular issue, and that is strong cooperation. That's all we can ask.

And the President is been very forward-leaning in working with us on a variety of matters, including better border enforcement and making sure we find those "coyotes" who are gathering illegals or undocumented folks and trying to run them into

our country for profit. I can't think of anything worse. And yet, this administration and this Government and our Governments are cooperating very closely on ferreting out those people who are willing to prey on innocent hard-working people, and stop that kind of activity. That's the kind of cooperation we expect and we're getting.

Microsoft Antitrust Case

Q. Mr. President, why are you abandoning the Clinton administration's attempt to break up Microsoft? Will this help consumers? And did you sign-off on this decision?

President Bush. He's asking about a legal matter, Mr. President.

During the course of the campaign and throughout my administration, I have made it abundantly clear that on issues relating to lawsuits, ongoing lawsuits, that I expect the Justice Department to handle that in a way that—in a way that brings honor and thought to the process. I respect and hold our Attorney General in high esteem, and I honor the work he's done. And I'm going to leave it at that.

Q. You're satisfied with the decision?

President Bush. I am satisfied with the fact that John Ashcroft is doing a fine job as the Attorney General.

[*At this point, a question was asked in Spanish. President Fox answered the question in Spanish, and a translation was not provided.*]

President Bush. For those of you who don't speak Spanish, he said, "President Bush's tax cut came right at the right time." [*Laughter*]

Social Security Surplus

Q. Mr. President, on that same rough subject, when you met with Republican leaders this morning, did you promise them, as they describe it, that no—that every dime of Social Security will be protected? Does that mean you will not sign any bills that even temporarily take from it?

President Bush. I told the Republican——

Q. And President Fox is welcome to take a swing at that, too.

President Bush. He probably doesn't want to. I told the Republican leaders, like I told Mr. Daschle and I will tell Mr. Gephardt tomorrow, we can work together to avoid dipping into Social Security. I have repeatedly said the only time to use Social Security money is in times of war, times of recession, or times of severe emergency. And I mean that. I mean that.

I think it is best for me to start working in a cooperative fashion with the Members of Congress, start by saying, let's work together to make sure that our budgets don't cause us to dip into Social Security. And of course, I've always got the ultimate way to make sure we bring fiscal sanity into Washington. That's what we call a veto, Mr. President. But rather than come from the negative perspective, my attitude, as we begin the fall session, is to say, we can work together. Let's do so.

I'll repeat to the American people, there is ample money coming into our Government to fund our priorities. And what we need is fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. The tax cut that we passed was a very important move to make sure our economy begins to gather momentum and grow.

The President knows what I know: When our economy is ill or slow or not meeting expectations, it affects our neighborhood. He's getting blamed for something that's taking place in America, and that's not fair. And so our tax relief plan is a part of an economic growth package.

I urge the Congress to pass an energy package. That's a job creation package. That's part of economic growth. I urge the Congress to pass trade promotion authority. If people are interested in growing our economy so that there are more jobs available, then they ought to not only herald the tax relief plan; they ought to be thinking about how to pass an energy package and a trade promotion authority package, as well. That's important for growth. We ought to be thinking, in Washington, DC, how to grow the economy.

Now, I realize, Mr. President, sometimes there are second-guessers in the political process, and there are some in Washington who appear to be second-guessing the tax relief plan. My guess is, is that they probably want to raise taxes. If they're against relief, the fundamental question is what they're for. And I suspect, if they're against one thing,

they must be for raising taxes. And my argument to them is, that would hurt the economy.

The best way for us to continue economic growth is to have a pro-growth plan in place and have fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. I look forward to working with the members of both parties to insist upon and implement a package that is fiscally disciplined. And we can do that, and I'm confident we can do that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Martha Sahagun de Fox, wife of President Fox.

Remarks at the University of Toledo in Toledo

September 6, 2001

Thank you all very much. Governor, thank you very much. It's a great honor to be back in Ohio. Today I come bringing a special visitor, *un amigo de mio y tambien un amigo de los Estados Unidos*. It's an honor to bring a good friend of mine and a friend of our country, President Vicente Fox, to Ohio. I have the honor of introducing him. But before I do so, I wanted to introduce him to Ohio.

Mr. President, Ohio is an extraordinary State. It's a State full of decent and compassionate and hard-working people—Toledo. Not all the wisdom exists in Washington, DC. There's a lot of wisdom in towns like Toledo, Ohio. And it was my honor that the President had accepted not only the invitation for the first state dinner I had as your President, but agreed to travel with me to the heartland. So I want to thank you all for a warm welcome.

I want to thank so very much the leadership of the University of Toledo and the students who are here, the faculty that have made this event possible. Thank you for your hospitality. Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality, as well. It's a thrill to be traveling with members of the United States congressional delegation, some of whom do what I tell them to do—[*laughter*]—some of whom are a little hard to persuade but all of whom love America. And all of whom bring honor to the office they hold. Thank you all very much for coming with me today.

I'm very proud to be traveling with one of my Cabinet Secretaries, a man who is doing a fabulous job at HUD. His name is Mel Martinez. When he was a young boy, his mother and daddy put him on a boat—I guess it was an airplane—to come to America from Cuba. They weren't ever sure whether they would see him again. They were sure, however, they were sending him to a place that loved freedom, a place where you can be anything you want to be in America. Today, this good man is in the Cabinet. It shows what a wonderful country we have and shows what a great man Mel Martinez is. Thank you for coming, Mel.

We've got distinguished members from the Mexican delegation traveling with us. We've got Ambassadors traveling with us. And we've even got the Treasurer of the United States traveling with us. My friend Rosario Marin is now the Treasurer of this great country. Please welcome her and all of the members of the Mexican delegation, as well.

We just had a really good visit in Washington. It was a commitment to friendship. It's important for my fellow Americans to understand my foreign policy, and it starts with this: Good foreign policy says you want your neighborhood to be peaceful and prosperous; a good foreign policy starts with being friends with your neighbors. We're friends with our neighbors to the North, and we're very good friends with our neighbors to the South, the *Mexicanos*.

Friends hold each other with respect—treat each other with respect and hold each other in high esteem. And the speaker I'm going to introduce is a man I hold in high esteem. Friends are willing to have honest dialog. And we've had a series of honest dialogs over the last 24 hours, had a frank discussion, but this isn't our first discussion. We've been discussing common opportunities and common problems for months. And as a result, our relationship has never been better and never been stronger.

I know there are some in this world and our country who want to build walls between

Mexico and the United States. I want to remind people: Fearful people build walls; confident people tear them down. And I'm confident that a strong relationship—and I'm confident that good neighbors and a strong relationship is in our Nation's best interests. I've seen it firsthand. Trade between Mexico and the United States has grown to a quarter of a trillion dollars. That means jobs in the United States, and as importantly, that means jobs in Mexico.

There's a lot of discussion about trade. I can't tell you how hopeful trade is and how important it is. It's not only important for job-seeking Americans; it's incredibly important for Mexico to grow and to prosper, to develop a middle class for people in Mexico to be able to find work close to home.

Oh, I know there's a lot of talk about Mexican laborers coming to the United States. But I want to remind my fellow citizens of this fact: Family values do not stop at the Rio Bravo. There are mothers and dads in Mexico who love their children just as much as mothers and dads in America do. And if there are a mother or dad who can't find work, worried about food on the table, they're going to come and find work in America.

And what we want to do is to have a trading relationship that encourages job creation in America but job creation in Mexico, as well. We want Mexico to grow a middle class so the citizens of Mexico can find work to feed their families just like the citizens of America can find work to feed their families. We're talking about migration issues. It's a complex subject, but one that this country of ours must confront and have an open dialog about. And we've made good progress on that important issue.

I want to tell you, President Fox is doing everything in his power to fight crime and drugs, and we're cooperating with him. But I also want to remind my fellow Americans, it's important to fight the supply of drugs. But we have an obligation inside this country to fight to reduce the demand for drugs, as well. We need to tell our children: Don't use drugs; make the right choices in life. We're working hard on environmental issues on our border. But our fellow citizens must understand that there's more than just economics that is important or crime-fighting that's important in our relationship with Mexico.

We share values with Mexico. They're common values, values that unite people, whether they live in the United States or whether they live in Mexico. And what are those values? Faith, the strong value of faith exists in our country. As a matter of fact, I think it's the strength of America in many ways, and it exists in Mexico, as well. The love of family—it's incredibly important for the future of our country. It's a strong value in the Mexican culture. The willingness to work hard. America is known for our ability to work hard. Think about the Mexican worker who walks 500 miles across a desert to find work. Those are hard-working citizens. We share that very important value of people willing to roll up their sleeves and work hard. No, we've got incredibly important relationship. It starts with leaders being willing to have open dialog.

We've got something in common, by the way, that you probably haven't thought about. President Fox's grandfather was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. My grandfather was raised in Columbus, Ohio. I guess you could kind of say we're Ohioans, except it's kind of hard to tell by our accents. [*Laughter*]

Not only do we share background; we share love for our respective countries. The first trip I took to foreign soil was to Guanajuato, Mexico, to visit President Fox on his ranch. By the way, I kind of like going to mine on occasion, too. And this is a man deeply committed to his country. He loves the people of Mexico. And I hope by now there's no question that I love the people of America, as well. President Fox and I share the desire to do what we think is right for our countries. I think both of us are tired of the policy driven by polls and focus groups. I don't need a poll and focus group to tell me what to think and where to go, and neither does he. We both are doing in office what we said we would do. I told the people, by the way, that if they gave me the chance to be the President, the first thing I would do is remember whose taxpayers' money we're talking about when we're talking about budgets. The tax money up in Washington, that's not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And I'm

proud to report we've got the largest tax relief package in a generation.

We both are dedicated to educating—to making sure our children are educated. President Fox shares the same passion I do about good schools and good quality education. He knows what I know, that an educated child is one much more likely to be able to realize the dreams of our respective countries. That's why I'm hopeful Congress will quit talking about an education bill, get one out of conference committee, so I can sign a good reform package to make sure public education fulfills the promise of our schools.

One of the things in Texas we like to say: Here's a good man. I hope that sums up how I feel about our speaker and guest. This guy is a good man, *un buen hombre*.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome *el Presidente de Republicano de Mexico*, Vicente Fox.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:31 p.m. in Savage Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner of Toledo; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Fox.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the United Mexican States

September 6, 2001

The three-day State Visit of Mexican President Vicente Fox to the United States celebrates the special friendship and authentic partnership that has been achieved by new leadership in the United States and Mexico.

This first State Visit of the Bush Administration highlights the mutual trust and respect between our two Presidents and governments. It also testifies to the unequaled priority both Presidents attach to a practical and cooperative approach to the common opportunities and challenges we face as the well-being and prosperity of our peoples becomes increasingly intertwined in our shared North American community. This results-oriented approach, and the commitment to shared responsibility and partnership undergirding it, are already generating unprecedented levels of cooperation throughout our rich and diverse relationship.

With trade and investment between the United States and Mexico at record levels, the Presidents took stock of the success of NAFTA in bringing economic growth and development, and with it higher wages, more jobs, and lower prices for our citizens. They stressed the need to abide by the provisions of our free trade agreement and agreed to the importance of vigorous measures to ensure that the full benefits of economic development and trade are extended to all regions of Mexico.

To serve urgent environmental priorities in the border area, the Presidents agreed that immediate measures were needed to strengthen the performance of the North American Development Bank (NADBank), and its sister Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC), to identify and fund environmental infrastructure projects on the border. Presidents Bush and Fox agreed that a binational working group—which will consult with national legislatures, border states, communities, and other stakeholders—will develop joint recommendations and report back to the Presidents by October 31, 2001.

The Presidents praised the success of efforts to heighten cooperation on legal issues as a major step toward enhancing the rule of law and protecting public safety. They highlighted growing cooperation against migrant smuggling and other organized transborder crime, including a new agreement signed September 5, 2001, on sharing forfeited assets seized as a result of joint investigations. They praised in particular the growing trust between our law enforcement agencies that is making it possible to broaden the scope of cooperation in this area. Presidents Bush and Fox also expressed their support for new and more effective national and multilateral measures to increase international cooperation against drug trafficking. Specifically, they expressed support for the Organization of American State's "Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism" as a promising example of such measures. In this regard, President Bush reiterated his Administration's commitment to work with the U.S.

Congress, on a priority basis, to replace the annual counter-narcotics certification regime with new measures designed to enhance international cooperation in this area.

These and other areas of bilateral engagement were highlighted in an historic joint meeting of the U.S. and Mexican Cabinets on September 5. That session enabled the Cabinet-level chairpersons of our Binational Commission, streamlined and reinvigorated following the Presidents' meeting in Guanajuato, Mexico in February 2001, to report on the specific steps achieved since then to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Their reports testified to the breadth of our relationship and to the progress we are achieving in countless areas that directly benefit the quality of life of our people. Examples of other items covered in the reports include:

- measures to improve safety and protect lives along our shared border;
- means of facilitating better coordination on border issues;
- a new agreement on food safety;
- steps to enhance cooperation on renewable and more efficient energy resources and cross-border interconnections;
- a major new scholarship program ($50 million) focused primarily on economic development disciplines; and
- regional cooperation to strengthen democracy and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere.

President Bush and President Fox also had a frank discussion about water resources and the importance of living up to our mutual treaty obligations in this regard. They agreed that in the future this could be well served by greater cooperation aimed at more effective watershed management and improved infrastructure, including formation of a joint advisory council.

The Presidents reviewed the progress made by our joint working group on migration chaired by Secretaries Powell, Castaneda, and Creel and Attorney General Ashcroft and noted this represented the most fruitful and frank dialogue we have ever had on a subject so important to both nations. They praised implementation of the border safety initiative, and recognized that migration-related issues are deeply felt by our publics and vital to our prosperity, well-being, and the kind of societies we want to build.

They renewed their commitment to forging new and realistic approaches to migration to ensure it is safe, orderly, legal and dignified, and agreed on the framework within which this ongoing effort is based. This includes: matching willing workers with willing employers; serving the social and economic needs of both countries; respecting the human dignity of all migrants, regardless of their status; recognizing the contribution migrants make to enriching both societies; shared responsibility for ensuring migration takes place through safe and legal channels. Both stressed their commitment to continue our discussions, instructing the high-level working group to reach mutually satisfactory results on border safety, a temporary worker program and the status of undocumented Mexicans in the United States. They requested that the working group provide them proposals with respect to these issues as soon as possible. The Presidents recognized that this is an extraordinarily challenging area of public policy, and that it is critical to address the issue in a timely manner and with appropriate thoroughness and depth.

To help address some of the root causes of migration, they agreed to form a public-private alliance to spur private sector growth throughout Mexico. This "Partnership for Prosperity" initiative will harness the power of free markets to boost the social and economic well-being of citizens particularly in regions where economic growth has lagged and fueled migration. The development of this alliance will be spearheaded by senior-level coordinators on both sides, and will draw on the best expertise among Mexican and U.S. economists, business people and civil society to develop a concrete plan of action to be presented to the Presidents not later than March 1, 2002.

The Presidents expressed their strong support for the launch of a new round of trade negotiations in November at the WTO ministerial.

Both Presidents agreed that U.S.-Mexican relations have entered their most promising moment in history. Our governments are

committed to seizing the opportunities before us in this new atmosphere of mutual trust. The depth, quality and candor of our dialogue is unprecedented. It reflects the democratic values we share and our commitment to move forward boldly as we deepen this authentic partnership of neighbors.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 7, 2001

Unemployment Rates

Thank you all for coming. Today, visiting with the Speaker and the Leader, it's the end of a long week of discussing how to make sure our economy begins to grow again.

I want to appreciate Denny and Trent for coming down again. They've been visiting with their Members, and I've been visiting with them and their Members. I also had a good discussion today with Minority Leader Gephardt and, of course, Senate Majority Leader Daschle the other day, as well, about how we can kind of get away from all the distractions that tend to dominate Washington and focus on a pro-growth agenda for this fall.

The unemployment numbers today are evidence that I've seen firsthand as I travel the country, and that is, too many people are losing their jobs as a result of a slowdown that began when Dick and I were campaigning across our country last summer. This slowdown is real, and it's affecting too many lives, and we're concerned about it.

Any American out of work is too many Americans out of work. And that's why it's absolutely essential that we work together to put a growth plan in place to create jobs for hard-working Americans. It starts with having a responsible budget that meets our Nation's obligations without affecting Social Security or dipping into Social Security.

We made a great step toward economic growth when we worked together to pass tax relief. One-half of the checks have gone out; more relief is on the way this fall, which should help our economy. Beginning in January 1st, Americans will see lower tax rates, lower withholding from their paychecks, and a larger tax credit.

Tax relief is just now making its way in the economy, and there are some, it seems like, who are beginning to say, maybe we ought to raise taxes. But I can assure you, the four of us on this stage are not going to let anybody pick the pockets of the American taxpayer.

To help get our economy moving again, Congress needs to enact an energy plan which will lower energy costs and create jobs. To get the economy moving again, Congress needs to enact trade promotion authority, so we can open up new markets for American products.

We've got a plan to get our economy moving so Americans can find work. And today I want to thank the leadership of the Congress from the Republican side that came and strategized with the Vice President and me as how to get this plan moving. I want the American people to know we're deeply concerned about the unemployment rates, and we intend to do something about it.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:07 p.m. on the South Grounds of the White House.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 2

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

September 3

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kaukauna, WI, and then to Green Bay, WI. Later, they traveled to Detroit, MI. In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

September 4

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to discuss the administration's legislative priorities and fall agenda.

September 5

The President announced his intention to nominate William R. Brownfield to be Ambassador to Chile.

September 6

In the afternoon, the President and President Vicente Fox of Mexico traveled together to Toledo, OH. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Jacksonville, FL, and Sarasota, FL, on September 10–11 to speak to teachers and students about his education and reading initiatives.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrea G. Barthwell to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his appointment of John C. Danforth as Special Envoy for Peace to The Sudan.

September 7

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Library of Congress to participate in National Book Festival events.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ernest L. Johnson to be a U.S. Alternate Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Cain Marcus to be a U.S. Alternative Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 4

Eduardo Aguirre, Jr.,
of Texas, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2005, vice Jackie M. Clegg, term expired.

George L. Argyros, Sr.,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Andorra.

M. Christina Armijo,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, vice a new position created by Public Law 106-553, approved December 21, 2000.

Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.,
United States Army, to be a member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved June 1879 (21 Stat. 37)(33 USC 642).

Jo Anne Barnhart,
of Delaware, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2007, vice Kenneth S. Apfel, term expired.

John D. Bates,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Stanley S. Harris, retired.

Charlotte L. Beers,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, vice Evelyn Simonowitz Lieberman.

Susan Schmidt Bies,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 1998, vice Susan Meredith Phillips, resigned.

Marion Blakey,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2005, vice John Arthur Hammerschmidt, term expired.

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Marion Blakey,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2005, vice John Arthur Hammerschmidt, term expired.

Marion Blakey,
of Mississippi, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of 2 years, vice James E. Hall, term expired.

J. Richard Blankenship,
of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Lawrence J. Block,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Eric G. Bruggink, term expired.

Robert C. Bonner,
of California, to be Commissioner of Customs, vice Raymond W. Kelly, resigned.

Karon O. Bowdre,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, vice Sam C. Pointer, Jr., retired.

Terrence W. Boyle,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

Linton F. Brooks,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration (new position).

Susan W. Brooks,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Judith Ann Stewart, resigned.

John L. Brownlee,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Robert P. Crouch, Jr., resigned.

David L. Bunning,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice William O. Bertelsman, retired.

Timothy Mark Burgess,
of Alaska, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Charles Bundy, resigned.

Scott M. Burns,
of Utah, to be Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs,
office of National Drug Control Policy (new position).

Jay S. Bybee,
of Nevada, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Randolph D. Moss, resigned.

Karen K. Caldwell,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice Henry R. Wilhoit, Jr., retired.

Laurie Smith Camp,
of Nebraska, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nebraska, vice William G. Cambridge, retired.

Leura Garrett Canary,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of 4 years, vice Charles Redding Pitt, resigned.

Brian E. Carlson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

Paul G. Cassell,
of Utah, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Utah, vice David Sam, retired.

Paul K. Charlton,
of Arizona, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of 4 years, vice Jose de Jesus Rivera, resigned.

Margaret M. Chiara,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of 4 years, vice Michael Hayes Dettmer, resigned.

Joseph M. Clapp,
of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (new position).

Edith Brown Clement,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice John M. Duhe, Jr., retired.

Richard R. Clifton,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Cynthia Holcomb Hall, retired.

Bruce Cole,
of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of 4 years, vice William R. Ferris, term expiring.

Colm F. Connolly,
of Delaware, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware for the term of 4 years, vice Carl Schnee, resigned.

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Mark Timothy Calloway, resigned.

Deborah L. Cook,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Alan E. Norris, retired.

Fred L. Dailey,
of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Gordon Clyde Southern.

Grace Trujillo Daniel,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Clyde Arlie Wheeler, Jr.

Deborah J. Daniels,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Laurie O. Robinson, resigned.

John J. Danilovich,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Joseph M. DeThomas,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nils J. Diaz,
of Florida, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2006 (reappointment).

Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr.,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Susan Gaffney, resigned.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, vice Jill L. Long, resigned.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Jill L. Long, resigned.

Claire V. Eagan,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, vice Thomas Rutherford Brett, retired.

Kurt D. Engelhardt,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice Morey L. Sear, retired.

Ellen G. Engleman,
of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Kelley S. Coyner, resigned.

Miguel A. Estrada,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice Patricia M. Wald, retired.

J. Robert Flores,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice Sheldon C. Bilchik.

Sharee M. Freeman,
of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, for a term of 4 years, vice Rose Ochi, term expired.

Stephen P. Friot,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Wayne E. Alley, retired.

Thomas C. Gean,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Kinloch Holmes III, resigned.

James Gilleran,
of California, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision for the remainder of the term expiring October 23, 2002, vice Ellen Seidman, resigned.

John W. Gillis,
of California, to be Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, vice Kathryn M. Turman, resigned.

Callie V. Granade,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, vice Alex T. Howard, Jr., retired.

Todd Peterson Graves,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen Lawrence Hill, Jr., resigned.

James Ming Greenlee,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years, vice Calvin D. Buchanan, resigned.

James E. Gritzner,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, vice Charles R. Wolle, retiring.

Raymond W. Gruender,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Audrey G. Fleissig, resigned.

Janet Hale,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice John Joseph Callahan, resigned.

Terrell Lee Harris,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Veronica Freeman Coleman, resigned.

Patricia de Stacy Harrison,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs), vice William B. Bader.

Harris L. Hartz,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Bobby Ray Baldock, retired.

Joe L. Heaton,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Ralph G. Thompson, retired.

Michael G. Heavican,
of Nebraska, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas Justin Monaghan, resigned.

Thomas B. Heffelfinger,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years, vice Byron Todd Jones, resigned.

Hans H. Hertell,
of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Larry R. Hicks,
of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada, vice Johnnie B. Rawlinson, elevated.

Kent R. Hill,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Donald Lee Pressley, resigned.

Marianne Lamont Horinko,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator,
office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Timothy Fields, Jr., resigned.

Marian Blank Horn,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years (reappointment).

Jeffrey R. Howard,
of New Hampshire, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, vice Norman H. Stahl, retired.

John L. Howard,
of Illinois, to be Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals for a term of 6 years, vice Barbara Jean Mahone, term expired.

Roscoe Conklin Howard, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of 4 years, vice Wilma A. Lewis, resigned.

David Claudio Iglesias,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of 4 years, vice Norman C. Bay.

Jeffrey D. Jarrett,
of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, vice Kathleen M. Karpan.

P. H. Johnson,
of Mississippi, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority (new position).

William P. Johnson,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, vice John E. Conway, retired.

Brian Jones,
of California, to be General Counsel, Department of Education, vice Judith A. Winston, resigned.

Frederico Juarbe, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, vice Espiridion A. Borrego.

Patrick Francis Kennedy,
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Donald Stuart Hays.

Carolyn B. Kuhl,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice James R. Browning, retired.

Charles W. Larson, Sr.,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen John Rapp, resigned.

Hilda Gay Legg,
of Kentucky, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, vice Christopher A. McLean, resigned.

Leslie Lenkowsky,
of Indiana, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Harris Wofford, resigned.

Charles F. Lettow,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice John Paul Wiese, term expiring.

Michael E. Malinowski,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Harry Sandlin Mattice, Jr.,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Carl Kimmel Kirkpatrick, resigned.

Robert Garner McCampbell,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel G. Webber, Jr., resigned.

Michael W. McConnell,
of Utah, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Stephen H. Anderson, retired.

Jackson McDonald,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter,
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Paul J. McNulty,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Helen Frances Fahey, resigned.

Matthew Hansen Mead,
of Wyoming, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of 4 years, vice David D. Freudenthal, resigned.

Patrick Leo Meehan,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Michael Rankin Stiles, resigned.

Michael J. Melloy,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice George G. Fagg, retired.

William Walter Mercer,
of Montana, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of 4 years, vice Sherry Scheel Matteucci, resigned.

Michael P. Mills,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, vice Neal B. Biggers, retired.

Michael W. Mosman,
of Oregon, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of 4 years, vice Kristine Olson Rogers, resigned.

Thomas E. Moss,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years, vice Betty Hansen Richardson, resigned.

Elsa A. Murano,
of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety, vice Catherine E. Woteki, resigned.

Richard R. Nedelkoff,
of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, vice Nancy E. Gist, resigned.

John D. Negroponte,
of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, vice Richard Holbrooke.

John D. Negroponte,
of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Ronald E. Neumann,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Bahrain.

Terrence L. O'Brian,
of Wyoming, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Wade Brorby, retired.

Joan E. Ohl,
of West Virginia, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Patricia T. Montoya, resigned.

Mark W. Olson,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of 14 years from February 1, 1996, vice Alice M. Rivlin, resigned.

John Malcolm Ordway,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Priscilla Richman Owen,
of Texas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice William L. Garwood, retired.

John N. Palmer,
of Mississippi, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Portugal.

Barrington D. Parker,
of Connecticut, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, vice Ralph K. Winter, retired.

Michael Parker,
of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Joseph W. Westphal.

James H. Payne,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma, vice Billy Michael Burrage, retired.

Stephen Beville Pence,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of 4 years, vice Steven S. Reed, resigned.

Mary E. Peters,
of Arizona, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, vice Kenneth R. Wykle, resigned.

Charles W. Pickering, Sr.,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice Henry A. Politz, retired.

Sharon Prost,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, vice S. Jay Plager, retired.

Danny C. Reeves,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–553, approved December 21, 2000.

Otto J. Reich,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), vice Peter F. Romero.

Arlene Render,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Mark Edward Rey,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, vice James R. Lyons.

Mark Edward Rey,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Karl N. Stauber.

John G. Roberts, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice James L. Buckley, retired.

James Edward Rogan,
of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, vice Q. Todd Dickinson, resigned.

Marvin R. Sambur,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Lawrence J. Delaney.

Thomas L. Sansonetti,
of Wyoming, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Lois Jane Schiffer, resigned.

Eugene Scalia,
of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, vice Henry L. Solano, resigned.

Joseph E. Schmitz,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, vice Eleanor Hill.

Dennis L. Schornack,
of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, vice Thomas L. Baldini.

Donald R. Schregardus,
of Ohio, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Steven Alan Herman, resigned.

Mattie R. Sharpless,
of North Carolina, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic.

Dennis W. Shedd,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice Clyde H. Hamilton, retired.

Lavenski R. Smith,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice Richard S. Arnold, retired.

Brigadier General Carl A. Strock,
United States Army, to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved 28 June 1879 (21 Stat. 37)(22 USC 642).

Michael J. Sullivan,
of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of 4 years, vice Donald Kenneth Stern, resigned.

John W. Suthers,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas Lee Strickland, resigned.

Jeffrey S. Sutton,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice David A. Nelson, retired.

Mauricio J. Tamargo,
of Florida, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2003, vice John R. Lacey.

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice J. Rene Josey.

John F. Turner,
of Wyoming, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, vice David B. Sandalow.

Timothy M. Tymkovich,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice John C. Porfilio, retired.

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Jon Ernest DeGuilio, resigned.

Gregory F. Van Tatenhove,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of 4 years, vice Joseph Leslie Famularo, resigned.

Kirk Van Tine,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, vice Nancy E. McFadden.

Odessa F. Vincent,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Evelyn E. Crawford Queen, term expiring.

Anna Mills S. Wagoner,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Walter Clinton Holton, Jr., resigned.

Marcelle M. Wahba,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

R. Barrie Walkley,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

John P. Walters,
of Michigan, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, vice Barry R. McCaffrey, resigned.

Reggie B. Walton,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Stanley Sporkin, retired.

B. John Williams, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, vice Stuart L. Brown, resigned.

Mary Ellen Coster Williams,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Sarah L. Wilson.

Terry L. Wooten,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–553, approved December 21, 2000.

Roy L. Austin,
of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago.

Phillip Bond,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology, vice Cheryl Shavers, resigned.

Raymond F. Burghardt,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Franklin Pierce Huddle, Jr.,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Laura E. Kennedy,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan.

Harold Craig Manson,
of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, vice Kenneth Lee Smith.

Kevin Joseph McGuire,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

Pamela Hyde Smith,
of Washington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

Ronald Weiser,
of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

Submitted September 5

Jorge L. Arrizurieta,
of Florida, to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, vice Lawrence Harrington.

Daniel G. Bogden,
of Nevada, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of 4 years, vice Kathryn E. Landreth, resigned.

Mary Beth Buchanan,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Harry Litman, resigned.

Jeffrey Gilbert Collins,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years, vice Saul A. Green, resigned.

Steven M. Colloton,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Don Carlos Nickerson, resigned.

Thomas M. DiBiagio,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland for the term of 4 years, vice Lynne Ann Battaglia, resigned.

William S. Duffey, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Richard H. Deane, Jr.

Peter W. Hall,
of Vermont, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont for the term of 4 years, vice Charles Robert Tetzlaff, resigned.

Thomas E. Johnston,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Melvin W. Kahle, resigned.

Edward Hachiro Kubo, Jr.,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of 4 years, vice Steven Scott Alm, resigned.

Gregory Gordon Lockhart,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years, vice Sharon J. Zealey, resigned.

Sheldon J. Sperling,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Bruce Green, resigned.

Donald W. Washington,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Michael David Skinner, resigned.

Maxwell Wood,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Beverly Baldwin Martin, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: NAFTA

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexican Relations

Fact sheet: Joint Cabinet Meeting/BNC

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia

Released September 5

Transcript of remarks by Attorney General John Ashcroft, Mexican Attorney General Macedo de la Concha, Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, and Mexican Commissioner for Social Development Jose Sarukhan on Mexico-U.S. meetings

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the visit of President Vicente Fox of Mexico

Fact sheet: Border Safety Initiative

Fact sheet: Trucking

Fact sheet: Environment

Fact sheet: Migration

Fact sheet: Law Enforcement Cooperation

Fact sheet: BECC and NADBank

Released September 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Senator John Danforth as Envoy for Peace in Sudan

Fact sheet: "Partnership for Prosperity"

Announcement: President To Travel to Florida

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate passage of immigration legislation

Released September 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi

Fact sheet: A "Principles Plus" Approach to Migration and Mexico

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Proclamation 7460—National Birmingham Pledge Week, 2001

September 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has grown strong and vibrant because of its diversity and common values. Representing different religions, cultures, ethnic groups, and backgrounds, our citizens have laid the foundation for our country's remarkable achievements.

As a Nation, we celebrate those achievements and look forward to new challenges. At the same time, we also recognize that racism still exists in America.

One of the darkest days for the cause of civil rights was September 15, 1963, when a bomb exploded in the basement of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The blast ended the lives of four young African-American girls, and ultimately demonstrated the tragic human costs of bigotry and intolerance.

Through the efforts of heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., and other brave men and women of the civil rights movement, our Nation has made progress in battling racism and building a society that more fully lives up to its democratic ideals. However, regardless of the decades that have passed, despicable acts such as the Birmingham bombing remain an unforgettable reminder of the need for continued vigilance against those who would infest our society with hate.

The Birmingham Pledge, started in 1998, forges a positive legacy from the lessons of the Birmingham tragedy. The Pledge encourages people to take personal responsibility for conducting themselves in ways that will achieve greater racial harmony in our communities. It calls for a commitment to "treat all people with dignity and respect." This is our solemn duty as citizens.

As part of National Birmingham Pledge Week, I encourage all Americans to join me in renewing our commitment to fight racism and uphold equal justice and opportunity. We also must strive to treat each other with civility, to love our neighbors, and to extend the American dream to every willing heart. By doing so, we can fulfill our Nation's promise and build brighter futures for all our citizens as we look forward to the challenges of tomorrow.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 9–15, 2001, as National Birmingham Pledge Week. I call upon the people of the United States to mark this observance with appropriate programs and ceremonies.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:02 a.m., September 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 8, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 12.

The President's Radio Address

September 8, 2001

Good morning. This weekend in Washington my wife, Laura, is hosting the first National Book Festival, continuing a tradition she began as First Lady of Texas. With visiting authors and special events, the Book Festival will highlight the importance of reading and libraries in our national life. A few days later, she and I will host the White

House Assembly on Reading at the Library of Congress. We will bring together scholars and educators committed to the cause of teaching every child to read.

As a former teacher, herself, the First Lady is a passionate advocate for reading. She and I and my entire administration believe that teaching every child to read is critical to making sure every child has the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

Reading is, after all, the most basic educational skill, and the most basic obligation of any school is to teach reading. Yet earlier this year, tests showed the almost two-thirds of African-American children in the fourth grade cannot read at a basic level and reading performance overall is basically unimproved over the past 10 years.

The ability to read is what turns a child into a student. When this skill is not taught, a child has not failed the system; the system has failed the child. And that child is often put on a path to frustration and broken confidence.

The methods we use to teach reading are critically important. First, we will have diagnostic tests to identify early reading problems in grades K-through-three. Second, we will correct those problems with intervention to give children the best possible help. Third, we will support reading instruction based on sound research, with a central role for phonics. And we'll make sure that every teacher is well-trained in these proven methods.

All of this can serve an important goal I have set for our country: to ensure that every child is able to read by the end of third grade. Meeting this goal requires not only encouragement to our schools but resources, and my budget provides them. Altogether I have asked Congress to triple the amount of Federal money available for reading programs across America.

We must also bring accountability and high standards to every public school. At the heart of my education reforms is a confident belief that every child can learn if given the chance. When our expectations are high, America's children will rise to meet them.

I have agreed with the Congress that we must increase education spending. But some, for whom the increases this year may not be enough, are threatening to stall these much needed reforms. That is a tactic of the past in Washington that has neither worked for our country, nor, more sadly, for our children. After many years of debate, the American people are counting on us to deliver on our promise of reform for the public schools.

Both the House and the Senate have passed good bills that hold schools accountable and expect results. The hardest work is behind us. We have a chance now to pass education reform based on good principles. When the Congress sends me that bill I will sign it, and I urge the Congress to send it quickly.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:19 p.m. on September 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the National Football League's Opening Day Coin Toss

September 9, 2001

We're here in the Rose Garden to help kick-off the NFL's 82d season. This is a great day for fans. And I want to salute the NFL for its long history, lasting influence, and the quality of its athletes.

I'm glad to be joined by members of Washington's Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club—all future NFL greats.

And now, to officially begin the NFL's 82d season, the coin toss. This is heads. This is tails. Here we go.

[*At this point, the President tossed the coin.*]

It's tails.

I wish the players of the NFL good health, and have a great season.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Bell of the U.S.S. *Canberra* to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

September 10, 2001

Well, Mr. Secretary, thank you for those generous comments. It reconfirms once again the reason I picked you. [*Laughter*] I appreciate your service to the Navy, and I appreciate your service to the country.

I'm honored today to join with the Navy to receive a distinguished visitor and to present a symbol of America's esteem. Prime Minister Howard leads a nation that has been our partner in ANZUS for 50 years, and a friend far longer. Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard, it's a real pleasure to have you with us, and also those of you who made the journey with the Prime Minister. Welcome to America.

My thanks as well to Admirals Clark and Weaver and to all the men and women of the United States military who are with us today. We're sure proud of you.

Those who defend America have always had a special regard for our Australian allies. And I know—I know—they're really proud to show that regard today.

Another reason we chose this site, Mr. Prime Minister, is that we have a gift for you. And it's not that easy to move around. This bell that you are going to receive has traveled for almost 25 years aboard the only American ship ever commissioned in honor of an ally's fallen vessel, the U.S.S. *Canberra.* She no longer sails, but she gave faithful service. And this bell is a reminder of a faithful partner in times of crisis and in times of calm.

U.S.S. *Canberra* received her name at the request of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the height of World War II. The President had received word of an exceptional action in battle by the Australian Navy, which were steaming alongside American vessels at Guadalcanal. His Majesty's Australian Ship *Canberra* did not survive the battle, disappearing into the depths where she rests today. It was a great loss of life, and much heroism amongst the Australian sailors and marines on board. As a sign of gratitude to those men and to their country, the U.S.S. *Canberra* was commissioned the very next year, serving my country and honoring yours, Mr. Prime Minister.

One man who served aboard the original *Canberra* was Lieutenant Mackenzie Gregory, and we're greatly honored to have him with us today. Where is Mr. Gregory? Thank you for being here, sir. We're honored to have you. You must have been a young guy. [*Laughter*]

President Roosevelt knew a trustworthy ally when he saw one. Every President since then has felt and known the same esteem for Australia.

Mr. Prime Minister, it was one of your own predecessors, a wartime leader, who captured the spirit that has always made us natural allies. "We work for the same kind of free world," observed Sir Robert Gordon Menzies. "We govern ourselves in democracy, and we will not tolerate anything less. We cherish liberty and hold it safe, providing hope for the rest of the world."

In the century just passed, Australians served side by side with Americans in every major military commitment. In peaceful times like our own, the alliance between our two nations has helped spare the world from other wars and dangers. Australia is a strong and peaceful presence in East Asia and the Pacific.

Australia is a generous land, mindful of the struggles of poorer nations, always helping when and where it can. Your Government and your good people are an example of democracy, individual liberty, and the virtues of free trade amongst all nations.

On this official visit to our country, I know that you will meet with nothing but good will. And in meetings with Congress and my administration, you will find willing partners who understand Australia's importance as a strategic and economic ally. Though half a world apart, we belong to a very close community of values and aspirations.

From this visit, Mr. Prime Minister, I hope that you will take away renewed optimism about our shared future. And I know that you will take with you a parcel weighing approximately 250 pounds. [*Laughter*] It's a fine bell with a great history. And once you get it home, it will always stand as a sign of the unbounded respect of our Nation for the Australian people.

Welcome to America. May God bless Australia, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. in Leutze Park at the Historical Washington Navy Yard. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard; Adm. Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and Rear Adm. Christopher E. Weaver, USN, Commandant, Naval District of Washington. The President also referred to ANZUS, the Security Treaty Between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister John Howard.

Exchange With Reporters on Returning From the Washington Navy Yard

September 10, 2001

Prime Minister Howard's Visit

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us your thoughts, sir, on more tax cuts?

The President. I'm honored the Prime Minister is here. He's a great friend. Australia's a great friend, and we're so honored he's here. I'm sure we'll have a good, constructive visit. And we've had a great start.

Education

Q. Mr. President, what's your message on education today? Do you have anything to say about education today, Mr. President?

The President. In Florida.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:10 a.m. in the West Wing Lobby Entrance at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Following Discussions With Prime Minister Howard

September 10, 2001

Australia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about a free trade agreement with Australia?

The President. We've had a good discussion about it.

Q. Progress, sir?

The President. I think we've made some good progress; you bet. I appreciate the Prime Minister being here. Australia is a great friend to the United States, and it's an honor to welcome him and the delegation here.

Q. Does the agreement still have to wait until after the FDA here?

The President. We're making good progress. He's certainly making a good case.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Mr. President, if you had to choose between education and your tax cut, which would you choose?

The President. I'm going to Florida today——

Q. Have fun.

The President. ——to talk about education.

I hope the Australian press is kinder to you than the American press is to me.

Bush-Howard Discussions

Q. How have you found the discussions——

Prime Minister Howard. Dennis? You heard that, Dennis?

Q. Yes?

Prime Minister Howard. You just listen to the man. He speaks great common sense. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. Howard, how have you found the discussions so far with Mr. Bush?

Prime Minister Howard. Very good. I mean, we are very close friends. We covered just about everything you could cover in the time. We're going to continue over lunch to talk about some of the regional issues. And it's a great opportunity to reinforce what a deep friendship it is. And the President and I have a great similarity of views on many issues, and it's a great experience to be able to exchange them with somebody who holds the views he does.

Q. Have you provided an update on the——

Prime Minister Howard. I can't hear you; I'm sorry.

Q. Have you provided an update on the HMAS *Manoora* at all?

Prime Minister Howard. Haven't discussed it.

U.S. Open Tennis Tournament

Q. Mr. President, do you congratulate Lleyton Hewitt for winning the U.S. Open?

The President. Yes, I do. Man, you talk about a guy who can play tennis. He was—clearly tennis is one of Australia's best exports.

By the way, now that you're here, I do want to say hello to my old friend John Newcombe. I knew him years ago; he represents the best of Australia. And by the way, we get along well, because if there's any place that's like Texas, it's Australia—which is a high compliment, I want you to know.

Q. Mr. President, do you see a role for Australia in the development of your——

The President. I do. They're close allies. We'll have close consultation. I look forward to the Prime Minister's continuing advice. We have had great discussions about the Far East, and his advice is very valuable for our foreign policy. There's nothing like a friend who will tell the truth.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:20 a.m. on the West Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to former Australian Davis Cup captain, John Newcombe. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Australia on the U.S.-Australia Alliance

September 10, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister John Howard today commemorated the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Australia alliance.

The two leaders reaffirmed that the alliance is an alliance between two peoples, tied by bonds of law and language, united by a history of shared struggle and sacrifice in defense of freedom and democracy, and finding new strength in the challenges of a changing world.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that for fifty years, the friendship between the United States and Australia has advanced the cause of stability and security within the Asia-Pacific region and indeed throughout the world. The aspirations we have shared, for peace and prosperity for all, remain as firmly held as ever.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard solemnly reaffirmed the commitment of the United States and Australia to the alliance under the ANZUS Treaty. They pledged anew their intent to strive together to promote order and goodwill between nations and to ensure that the alliance continues to play its vital role in preserving peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

NOTE: The joint statement referred to ANZUS, the Security Treaty Between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Australia

September 10, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister John Howard today reaffirmed the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship between Australia and the United States, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the alliance between the two countries. The President and the Prime Minister expressed the conviction that the alliance has been a pillar of stability in the Asia-Pacific region and has made an essential contribution to global peace and security over the past half century. The Prime Minister welcomed the clear commitments expressed by the President to continued active U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. They agreed the U.S. presence in the region helped contribute to the stability that was essential to ensure economic growth and greater prosperity for all countries in the Asia Pacific.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard discussed a broad range of regional and global security issues. Both underscored the importance of Indonesia's successful democratic transition and expressed support for Indonesia's territorial integrity. Noting the positive steps President Megawati and her team have taken to promote policy reform and national unity, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard reaffirmed their support

for the new government's efforts to build a stable, united, democratic and prosperous Indonesia. The two leaders welcomed the peaceful election in East Timor and emphasized the importance of continued international support and assistance, including through the United Nations, to ensure a successful transition to a stable, viable and independent state.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the economic transformation underway in China will have a major impact on the region and the world. The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the prospect of China's accession to the WTO and affirmed their desire to see China take up a constructive role as a full member of the international community. In this context, they reaffirmed the importance of China's observance of its non-proliferation undertakings and underlined their close interest in China's respect for human rights. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that Japan makes an important contribution to regional stability, emphasized the importance of Prime Minister Koizumi's reform initiatives, and expressed optimism that continued reform will produce significant benefits over time for the people of Japan and for the global economy. On the Korean Peninsula, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard reiterated their strong support for renewed North-South engagement. The Prime Minister welcomed the United States' offer of dialogue to North Korea following the Administration's policy review and encouraged North Korea to respond positively. The two leaders welcomed the growing opportunities for political, commercial and security cooperation with India.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard expressed shared concern about the threat to global stability posed by ballistic missile proliferation and weapons of mass destruction and increasingly capable ballistic missiles as a means of delivery. They agreed on the need for a comprehensive approach to counter these threats, including enhanced non-proliferation and counter-proliferation measures as well as continued nuclear arms reductions. They also agreed that missile defense could play a role in strengthening deterrence and stability as part of this comprehensive approach. The Prime Minister looked forward to further consultation with the United States on these issues and welcomed the Administration's active dialogue on the issue with allies as well as Russia and China.

The President and the Prime Minister resolved to work together closely to expand trade globally, regionally and bilaterally. They agreed that launching a new global trade round in Doha is a top trade priority for both nations. They emphasized that agriculture must be a core element of the next trade round in order to level the playing field. They confirmed their commitment to achieve open markets in the Asia-Pacific region, including using APEC's full potential more effectively. The President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to enhance their already close economic relationship, including the possibility of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). They discussed the contribution an FTA could make to their shared global and regional trade objectives. They noted the strong trade and investment flows between the United States and Australia and the spur an agreement could give to further growth. They asked their trade ministers to report back to them before the end of the year on how to advance the proposal. The President noted the importance of consulting with Congress and other interested parties in deciding the Administration's position on the FTA.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard agreed that climate change poses a serious long-term challenge. The President and the Prime Minister recognized that climate change is a global issue requiring a global approach and expressed their commitment to develop an effective and science-based response.

The President and the Prime Minister greatly enjoyed their discussions, which were characterized by unusual warmth and candor. They believe the meeting strengthened their personal partnership and the partnership between their two nations. The goodwill generated today will be valuable in moving forward on their common agendas.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks in a Leadership Forum in Jacksonville, Florida

September 10, 2001

The President. It's about time he got it right, isn't it? [*Laughter*] Governor. [*Laughter*] Obviously, we were raised right, because Jeb's priority and my priority are the same; that is to make sure every child gets a good education in America.

We understand—we understand—that an educated child is one that is much more likely to realize the great American experience. And it is so important that we get it right in America. And I'm proud of my brother. He's doing a really good job here in Florida, and I appreciate Jeb.

And Jeb is right. I don't think education ought to be a partisan issue. I know reading is not a partisan issue. I mean, getting every child to read in America is an American issue, and it ought to be an American goal. And it is going to be for this administration.

Jeb had the honor of introducing members of the State House and the State level that are going to make this happen. I traveled today with three members of the Florida delegation: the United States Senator, Senator Nelson, thank you for coming, sir. A Member of the House—Stearns and Crenshaw are with us, as well. Thank you all for being here. That is Ander Crenshaw.

And we had a good discussion coming down. I said, "We're going to go to a school that's showing what can happen when people get their minds together and focus on a goal." And the goal of teaching every child to read is an incredibly important goal, and I want to congratulate the teachers and the parents who are insisting that no child—[*applause*].

And I want to thank Diane for having us. Diane told me she just moved down from Virginia. It's a wonderful—to me, a wonderful sign of her dedication, that she would leave Virginia Tech and to come down and put to work her skills, right here on the frontlines of education, a principal. So thank you for being here.

I picked a good man to be the Secretary of Education. I know the superintendent of schools here, for Duval County, is here. There he is; thank you, Super, for being here. Well, I picked a man who had been the superintendent in Houston, Texas. I didn't want somebody who knew the theories of education. I wanted somebody who knew the practical aspects of education, somebody who had been on the frontlines, somebody who shares with me the belief that every child can learn, who is willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations—the feeling that if you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results, and that we all ought to raise the bar—and that's my friend from Houston, who is now the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Thanks for coming, Rod.

Secretary Paige. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank the boys and girls who are here. I like to—sometimes when I see elementary school students or, for that matter, middle school students and sometimes high school, so I ask the question, do you read more than you watch TV?

Audience member. Yes.

The President. That's good, the one that said, yes. Make sure you tell the truth. [*Laughter*] And that's an important question to ask, because it's so much easier to watch TV and not read. And yet, you learn so much more when you read. So all of us as parents have got to work hard to teach our children the importance of practicing reading and the importance of not watching TV—in all due respect to the camera folks back there—[*laughter*]—because reading is essential. And we've got to get it right as a nation. Now, lest I make the Governor feel uncomfortable, I'm absolutely against the federalization of public education. I believe that the best way to achieve excellence for every child is to pass power out of Washington and to trust the local folks.

And I presume—I presume the good Governor is still doing what he said, which is to pass power out of Tallahassee to Jacksonville, because one size doesn't fit all, and it's important to empower people at the local level to have the—to give them the flexibility necessary to meet common goals.

But the Federal Government can help, and it will help. In the bills that I've submitted that passed the House and the Senate, we've got a fantastic reading initiative started. First, there's the call for more money. And

we need to put some more resources behind education, and we have in the budget—about $900 million a year for reading programs which will help local districts develop diagnostic tools necessary to determine whether or not children need help.

You see, one of the fundamental aspects of making sure a child learns to read is, first and foremost, to diagnose the issue. How do you know if you don't diagnose? How do you know if you don't have the tools necessary to say that this young first-grader needs a little extra help when it comes to phonics or when it comes to fluency or when it comes to comprehension?

And so the monies will be available for that—the monies that need to be available, as well, for teacher training. One of the unfortunate aspects that we find in many States is that there are great teachers who have got wonderful hearts who don't know how to teach reading, that don't know the science of reading. And we've got some of the scientists here who understand reading and how it works, and we're going to hear from them here in a minute, if we can ever get the President to stop talking. [*Laughter*]

One of my dreams is to make sure that schools understand and have the resources available for schools within schools. My attitude is, if it takes teaching reading all day long, do it and get it right before we move children through the system. We can't continue to shuffle them through.

The other thing we've done is, we want to provide help for local districts. And I've got two things I want to talk about. First, we've got a parent guide that Rod's Department is going to put out. It's called "Put Reading First," which is a way for parents to take a look, to determine whether or not the school districts around your city are doing what the scientists tell us need to be done. It's kind of a go-by, to make sure that what works is being instituted at the local level. There is nothing better, it seems like to me, than to arm parents and concerned citizens with the facts so they can ask the relevant questions to the school officials.

And secondly, we're going to have what we call reading leadership academies around the country. And there is a lot of new data when it comes to what works. There is a lot of data on curriculum development, for example. There are a lot of fads, too, that seem to be working their way through the system.

And it seems like, to me, a useful function of the Federal Government is to take the good folks out at the NIH, for example, that have studied the science of reading and send them around the country to meet with local citizens and school board members and superintendents to share the data, so that people know precisely what is working and what's not working, so that the good folks at the local level can cut through all the hot air and the finger pointing and the politics of reading and find out what works and then help implement it at the local level. Because what we find is, a good curriculum based upon the science of reading is necessary to make sure no child gets left behind. And that is, after all, the goal and the agenda.

Now, I believe, and I know Rod believes and brother Jeb believe, and I bet you Diane believes, every child can learn. You start with the premise that every child can learn to read, not just a handful, not just some, not just a few from a demographic group, but everybody. And that ought to be the goal of this country. And it starts with having a President set an ambitious goal, empowering local people to follow that goal, providing the resources necessary and also the sound science and the reform to make it work.

I'm proud of the accountability system Florida has developed. You see, this country of ours needs to start asking the question, "What do you know?" A lot of times when there is no accountability, we guess. We wonder out loud, "Oh, gosh, I wonder if he or she is learning to read," which means that the question ultimately asked in our system like that is, "How old are you? Because if you're 10, we're supposed to put you here, and if you're 12, we're going to move you here."

And that has got to change. We need to start asking early, before it is too late, "What do you know?" And that means accountability systems. And not only do we need to know whether or not children can read, but if not, we need to correct early. And that's the goal, and that's the drive. And I will promise you, America will be a much better place when we teach—not if but when we

teach every child in this great country to read.

Thank you for having me, Diane. Brother Jeb, thanks very much. Thank you all.

[*At this point, the program continued.*]

The President. Let me say something about him before he starts—go Seminoles! [*Laughter*] That's overt pandering.

Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Be careful, George.

The President. Just trying to make him feel better.

He got very much involved—we got involved with the Reading Initiative in Texas when I was the Governor, and you know, there's just so much debate about curriculum, and it gets pretty—people begin to get pretty prejudiced about the case. And so we decided to bring in some people that really knew what they were doing. Dr. Torgesen is one of them that came down to help a friend named Reid Lyons.

Reid is out of the National Institutes of Health. These are folks—when you heard me talking about the science of reading, the scientists that are trying to figure out how it works as opposed to what might sound good. This is the kind of guy I'm talking about.

Thank you for coming.

[*At this point, the program continued.*]

The President. One point on that—the Bush boys, we can dominate; we've got the mikes—[*laughter*]—is that we've also taken the work that has been done to the NIH and have developed a simple go-by for Head Start Programs. And the purpose is to help the Head Start Program become much better at providing the essential skills for early reading to our kids. It's a perfect opportunity to take young kids and to give them just the essentials, so that when they finally get here, that as many people are at the same place as possible before the accountability systems kick in. And that's another one of the initiatives that makes a lot of sense, it seems like to me.

[*At this point, the program continued.*]

The President. I'm glad you brought that up, because that's another place we could use a little help with the Congress. We had a good bill out of the House; I hope we can get it up on the Senate floor, to discuss on the Senate floor how to empower the folks of compassion in America. I mean, we've got some unbelievably generous groups of people in America. And a lot of them are found in faith-based programs. And this Nation ought not to fear faith. We ought to welcome it, and we ought to allow faith-based programs to access taxpayers' money, so long as they meet a need. And the need they're going to meet is to help every person realize the promise of America. And the two go hand in hand.

We had a great friend of Rod's and mine out of Houston, one time stood up at a conference such as this, and she said—this is when I was the Governor—she said, "Governor, reading is the new civil right." It's a pretty profound statement when you think about it, because if you can't read, imagine what society is going to be like for you. And if we're interested in having a society in which everybody gets to access the greatness of this country, then the goal has got to be and a goal we must meet is for every person to be able to read.

And it's so important. And I want to thank you all for giving us a chance to come and highlight this initiative. It's an opportunity for me to say that, at the Federal level, both Republicans and Democrats are discussing this important issue. It's a priority of both parties. And I'm confident that with the right attitude in Washington—and we did need a little attitude adjustment in terms of trying to focus on good public policy instead of trying to tear each other down—that we can get a good bill out.

Now, one has passed the House, and one has passed the Senate. Both bills have got really good features to them, and it's now time for people to act in the Nation's Capital and get the bill to my desk, so that people at the local level can start to plan and start to strategize and to make things happen in a positive way.

There's too many of our kids in America who can't read today, maybe not in this school, but around the Nation there's just too many. And now it's time to wage war on illiteracy for the young and to whip this problem early.

Thanks for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the cafeteria at Justina Road Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Diane Gillespie, principal, Justina Road Elementary School; John C. Fryer, Jr., superintendent of schools, Duval County Public School District; Joseph K. Torgesen, distinguished research professor of psychology and education, Florida State University; and G. Reid Lyons, chief, Child Development and Behavior Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health.

Remarks on the Terrorist Attack on New York City's World Trade Center in Sarasota, Florida

September 11, 2001

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a difficult moment for America. I, unfortunately, will be going back to Washington after my remarks. Secretary Rod Paige and the Lieutenant Governor will take the podium and discuss education. I do want to thank the folks here at Booker Elementary School for their hospitality.

Today we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country. I have spoken to the Vice President, to the Governor of New York, to the Director of the FBI, and have ordered that the full resources of the Federal Government go to help the victims and their families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down and to find those folks who committed this act.

Terrorism against our Nation will not stand.

And now if you would join me in a moment of silence. May God bless the victims, their families, and America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center at Emma Booker Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to Lt. Gov. Frank T. Brogan of Florida and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. At 8:45 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center North, and at 9:05 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the World Trade Center South. Both flights were scheduled from Boston Logan International Airport to Los Angeles International Airport.

Remarks on the Terrorist Attacks at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana

September 11, 2001

Freedom, itself, was attacked this morning by a faceless coward, and freedom will be defended. I want to reassure the American people that the full resources of the Federal Government are working to assist local authorities to save lives and to help the victims of these attacks. Make no mistake: The United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts.

I've been in regular contact with the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, the national security team, and my Cabinet. We have taken all appropriate security precautions to protect the American people. Our military at home and around the world is on high alert status, and we have taken the necessary security precautions to continue the functions of your Government.

We have been in touch with the leaders of Congress and with world leaders to assure them that we will do whatever is necessary to protect America and Americans.

I ask the American people to join me in saying a thanks for all the folks who have been fighting hard to rescue our fellow citizens and to join me in saying a prayer for the victims and their families.

The resolve of our great Nation is being tested. But make no mistake: We will show the world that we will pass this test.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the Dougherty Center. At 9:40 a.m., subsequent to the President's remarks in Sarasota, FL, American Airlines Flight 77, scheduled from Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles International Airport, crashed into the Pentagon.

Proclamation 7461—Honoring the Victims of the Incidents on Tuesday, September 11, 2001

September 11, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for those killed by the heinous acts of violence perpetrated by faceless cowards upon the people and the freedom of the United States on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Sunday, September 16, 2001. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 13, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

Address to the Nation on the Terrorist Attacks

September 11, 2001

Good evening. Today our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices: secretaries, business men and women, military and Federal workers, moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our Nation into chaos and retreat, but they have failed. Our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today our Nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America, with the daring of our rescueworkers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our Government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, DC, to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our Government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the Members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the National Security Team

September 12, 2001

I have just completed a meeting with our national security team, and we have received the latest intelligence updates.

The deliberate and deadly attacks which were carried out yesterday against our country were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war. This will require our country to unite in steadfast determination and resolve. Freedom and democracy are under attack.

The American people need to know we're facing a different enemy than we have ever faced. This enemy hides in shadows and has no regard for human life. This is an enemy who preys on innocent and unsuspecting people, then runs for cover. But it won't be able to run for cover forever. This is an enemy that tries to hide, but it won't be able to hide forever. This is an enemy that thinks its harbors are safe, but they won't be safe forever.

This enemy attacked not just our people but all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The United States of America will use all our resources to conquer this enemy. We will rally the world. We will be patient; we will be focused; and we will be steadfast in our determination.

This battle will take time and resolve. But make no mistake about it: We will win.

The Federal Government and all our agencies are conducting business, but it is not business as usual. We are operating on heightened security alert. America is going forward, and as we do so, we must remain keenly aware of the threats to our country. Those in authority should take appropriate precautions to protect our citizens.

But we will not allow this enemy to win the war by changing our way of life or restricting our freedoms. This morning I am sending to Congress a request for emergency funding authority so that we are prepared to spend whatever it takes to rescue victims, to help the citizens of New York City and Washington, DC, respond to this tragedy, and to protect our national security.

I want to thank the Members of Congress for their unity and support. America is united. The freedom-loving nations of the world stand by our side. This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Remarks While Touring Damage at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia

September 12, 2001

The Secretary and I—first of all, I must tell you I am overwhelmed by the devastation.

I am so grateful for the people who are working here. We're here to say thanks to not only the workers on this site but the workers who are doing the same work in New York City. I want to say thanks to the folks who have given blood to the Red Cross. I

want to say thanks for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who pray for the victims and their families.

Secretary Rumsfeld told me, when I talked to him, that he felt the blast shake the Pentagon; even though he was on the other side of the building, the building rocked. And now I know why.

Coming here makes me sad, on the one hand; it also makes me angry. Our country will, however, not be cowed by terrorists, by people who don't share the same values we share, by people who are willing to destroy people's lives because we embrace freedom. The Nation mourns, but our Government will go on; the country will function. We are on high alert for possible activity.

But coming here confirms what the Secretary and I both know, that this is a great Nation. People here working hard prove it; people out here working their hearts out to answer families' questions, to remove the rubble and debris from this office. I want to thank everybody not only on this site but all across America for responding so generously, so kindly, in their prayers, in their contributions of love and their willingness to help in any way they can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:53 p.m. at the site of the attack.

Memorandum on Excused Absence and Assistance to Federal Employees Affected by the Attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

September 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Excused Absence and Assistance to Federal Employees Affected by the Attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

I am deeply saddened and outraged by the loss of life and suffering caused by the attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. I convey my deepest sympathy and heartfelt sorrow to our fellow Americans and their families who have been affected by these senseless acts of violence. Many parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this tragedy.

As part of this effort, I ask the heads of executive departments and agencies having Federal civilian employees in the affected areas to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is prevented from reporting to work or faced with a personal emergency because of the terrorist attacks and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or recovery efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

I have directed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Labor to establish teams of specialists to assist with Federal benefits and workers' compensation claims of those employees who were injured or killed in the attacks.

Finally, I have directed OPM to establish an emergency leave transfer program to assist employees affected by this major disaster. The emergency leave transfer program will permit employees in an executive agency to donate unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies who have been adversely affected by the attacks and who need additional time off from work without having to use their own paid leave.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

September 12, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–26

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 12, 2000 (65 *Fed. Reg.* 55883), the exercise

of certain authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2001.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to the applicable countries is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2002, the exercise of those authorities with respect to countries affected by:

(1) the Foreign Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 500;
(2) the Transaction Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 505; and
(3) the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:37 p.m., September 13]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Supplemental Appropriations To Address the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

September 12, 2001

Sir:

Yesterday, evil and despicable acts of terror were perpetrated against our fellow citizens. Our way of life, indeed our very freedom, came under attack. Our first priority is to respond swiftly and surely. We need to do so in a way that will make Americans proud, especially those heroes who are struggling so valiantly to deal with yesterday's tragedy.

Immediate steps are being taken to protect our citizens at home and around the world. I implemented our Government's emergency response plans, and the functions of our Government continue without interruption. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice.

Now Congress must act. I ask the Congress to immediately pass and send to me the enclosed request for $20,000,000,000 in FY 2001 emergency appropriations to provide resources to address the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and the consequences of such attacks. Passing this supplemental appropriations bill without delay will send a powerful signal of unity to our fellow Americans and to the world. If additional resources are necessary, I will forward another request for additional funding.

I designate the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the request for $20 billion in FY 2001 emergency appropriations.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and New York Governor George Pataki and an Exchange With Reporters

September 13, 2001

President Bush. Good morning, men.

Mayor Giuliani. Good morning, Mr. President.

Governor Pataki. Good morning, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you all very much for taking my phone call. First of all, I can't tell you how sad I am, and America is, for the people of New York City and the tri-state area. I want to let you know there is a quiet anger in America that really is real.

Also, though, I can't tell you how proud I am of the good citizens of your part of the world and the extraordinary job you all are doing. You're doing, really, a great job on

behalf of the citizens of New York City, New York State, and in the tri-state area. So I want to thank you very much for your leadership and dedication.

Mayor Giuliani. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Secondly, I've been in touch with you all. You've extended me a kind invitation to come to New York City. I accept. I'll be there tomorrow afternoon, after the prayer service at the National Cathedral. I look forward to joining with both of you in thanking the police and fire, the construction trade workers, the restaurant owners, the volunteers—all of whom have really made a huge display for the world to see of the compassion of America and the bravery of America and the strength of America.

Every world leader I've talked to in recent days has been impressed by what they have seen about our Nation and the fabric of our Nation. And I want to thank everybody when I come; so thank you for your hospitality.

Governor Pataki. Well, Mr. President, thank you for coming to New York. I'm sure it's going to be a great inspiration to all of us and, particularly, those thousands of men and women still downtown trying to help us with the rescue efforts.

I also want to thank you for all the help we've gotten from the Federal Government—it's been tremendous—and for your words. You are right, our Nation is united as never before, and we will triumph over this evil with your leadership and your inspiration. And I also have to congratulate the mayor for the tremendous effort he has made.

Mr. President, you would be proud of the leadership and the cooperation we've seen here. The city has taken the lead. Your people have been enormously supportive, and we're very grateful.

President Bush. Well, thanks, George and Rudy; thank you all. I know you've put in a request, and I've directed the Attorney General to expedite any payments of benefits for those fallen public safety officers to their families, any benefits to their families. And the Attorney General, as I understand it, will be making a formal announcement of your request today.

I told Allbaugh, anything—anything it takes to help New York. I have been in touch with the Congress; they are expediting a supplemental. We've worked in great cooperation with Members of the Congress in both political parties. So just keep in touch. I know you will. This isn't the first time we've talked, and I really appreciate the fact that you all are in charge, and I know the citizens of New York and the tri-state area, people of New Jersey and Connecticut are appreciative, as well.

Mayor Giuliani. Mr. President, the uniformed officers, the police, the fire, the emergency services officers, their families will really appreciate this. We're going to sustain a tremendous loss of our bravest and our best people. And the relief that you're now making available to the families is going to mean a lot to them. They're going to be able to think about the fact that their children are going to be taken care of, that they're going to be able to go to college, that they're going to be able to carry on.

So I can't express to you how appreciative we are of your acting so swiftly. And also, on that terrible day when our city was being attacked, you were in immediate communication with us, Mr. President, and helped to secure the city. And the work you've done for us, we all eternally appreciate. You've been a terrific leader, and we're taking direction from you, and we're following your example. You've done a terrific job, Mr. President.

President Bush. Well, thanks, Rudy, and thanks, George. Let me make it clear to you all as my close friends that my mindset is this: One, I weep and mourn with America. I'm going to a hospital right after this to comfort families. I wish I could comfort every single family whose lives have been affected.

But make no mistake about it, my resolve is steady and strong about winning this war that has been declared on America. It's a new kind of war. And I understand it's a new kind of war. And this Government will adjust. And this Government will call others to join us, to make sure this act, these acts, the people who conducted these acts, and those who harbor them are held accountable for their actions. Make no mistake.

And as we do so, I urge—I know I don't need to tell you all this, but our Nation must be mindful that there are thousands of Arab-Americans who live in New York City who love their flag just as much as the three of us do. And we must be mindful that as we seek to win the war that we treat Arab-Americans and Muslims with the respect they deserve. I know that is your attitudes, as well; it's certainly the attitude of this Government, that we should not hold one who is a Muslim responsible for an act of terror. We will hold those who are responsible for the terrorist acts accountable and those who harbor them.

You'll see—and I look forward to visiting with you in person tomorrow about the resolve of this Government. And so I thank you very much for your leadership on the ground. I wish I was visiting under better circumstances. But it will be a chance for all three of us to thank and hug and cry with the citizens of your good area.

Mayor Giuliani. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We really appreciate this very much.

President Bush. We'll see you tomorrow.

Governor Pataki. Mr. President, we're looking forward to your visit. It will inspire us all. And we will be with you when the United States takes firm and appropriate action to those who conducted this evil.

President Bush. Thank you all very much. See you tomorrow.

Governor Pataki. Thank you.

Mayor Giuliani. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. God bless.

Safety of Air Travel

Q. Mr. President, is it safe to fly? And specifically, would you want a close member of your family to get on a commercial air flight today?

President Bush. We have taken every precaution to make sure that it is safe to fly in America. There is beefed-up security at our airports. There is increased presence on the airplanes. Yes, I would—if a family member asked whether they should fly, I'd say, yes.

Response to September 11 Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, how close are you, sir, to finding out, to nailing down who is responsible for these acts? And what kind of international coalition are you trying to build? Is it similar to the one your father built for the Persian Gulf war?

President Bush. First, let me condition the press this way. Any sources and methods of intelligence will remain guarded and secret. My administration will not talk about how we gather intelligence, if we gather intelligence, and what the intelligence says. That's for the protection of the American people. It is important as we battle this enemy to conduct ourselves that way.

Secondly, I've been on the phone this morning, just like I was yesterday and will be on this afternoon, on the phone with leaders from around the world who express their solidarity with this Nation's intention to rout out and to whip terrorism.

They understand, fully understand that an act of war was declared on the United States of America. They understand, as well, that that act could have as easily been declared on them, that these people can't stand freedom; they hate our values; they hate what America stands for. Many of the leaders understand it could have easily have happened to them.

Secondly, they understand that, unlike previous war, this enemy likes to hide. They heard my call loud and clear, to those who feel like they can provide safe harbor for the terrorists, that we will hold them responsible, as well. And they join me in understanding not only the concept of the enemy but that the enemy is a different type of enemy. They join me also in solidarity about holding those who fund them, who harbor them, who encourage them, responsible for their activities.

I'm pleased with the outpouring of support. Jiang Zemin, Vladimir Putin; had a great visit this morning with His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. I will continue to stay on the phone. And there is universal support for the American people, sadness in their voice but understanding that we have just seen the first war of the 21st century. And there is universal approval of

the statements I have made, and I am confident there will be universal approval of the actions this Government takes.

Pakistan and Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, if this is a different kind of war, it might require, perhaps, a different kind of coalition. Many people believe that for a real war on terrorism to work you'll need cooperation from governments that haven't necessarily done so in the past, specifically, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Have you made any progress on that front, and do you have a message for those——

President Bush. I would refer you to the statements that the Pakistani leader gave about his—I don't have the exact words in front of me—but his willingness to work with the United States. And I appreciate that statement, and now we'll just find out what that means, won't we?

We will give the Pakistani Government a chance to cooperate and to participate as we hunt down those people who committed this unbelievable despicable act on America.

Intelligence Gathering/Congressional Support

Q. Mr. President, how confident are you that Usama bin Ladin is behind these attacks? Do you know what his whereabouts are? And secondly, what kind of support are you looking for from Congress, in terms of your willingness to act?

President Bush. We are—we will not discuss intelligence matters, how we gather intelligence, and what we know—about anybody. When our Government acts, you'll be informed.

Secondly, I am—we had a great meeting yesterday here in the Cabinet Room with leadership of the House and the Senate. I was touched by their response, their encouragement, and their willingness to work together. And I would be very pleased to see a strong resolution come out of Congress supporting the administration and what we intend to do, and we're working closely with Congress.

Secondly, progress is being made on a supplemental. I thought that was very swift action, and I'm most appreciative, again, of Senator Daschle and Representative Gephardt, as well as my Republican colleagues, for really showing solidarity again and uniting the Nation. Now is the time for the country to be united.

You know, through the tears of sadness I see an opportunity. Make no mistake about it, this Nation is sad, but we're also tough and resolute. And now is an opportunity to do generations a favor, by coming together and whipping terrorism, hunting it down, finding it, and holding them accountable.

The Nation must understand, this is now the focus of my administration. We will very much engage in domestic policy, of course. I look forward to working with Congress on a variety of issues. But now that war has been declared on us, we will lead the world to victory, to victory.

Air Force One

Q. Mr. President, what is your understanding of the threat to Air Force One? And do you believe that the terrorists attempted to assassinate you, sir?

President Bush. I will not discuss the intelligence that our country has gathered.

Q. Do you believe they tried to assassinate you?

President Bush. I believe I took the—I know; I don't believe—I know I took the appropriate actions as the Commander in Chief, to be in a position to be able to make the decisions necessary for our Government to handle the crisis.

You didn't hear the end of the phone call with the mayor and George Pataki. Both of whom thanked me for the fact that we were immediately on the phone with them from Air Force One, and our Government responded quickly.

Day of Prayer

Q. About the prayer day tomorrow, Mr. President. Could you give us a sense as to what kind of prayers you are thinking and where your heart is, for yourself, as you——

President Bush. Well, I don't think about myself right now. I think about the families, the children. I am a loving guy, and I am also someone, however, who has got a job to do, and I intend to do it. And this is a terrible moment.

But this country will not relent until we have saved ourselves and others from the terrible tragedy that came upon America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks Following a Visit to Washington Hospital Center

September 13, 2001

We have just seen some really brave men and women. We met with the people who work for our Government, that work inside the building. We met with their families.

This is a great hospital. The doctors and nurses are not only accomplished; they're loving people. There's a wonderful spirit up on the floor that we went to. We told them that our country is praying for each and every one there, praying for their families.

Some of the folks could talk, and they described the horror of the incident, the moment. They talked about escaping, going through fire, crawling through debris. It was clear that they were fighting for their survival then, and like every patient up there, they're still fighting for survival.

And it was just a sobering moment for Laura and me. But we again thank the hospital, the docs, the nurses and, of course, again tell the families that the Nation prays for those who have been injured by this unbelievable act of terror.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. outside the main entrance to Washington Hospital Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7462—National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001

September 13, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America in a series of despicable acts of war. They hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers, and a third into the Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon, causing great loss of life and tremendous damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling well short of its intended target apparently because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board. This carnage, which caused the collapse of both Trade Center towers and the destruction of part of the Pentagon, killed more than 250 airplane passengers and thousands more on the ground.

Civilized people around the world denounce the evildoers who devised and executed these terrible attacks. Justice demands that those who helped or harbored the terrorists be punished—and punished severely. The enormity of their evil demands it. We will use all the resources of the United States and our cooperating friends and allies to pursue those responsible for this evil, until justice is done.

We mourn with those who have suffered great and disastrous loss. All our hearts have been seared by the sudden and senseless taking of innocent lives. We pray for healing and for the strength to serve and encourage one another in hope and faith.

Scripture says: "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." I call on every American family and the family of America to observe a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, honoring the memory of the thousands of victims of these brutal attacks and comforting those who lost loved ones. We will persevere through this national tragedy and personal loss. In time, we will find healing and recovery; and, in the face

of all this evil, we remain strong and united, "one Nation under God."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001. I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance with noontime memorial services, the ringing of bells at that hour, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I encourage employers to permit their workers time off during the lunch hour to attend the noontime services to pray for our land. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in these solemn observances.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:58 p.m., September 13, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

Memorandum on Benefits for Survivors of Public Safety Officers

September 13, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Benefits for Survivors of Public Safety Officers

I hereby direct you to implement procedures to streamline the application, approval, and payment process for claims for benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976 by eligible survivors of firefighters, police officers, medical rescue personnel, and other public safety officers who died in the line of duty as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

I further direct that you work with Federal, State and local officials and deploy the resources of the relevant offices within the Department of Justice to provide immediate assistance to the survivors of those public safety officers who have sacrificed their lives for our communities and country.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service

September 14, 2001

We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express our Nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead and for those who love them.

On Tuesday our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty. We have seen the images of fire and ashes and bent steel. Now come the names, the list of casualties we are only beginning to read.

They are the names of men and women who began their day at a desk or in an airport, busy with life. They are the names of people who faced death and in their last moments called home to say, "Be brave," and, "I love you." They are the names of passengers who defied their murderers and prevented the murder of others on the ground. They are the names of men and women who wore the uniform of the United States and died at their posts. They are the names of rescuers, the ones whom death found running up the stairs and into the fires to help others. We will read all these names. We will linger over them and learn their stories, and many Americans will weep.

To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the Nation. And I assure you, you are not alone.

Just 3 days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: To answer these attacks and rid the world of evil.

War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This Nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms

of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.

Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed and lead us to pray. In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching and an honesty. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Tuesday, a woman said, "I prayed to God to give us a sign that He is still here." Others have prayed for the same, searching hospital to hospital, carrying pictures of those still missing.

God's signs are not always the ones we look for. We learn in tragedy that his purposes are not always our own. Yet the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral, are known and heard and understood.

There are prayers that help us last through the day or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers that give us strength for the journey. And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.

This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end. And the Lord of life holds all who die and all who mourn.

It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation, as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave. We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion, in long lines of blood donors, in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.

And we have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice. Inside the World Trade Center, one man, who could have saved himself, stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A beloved priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two officeworkers, finding a disabled stranger, carried her down 68 floors to safety. A group of men drove through the night from Dallas to Washington to bring skin grafts for burn victims.

In these acts, and in many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another and an abiding love for our country. Today we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. This is a unity of every faith and every background. It has joined together political parties in both Houses of Congress. It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils and American flags, which are displayed in pride and wave in defiance.

Our unity is a kinship of grief and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world.

America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

On this national day of prayer and remembrance, we ask almighty God to watch over our Nation and grant us patience and resolve in all that is to come. We pray that He will comfort and console those who now walk in sorrow. We thank Him for each life we now must mourn and the promise of a life to come.

As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God's love. May He bless the souls of the departed. May He comfort our own, and may He always guide our country.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at the National Cathedral. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7463—Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks

September 14, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

A national emergency exists by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon,

and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, I hereby declare that the national emergency has existed since September 11, 2001, and, pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), I intend to utilize the following statutes: sections 123, 123a, 527, 2201(c), 12006, and 12302 of title 10, United States Code, and sections 331, 359, and 367 of title 14, United States Code.

This proclamation immediately shall be published in the *Federal Register* or disseminated through the Emergency *Federal Register*, and transmitted to the Congress.

This proclamation is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 17, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 18.

Executive Order 13223—Ordering the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to Active Duty and Delegating Certain Authorities to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation

September 14, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in furtherance of the proclamation of September 14, 2001, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks, which declared a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States, I hereby order as follows:

Section 1. To provide additional authority to the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation to respond to the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States, the authority under title 10, United States Code, to order any unit, and any member of the Ready Reserve not assigned to a unit organized to serve as a unit, in the Ready Reserve to active duty for not more than 24 consecutive months, is invoked and made available, according to its terms, to the Secretary concerned, subject in the case of the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, to the direction of the Secretary of Defense. The term "Secretary concerned" is defined in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code, to mean the Secretary of the Army with respect to the Army; the Secretary of the Navy with respect to the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy; the Secretary of the Air Force with respect to the Air Force; and the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

Sec. 2. To allow for the orderly administration of personnel within the armed forces, the following authorities vested in the President are hereby invoked to the full extent provided by the terms thereof: section 527 of title 10, United States Code, to suspend the operation of sections 523, 525, and 526 of that title, regarding officer and warrant officer strength and distribution; and sections 123, 123a, and 12006 of title 10, United States Code, to suspend certain laws relating to promotion, involuntary retirement, and separation of commissioned officers; end strength limitations; and Reserve component officer strength limitations.

Sec. 3. To allow for the orderly administration of personnel within the armed forces, the authorities vested in the President by sections 331, 359, and 367 of title 14, United

States Code, relating to the authority to order to active duty certain officers and enlisted members of the Coast Guard and to detain enlisted members, are invoked to the full extent provided by the terms thereof.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of Defense is hereby designated and empowered, without the approval, ratification, or other action by the President, to exercise the authority vested in the President by sections 123, 123a, 527, and 12006 of title 10, United States Code, as invoked by sections 2 and 3 of this order.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of Transportation is hereby designated and empowered, without the approval, ratification, or other action by the President, to exercise the authority vested in sections 331, 359, and 367 of title 14, United States Code, when the Coast Guard is not serving as part of the Navy, as invoked by section 2 of this order, to recall any regular officer or enlisted member on the retired list to active duty and to detain any enlisted member beyond the term of his or her enlistment.

Sec. 6. The authority delegated by this order to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation may be redelegated and further subdelegated to civilian subordinates who are appointed to their offices by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 7. Based upon my determination under 10 U.S.C. 2201(c) that it is necessary to increase (subject to limits imposed by law) the number of members of the armed forces on active duty beyond the number for which funds are provided in appropriation Acts for the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense may provide for the cost of such additional members as an excepted expense under section 11(a) of title 41, United States Code.

Sec. 8. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch, and is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

Sec. 9. This order is effective immediately and shall be promptly transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 14, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 17, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 18.

Message to the Congress on the Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks

September 14, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized, pursuant to section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service within the Department of the Navy, to order to active duty units and individual members not assigned to units of the Ready Reserve to perform such missions the Secretary of Defense may determine necessary. The deployment of United States forces to conduct operational missions in connection with the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks necessitates this action. A copy of my Executive Order implementing this action is attached.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 14, 2001.

Proclamation 7464—Amending Proclamation 7461, Display of the Flag at Half-Staff as a Mark of Respect for the Victims of the Incidents on Tuesday, September 11, 2001

September 14, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the display of the flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the victims of the terrorist attacks on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, it is hereby ordered that Proclamation 7461 of September 11, 2001, is amended by deleting in the first sentence the words "Sunday, September 16" and inserting in their place the words "Saturday, September 22."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Remarks to Police, Firemen, and Rescueworkers at the World Trade Center Site in New York City

September 14, 2001

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all. I want you all to know——

Audience member. Can't hear you.

The President. I can't go any louder. [*Laughter*]

I want you all to know that America today—America today is on bended knee in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families who mourn. This Nation stands with the good people of New York City and New Jersey and Connecticut as we mourn the loss of thousands of our citizens.

Audience member. I can't hear you.

The President. I can hear you. I can hear you. The rest of the world hears you. And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. The Nation sends its love and compassion to everybody who is here. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for making the Nation proud. And may God bless America.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. at Murray and West Streets.

Statement on Congressional Action on the Supplemental Appropriations To Address the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

September 14, 2001

I am gratified that the Congress has united so powerfully by taking this action. It sends a clear message—our people are together, and we will prevail.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 10

In the morning, the President went to the Washington Navy Yard, and he later returned to the White House.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Jacksonville, FL. Later, he traveled to

the Colony Beach & Tennis Resort on Longboat Key, FL.

September 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Sarasota, FL. Later, after receiving news of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, he traveled to Barksdale Air Force Base, LA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had telephone conversations with the Vice President, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and Laura Bush concerning the attacks. Following his arrival, he had telephone conversations with the Vice President, Secretary Rumsfeld, and Senator Charles Schumer of New York concerning the attacks.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Offutt Air Force Base, NE. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had telephone conversations with Gov. George Pataki of New York and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani concerning the attacks. Following his arrival, he participated in a teleconference with his national security team.

Later, the President returned to Washington, DC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had telephone conversations with former President George Bush and Laura Bush. The President also had a telephone conversation with Solicitor General Ted Olson to express his condolences over the death of Mr. Olson's wife, Barbara, who was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 when it was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon.

In the evening, the President met with his national security team.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by fires and explosions on September 11.

September 12

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. He then met with congressional leaders concerning the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA. Later, he returned to the White House.

During the day, the President had telephone conversations with President Jacques Chirac of France, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, President Jiang Zemin of China, and twice with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

September 13

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia concerning the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress from the Virginia and New York areas to discuss Federal efforts to help victims of the attacks.

The President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt concerning the terrorist attacks.

The White House announced that on September 12 the President declared an emergency in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by fires and explosions on September 11.

September 14

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New York City. Later, he met with volunteers and rescueworkers at the Jacob Javits Convention Center.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate JoAnn Johnson to be a Board Member of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tammy Dee McCutchen to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirlee Bowne to be a member of the Federal Housing Finance Board, and upon confirmation, she will be designated Chairman.

The President announced his intention to designate Dennis Earl Dollar to be Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President announced his intention to designate Everett Alvarez, Jr., to be Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 10

Robert E. Blackburn,
of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, vice Zita L. Weinshienk, retired.

David C. Bury,
of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–553, approved December 21, 2000.

Cindy K. Jorgenson,
of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–116, approved November 29, 1999.

Marcia S. Krieger,
of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, vice Daniel B. Sparr, retired.

Richard J. Leon,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Norma Holloway Johnson, retired.

James C. Mahan,
of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–553, approved December 21, 2000.

Frederick J. Martone,
of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, vice Roger G. Strand, retired.

Cynthia Shepard Perry,
of Texas, to be U.S. Director of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years, vice Willene A. Johnson, resigned.

Julie A. Robinson,
of Kansas, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas, vice G. Thomas Van Bebber, retired.

Rockwell A. Schnabel,
of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

D. Brooks Smith,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Timothy K. Lewis, retired.

Thomas B. Wells,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term expiring 15 years after he takes office (reappointment).

John Stern Wolf,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Nonproliferation), vice Robert J. Einhorn.

Jay B. Stephens,
of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, vice Daniel Marcus, resigned.

Submitted September 12

Juan Carlos Benitez,
of Puerto Rico, to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices for a term of 4 years, vice John D. Trasvina, term expiring.

Ralph Leo Boyce, Jr.,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia.

Kenneth C. Brill,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Kenneth C. Brill,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador.

Jose A. Fourquet,
of New Jersey, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 3 years, vice Lawrence Harrington, resigned.

J. Edward Fox,
of Ohio, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Joseph R. Crapa, resigned.

Robert W. Jordan,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plentipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dunn Lampton,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years, vice Joe Bradley Pigott, resigned.

Edward R. McPherson,
of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, vice Sally Thompson, resigned.

Kevin E. Moley,
of Arizona, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, vice George Edward Moose.

E. Anne Peterson,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Barry Edward Carter.

Benigno G. Reyna,
of Texas, to be Director of the U.S. Marshals Service, vice John W. Marshall, resigned.

Robert V. Royall,
of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Read Van de Water,
of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Francisco J. Sanchez, resigned.

Submitted September 14

Clifford G. Bond,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Shirlee Bowne,
of Florida, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2004, vice J. Timothy O'Neill, term expired.

Barry D. Crane,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, vice Thomas J. Umberg.

Mark W. Everson,
of Texas, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice Joshua Gotbaum, resigned.

Emil H. Frankel,
of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Eugene A. Conti, Jr., resigned.

James B. Lockhart III,
of Connecticut, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term of 6 years, vice William A. Halter.

Tammy Dee McCutchen,
of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, vice T. Michael Kerr.

Margaret K. McMillion,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige will head the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children

Fact sheet: U.S.S. *Canberra* Bell

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia

Announcement of nomination for the U.S. Tax Court

Released September 11

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes on the Government response to the terrorist attacks

Transcript of a press briefing by Attorney General John D. Ashcroft, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joseph Allbaugh on their agencies' response to the terrorist attacks

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of New York

Released September 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Released September 14

Statement by the Press Secretary on Australia's decision to apply the ANZUS defense treaty to the terrorist attacks on the United States

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Remarks in a Meeting With the National Security Team and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

September 15, 2001

The President. I've asked the highest levels of our Government to come to discuss the current tragedy that has so deeply affected our Nation. Our country mourns for the loss of life and for those whose lives have been so deeply affected by this despicable act of terror.

I am going to describe to our leadership what I saw: the wreckage of New York City, the signs of the first battle of war.

We're going to meet and deliberate and discuss, but there's no question about it, this act will not stand. We will find those who did it; we will smoke them out of their holes; we will get them running; and we'll bring them to justice. We will not only deal with those who dare attack America; we will deal with those who harbor them and feed them and house them.

Make no mistake about it: Underneath our tears is the strong determination of America to win this war. And we will win it.

I'm going to ask the Secretary of State to say a few things, and then the Attorney General.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Thank you, Mr. President. I might just say that I'm very pleased with the response we've been getting from the international community. I think every civilized nation in the world recognizes that this was an assault not just against the United States but against civilization.

We should also take note, it's not just Americans who lost lives in the World Trade Center. Dozens of countries lost lives, and they realize that this was an attack against them, as well.

We are receiving expressions of support from around the world and not just rhetorical support but real support for whatever may lay ahead in this campaign that is ahead of us to win the war that the President has spoken of.

I might especially want to thank the President and the people of Pakistan for the support that they have offered and their willingness to assist us in whatever might be required in that part of the world as we determine who those perpetrators are. It's a coalition that will stay intact, that will be built upon over time. And what we have to do is not just go after these perpetrators and those who gave them haven but the whole curse of terrorism that is upon the face of the Earth. And this is a campaign that we have begun this week, and we will stick with it until we are successful.

The President. Attorney General.

Attorney General John D. Ashcroft. Four days ago we began an investigative effort to understand not only those who perpetrate this heinous assault against America and free people everywhere but to develop an understanding of those who are associated with it and how it was conducted.

The FBI, together with very cooperative local and State officials and law enforcement agencies, has processed thousands of leads. We are making the kinds of contacts and developing the information that allow us to describe this as proceeding with reasonable success. We believe that the picture is developing a kind of clarity that's appropriate. We have named 19 individuals that we have high levels of confidence were the hijackers. And we are further refining our understanding of the ways in which this terrible crime was developed.

I might add that we have put in place very serious measures that we believe will provide greater security and provide a basis for our country returning to the kind of freedom and business and conduct that is characteristic of this great Nation.

U.S. Response to Terrorist Attacks

Q. Sir, what do you say to Americans who are worried that the longer it takes to retaliate, the more chance the perpetrators have to escape and hide and just escape justice?

The President. They will try to hide. They will try to avoid the United States and our allies, but we're not going to let them. They run to the hills. They find holes to get in, and we will do whatever it takes to smoke them out and get them running, and we'll get them.

Listen, this is a great nation; we're a kind people. None of us could have envisioned the barbaric acts of these terrorists. But they have stirred up the might of the American people, and we're going to get them, no matter what it takes.

In my radio address today I explained to the American people that this effort may require patience. But we're going to——

Q. How long——

The President. As long as it takes. And it's not just one person. We're talking about those who fed them, those who house them, those who harbor terrorists will be held accountable for this action.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Sir, are you satisfied that Usama bin Laden is at least a kingpin of this operation?

The President. There is no question he is what we would call a prime suspect. And if he thinks he can hide and run from the United States and our allies, he will be sorely mistaken.

U.S. Military

Q. Mr. President, do you have a message for the reservists that you called up yesterday? Can you tell us whether you think more may have to be called up?

The President. The message is for everybody who wears the uniform: Get ready. The United States will do what it takes to win this war. And I ask patience of the American people. There is no question in my mind we'll have the resolve. I witnessed it yesterday on the construction site. Behind the sadness and the exhaustion, there is a desire by the American people to not seek only revenge but to win a war against barbaric behavior, people that hate freedom and hate what we stand for.

And this is an administration that is going to dedicate ourselves to winning that war.

Q. What did Pakistan say it would do to help the United States?

Secretary Powell. We put before the Pakistani Government a specific list of things that we would like cooperation on, and they've agreed to all those items. I'm not prepared to announce today what those specific items are. But the Pakistani Government was very forthcoming, and we're appreciative.

U.S. Response to Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, what kind of military options are you considering, if you could talk broadly?

The President. This is an administration that will not talk about how we gather intelligence, how we know what we're going to do, nor what our plans are. When we move, we will communicate with you in an appropriate manner. We're at war. There has been an act of war declared upon America by terrorists, and we will respond accordingly. And I appreciate very much the American people understanding that. As we plan, as we put our strategy into action, we will let you know when we think it's appropriate, not only to protect the lives of our service men and women but to make sure our coalition has had proper time to be noticed, as well. But we're going to act.

Q. What is the risk of additional attacks on us at this point?

The President. I would think the American people need to be—go about their business on Monday but with a heightened sense of awareness that a group of barbarians have declared war on the American people.

Q. Sir, how much of a sacrifice are ordinary Americans going to have to be expected to make in their daily lives, in their daily routines?

The President. Our hope, of course, is that they make no sacrifice whatsoever. We would like to see life return to normal in America. But these people have declared war on us, and we will do whatever it takes to make sure that we're safe internally. So, therefore, people may not be able to board flights as quickly. Our borders are tighter

than they've ever been before. We're taken a variety of measures to make sure that the American people are safe, just as the Attorney General spoke about.

But we hope, obviously, that the measures we take will allow the American economy to continue on. I urge people to go to their businesses on Monday. I understand Major League Baseball is going to start playing again. It is important for America to get on about its life. But our Government will be on full alert, and we'll be tracing every lead, every potential, to make sure that the American people are safe.

Q. How long do you envision——

The President. The definition is, whatever it takes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:19 a.m. in the Laurel Cabin. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

September 15, 2001

Good morning. This weekend I am engaged in extensive sessions with members of my National Security Council, as we plan a comprehensive assault on terrorism. This will be a different kind of conflict against a different kind of enemy.

This is a conflict without battlefields or beachheads, a conflict with opponents who believe they are invisible. Yet, they are mistaken. They will be exposed, and they will discover what others in the past have learned: Those who make war against the United States have chosen their own destruction. Victory against terrorism will not take place in a single battle but in a series of decisive actions against terrorist organizations and those who harbor and support them.

We are planning a broad and sustained campaign to secure our country and eradicate the evil of terrorism. And we are determined to see this conflict through. Americans of every faith and background are committed to this goal.

Yesterday I visited the site of the destruction in New York City and saw an amazing spirit of sacrifice and patriotism and defiance. I met with rescuers who have worked past exhaustion, who cheered for our country and the great cause we have entered.

In Washington, DC, the political parties and both Houses of Congress have shown a remarkable unity, and I'm deeply grateful. A terrorist attack designed to tear us apart has instead bound us together as a nation. Over the past few days, we have learned much about American courage, the courage of firefighters and police officers who suffered so great a loss, the courage of passengers aboard United 93 who may well have fought with the hijackers and saved many lives on the ground.

Now we honor those who died, and prepare to respond to these attacks on our Nation. I will not settle for a token act. Our response must be sweeping, sustained, and effective. We have much do to and much to ask of the American people.

You will be asked for your patience, for the conflict will not be short. You will be asked for resolve, for the conflict will not be easy. You will be asked for your strength, because the course to victory may be long.

In the past week, we have seen the American people at their very best everywhere in America. Citizens have come together to pray, to give blood, to fly our country's flag. Americans are coming together to share their grief and gain strength from one another.

Great tragedy has come to us, and we are meeting it with the best that is in our country, with courage and concern for others because this is America. This is who we are. This is what our enemies hate and have attacked. And this is why we will prevail.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. in the Laurel Cabin at Camp David for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Arrival at the White House and an Exchange With Reporters

September 16, 2001

The President. Today millions of Americans mourned and prayed, and tomorrow we go back to work. Today people from all walks of life gave thanks for the heroes; they mourn the dead; they ask for God's good graces on the families who mourn. And tomorrow the good people of America go back to their shops, their fields, American factories, and go back to work.

Our Nation was horrified, but it's not going to be terrorized. We're a great nation. We're a nation of resolve. We're a nation that can't be cowed by evildoers. I've got great faith in the American people. If the American people had seen what I had seen in New York City, you'd have great faith, too. You'd have faith in the hard work of the rescuers. You'd have great faith because of the desire for people to do what's right for America. You'd have great faith because of the compassion and love that our fellow Americans are showing each other in times of need.

I also have faith in our military. And we have got a job to do, just like the farmers and ranchers and businessowners and factory workers have a job to do. My administration has a job to do, and we're going to do it. We will rid the world of the evildoers. We will call together freedom-loving people to fight terrorism.

And on this day of—on the Lord's Day, I say to my fellow Americans: Thank you for your prayers; thank you for your compassion; thank you for your love for one another. And tomorrow when you get back to work, work hard like you always have. But we've been warned. We've been warned there are evil people in this world. We've been warned so vividly—and we'll be alert. Your Government is alert. The Governors and mayors are alert that evil folks still lurk out there.

As I said yesterday, people have declared war on America, and they have made a terrible mistake, because this is a fabulous country. Our economy will come back. We'll still be the best farmers and ranchers in the world. We're still the most innovative entrepreneurs in the world. On this day of faith, I've never had more faith in America than I have right now.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, are you worried this crisis might send us into a recession?

The President. David [David Gregory, NBC News], I understand that there are some businesses that hurt as a result of this crisis. Obviously, New York City hurts. Congress acted quickly. We worked together, the White House and the Congress, to pass a significant supplemental. A lot of that money was dedicated to New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, as it should be. People will be amazed at how quickly we rebuild New York, how quickly people come together to really wipe away the rubble and show the world that we're still the strongest Nation in the world.

But I have great faith in the resiliency of the economy. And no question about it, this incident affected our economy, but the markets open tomorrow. People go back to work, and we'll show the world.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, do you believe Usama bin Laden's denial that he had anything to do with this?

The President. No question he is the prime suspect. No question about that.

U.S. Diplomatic Response

Q. Mr. President, can you describe your conversation with the President of Pakistan and the specific comments he made to you? And in addition to that, do you see other—you've asked Saudi Arabia to help out, other countries?

The President. John [John King, Cable News Network], I will—obviously, I made a call to the leader of Pakistan. We had a very good, open conversation. And there is no question that he wants to cooperate with the United States. I'm not at liberty to detail specifically what we have asked him to do. In the course of this conduct of this war against terrorism, I'll be asked a lot, and members of my administration will be asked a lot of questions about our strategies and tactics. And in order to protect the lives of people

that will be involved in different operations, I'm not at liberty to talk about it, and I won't talk about it.

But I can tell you that the response from Pakistan, Prime Minister Vajpayee today of India, Saudi Arabia, has been very positive and very straightforward. They know what my intentions are. They know my intentions are to find those who did this, find those who encouraged them, find them who house them, find those who comfort them, and bring them to justice.

I made that very clear. There is no doubt in anybody's mind with whom I've had a conversation about the intent of the United States. I gave them ample opportunity to say they were uncomfortable with our goal. And the leaders you've asked about have said they were comfortable. They said, "We understand, Mr. President, and we're with you."

U.S. Law Enforcement Response

Q. Mr. President, the Attorney General is going to ask for enhanced law enforcement authority to surveil and—things to disrupt terrorism that might be planned here in the United States. What will that mean for the rights of Americans? What will that mean——

The President. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], I ask you to talk to the Attorney General about that subject. He'll be prepared to talk about it publicly at some point in time. But what he is doing is, he's reflecting what I said earlier in my statement, that we're facing a new kind of enemy, somebody so barbaric that they would fly airplanes into buildings full of innocent people. And therefore, we have to be on alert in America. We're a nation of law, a nation of civil rights. We're also a nation under attack. And the Attorney General will address that in a way that I think the American people will understand.

We need to go back to work tomorrow and we will. But we need to be alert to the fact that these evildoers still exist. We haven't seen this kind of barbarism in a long period of time. No one could have conceivably imagined suicide bombers burrowing into our society and then emerging all in the same day to fly their aircraft—fly U.S. aircraft into buildings full of innocent people and show no remorse. This is a new kind of—a new kind of evil. And we understand. And the American people are beginning to understand. This crusade, this war on terrorism is going to take a while, and the American people must be patient. I'm going to be patient.

But I can assure the American people I am determined. I'm not going to be distracted. I will keep my focus to make sure that not only are these brought to justice, but anybody who's been associated will be brought to justice. Those who harbor terrorists will be brought to justice. It is time for us to win the first war of the 21st century decisively, so that our children and our grandchildren can live peacefully into the 21st century.

Q. Mr. President, you've declared we're at war and asked those who wear the uniform to get ready. Should the American public also be ready for the possibility of casualties in this war?

The President. Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters], the American people should know that my administration is determined to find, to get them running, and to hunt them down, those who did this to America. Now, I want to remind the American people that the prime suspect's organization is in a lot of countries. It's a widespread organization based upon one thing: terrorizing. They can't stand freedom. They hate what America stands for. So this will be a long campaign, a determined campaign, a campaign that will use the resources of the United States to win.

They have roused a mighty giant. And make no mistake about it: We're determined. Oh, there will be times when people don't have this incident on their minds. I understand that. There will be times down the road where citizens will be concerned about other matters, and I completely understand that. But this administration, along with those friends of ours who are willing to stand with us all the way through, will do what it takes to rout terrorism out of the world.

U.S. Diplomatic Response

Q. Mr. President, in your conversation with Pakistan's leader, was there any request or demand you made of him that he failed to satisfy?

The President. The leader of Pakistan has been very cooperative. He has agreed with

our requests to aid our Nation to hunt down, to find, to smoke out of their holes the terrorist organization that is the prime suspect. And I am pleased with his response. We will continue to work with Pakistan and India. We will work with Russia. We will work with the nations that one would have thought a couple of years ago would have been impossible to work with—to bring people to justice but, more than that, to win the war against terrorist activity.

The American people are used to a conflict where there was a beachhead or a desert to cross or known military targets. That may occur. But right now we're facing people who hit and run. They hide in caves. We'll get them out.

The other day I said, not only will we find those who have affected America or who might affect America in the future, we'll also deal with those who harbor them.

September 11 National Security Decisions

Q. Mr. President, would you confirm what the Vice President said this morning, that at one point during this crisis you gave an order to shoot down any civilian airliner that approached the Capitol? Was that a difficult decision to make?

The President. I gave our military the orders necessary to protect Americans, do whatever it would take to protect Americans. And of course that's difficult. Never did anybody's thought process about how to protect America—did we ever think that the evildoers would fly not one but four commercial aircraft into precious U.S. targets—never. And so, obviously, when I was told what was taking place, when I was informed that an unidentified aircraft was headed to the heart of the Capital, I was concerned. I wasn't concerned about my decision. I was more concerned about the lives of innocent Americans. I had realized there on the ground in Florida, we were under attack. But never did I dream we would have been under attack this way.

That's why I say to the American people we've never seen this kind of evil before. But the evildoers have never seen the American people in action before, either, and they're about to find out.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building and an Exchange With Reporters

September 17, 2001

The President. I'm here to remind people that the best way to fight terrorism is to not let terrorism intimidate America. A lot of people who work in this building were deeply worried about their lives last week. There are a lot of courageous people here, and they're coming back to work. And I want to thank them for that and remind them we've all got a job to do, people digging out the rubble in New York have got a job to do, those of us in Government have a job to do.

Taliban

Q. Mr. President, any reaction to the Taliban's refusal to——

The President. I'll talk to you all later.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:58 a.m. outside the cafeteria. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees at the Pentagon and an Exchange With Reporters in Arlington, Virginia

September 17, 2001

The President. First, let me start off by saying to members of the Pentagon press—the Secretary told me about how you conducted your business on that fateful day. I want to congratulate you and thank you. Many of your members of the Pentagon press went out to help in the evacuation and the aid of the people who work here in the Pentagon, and the country appreciates that very much. Thank you. Pass the word on to your colleagues, as well.

Today we're talking about the mobilization of Reserve and Guard troops. Such a mobilization is a strong symbol of this Nation's resolve. And I want to thank the Secretary and David and members of our team for giving me a complete and full briefing.

I fully understand that a mobilization affects the lives of thousands of Americans. I mean, after all, we're talking about somebody's mom or somebody's dad, somebody's employee, somebody's friend, or somebody's neighbor. But the world will see that the strength of this Nation is found in the character and dedication and courage of everyday citizens.

We are—last week I proclaimed a national emergency and authorized the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Transportation to call up the Ready Reserve Units of the Armed Forces and the Coast Guard to active duty.

We are in the process of calling up as many as 35,000 such troops. They will serve in a number of essential roles. They will help maintain our air defenses so they can stay on high alert. They will check shipping in ports. They will help our military with airlift and logistics. They will provide military police. They will participate in engineering projects. They will help gather intelligence. And they will perform work as chaplains.

I know this means a lot of sacrifice for those who will be called up and their families. But you understand—the troops who will be called up understand better than most that freedom has a cost and that we're willing to bear that cost. An act of war has been committed on this country, and the dedication of our guardsmen and reservists will serve not only as a strong symbol to all that we're prepared to take the necessary actions but will be a part of helping define the spirit and courage of America. And I'm grateful.

I want to thank the employers who understand that there is more to corporate life than just profit and loss, that the employee who is getting ready to serve the country is an essential part of winning the—of defeating terrorism, evildoers so emboldened that they feel like they could attack the great bastion of freedom.

Before I answer a few questions, I also want to wish the American Jewish community and Jews around the world a healthy and happy new year. As the high holy days begin, I know you'll find strength and determination during this time of reflection.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

U.S. Military Response/National Economy

Q. Mr. President, does the cost of freedom today in this war we're about to wage include the loss of civilian and military casualties? And can you keep us out of a depression/recession, during this crisis?

The President. The only thing I can do is to reflect upon the spirit of the U.S. military, and the U.S. military is ready to defend freedom at any cost. The men and women who wear our uniforms, both active duty and reservists and National Guard people are ready to respond to the call of the Commander in Chief and the Secretary of Defense. There's no question in my mind that the resolve of our military has never been stronger. And we will win the war, and there will be costs. But the military folks understand that, and so do I, and so does the Secretary of Defense.

In terms of our economy, I've got great faith in the economy. I understand it's tough right now. Transportation business is hurting. Obviously, the market was correcting prior to this crisis. But the underpinnings for economic growth are there. We're the greatest entrepreneurial society in the world. We've got the best farmers and ranchers. We've got a strong manufacturing base. But there's a challenge ahead of us, and I'm confident that our business community will rise to the challenge.

Secondly, I'm confident we can work with Congress to come up with an economic stimulus package, if need be, that will send a clear signal to the risktakers and capital formatters of our country that the Government's going to act, too.

Thirdly, we've got a tax cut that's still working its way through the economy, as well as a reconstruction plan for New York and the area. After all, the Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, overwhelmingly passed a supplemental of billions of dollars, which will help not only get New York City up and running

again but will help provide some economic stimulus.

Airline Industry

Q. Mr. President, in the airline industry, in particular, is in trouble, and looking for some relief. I know that Secretary Mineta was supposed to meet with representatives from the industry this week. As you look down the road, does he think and expect some——

The President. Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], I think these are the kinds of subjects that we will talk with the Secretary of Transportation, with the airline industry, and as importantly, with Members of Congress. Congress must be involved with—obviously, with these deliberations. And I look forward to—I've already encouraged my administration to reach out to Members of Congress, and we will continue doing so.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, the Taliban apparently has refused to hand over Usama bin Laden to the Pakistanis. Does this mean that the U.S. will be prepared to move militarily?

The President. Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters], I want to make it clear to the American people that this administration will not talk about any plans we may or may not have. We will not jeopardize in any way, shape, or form, anybody who wears the uniform of the United States.

All I can tell you is that Usama bin Laden is a prime suspect, and the people who house him, encourage him, provide food, comfort, or money are on notice. Last Tuesday—last week, I spoke clearly about our Nation's policy, and that is, we're going to find those who—those evildoers, those barbaric people who attacked our country, and we're going to hold them accountable, and we're going to hold the people who house them accountable. The people who think they can provide them safe havens will be held accountable. The people who feed them will be held accountable. And the Taliban must take my statement seriously.

Yes, ma'am.

Prospects of War

Q. Mr. President, is it the case, based on what you've said now, that war is inevitable, and can you tell me, the American people what that war is going to look like?

The President. I believe—I know that an act of war was declared against America. But this will be a different type of war than we're used to. This is—in the past there have been beaches to storm, islands to conquer. We've been able to watch on our television screens sophisticated weaponry find a building, and we've seen dramatic reports from the front where Pulitzer-Prize-to-be winning reporters stood up and declared, the United States is attacked, and all that.

There may be some of that, who knows. But I know that this is a different type of enemy than we're used to. It's an enemy that likes to hide and burrow in, and their network is extensive. There's no rules. It's barbaric behavior. They slit throats of women on airplanes in order to achieve an objective that is beyond comprehension. And they like to hit, and then they like to hide out.

But we're going to smoke them out. And we're adjusting our thinking to the new type of enemy. These are terrorists who have no borders. And by the way, it's important for the world to understand that we know in America that more than just Americans suffered loss of life in the World Trade Center. People from all kinds of nationalities lost—that's why the world is rallying to our call to defeat terrorism.

Many world leaders understand that that could have easily—that the attack could have as easily happened on their land. And they also understand that this enemy knows no border. But they know what I know, that when we start putting the heat on those who house them, they will get them running. And once we get them running, we have got a good chance of getting them. And that's exactly what our intent is.

The focus right now is on Usama bin Laden, no question about it. He's the prime suspect in his organization. But there are other terrorists in the world. There are people who hate freedom. This is a fight for freedom. This is a fight to say to the freedom-loving people of the world: We will not allow ourselves to be terrorized by somebody who

thinks they can hit and hide in some cave somewhere.

It's going to require a new thought process. And I'm proud to report our military, led by the Secretary of Defense, understands that—understands it's a new type of war; it's going to take a long time to win this war. The American people are going to have to be more patient than ever with the efforts of—our combined efforts, not just ourselves but the efforts of our allies, to get them running and find them and to hunt them down.

But as the Vice President said, you know, Usama bin Laden is just one person. He is representative of networks of people who absolutely have made their cause to defeat the freedoms that we take—that we understand. And we will not allow them to do so.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Do you want bin Laden dead?

The President. I want him held—I want justice. There's an old poster out West, as I recall, that said, "Wanted: Dead or Alive."

Q. Do you see this being long-term? You were saying it's long-term; do you see an end, at all?

The President. I think that this is a long-term battle—war. There will be battles. But this is long-term. After all, our mission is not just Usama bin Laden, the Al Qaida organization. Our mission is to battle terrorism and to join with freedom-loving people.

We are putting together a coalition that is a coalition dedicated to declaring to the world we will do what it takes to find the terrorists, to rout them out and to hold them accountable. And the United States is proud to lead the coalition.

Q. Are you saying you want him dead or alive, sir? Can I interpret——

The President. I just remember—all I'm doing is remembering—when I was a kid, I remember that they used to put out there in the Old West, a wanted poster. It said, "Wanted: Dead or Alive." All I want and America wants him brought to justice. That's what we want.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. at the entrance to the Joint Staff corridor of the Pentagon. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at the Islamic Center of Washington

September 17, 2001

Thank you all very much for your hospitality. We've just had a—wide-ranging discussions on the matter at hand. Like the good folks standing with me, the American people were appalled and outraged at last Tuesday's attacks. And so were Muslims all across the world. Both Americans, our Muslim friends and citizens, taxpaying citizens, and Muslims in nations were just appalled and could not believe what we saw on our TV screens.

These acts of violence against innocents violate the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith. And it's important for my fellow Americans to understand that.

The English translation is not as eloquent as the original Arabic, but let me quote from the Koran itself: "In the long run, evil in the extreme will be the end of those who do evil. For that they rejected the signs of Allah and held them up to ridicule."

The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace. These terrorists don't represent peace. They represent evil and war.

When we think of Islam, we think of a faith that brings comfort to a billion people around the world. Billions of people find comfort and solace and peace. And that's made brothers and sisters out of every race—out of every race.

America counts millions of Muslims amongst our citizens, and Muslims make an incredibly valuable contribution to our country. Muslims are doctors, lawyers, law professors, members of the military, entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, moms and dads. And they need to be treated with respect. In our anger and emotion, our fellow Americans must treat each other with respect.

Women who cover their heads in this country must feel comfortable going outside their homes. Moms who wear cover must not be intimidated in America. That's not the America I know. That's not the America I value.

I've been told that some fear to leave; some don't want to go shopping for their families; some don't want to go about their ordinary daily routines because, by wearing cover, they're afraid they'll be intimidated. That should not and that will not stand in America.

Those who feel like they can intimidate our fellow citizens to take out their anger don't represent the best of America. They represent the worst of humankind, and they should be ashamed of that kind of behavior.

This is a great country. It's a great country because we share the same values of respect and dignity and human worth. And it is my honor to be meeting with leaders who feel just the same way I do. They're outraged; they're sad. They love America just as much as I do.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by. And may God bless us all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. at the mosque.

Proclamation 7465—National Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Week, 2001

September 17, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's agriculture industry represents 13 percent of our economy and remains central to our prosperity at home and our competitiveness abroad. At the core of this industry are countless dedicated farmers and ranchers working to produce food stuffs at a level of efficiency and quality unrivaled around the globe. In many ways, agriculture ranks among the most crucial of our Nation's industries; and yet, its reliability and productivity are often taken for granted.

Our farmers and ranchers face significant challenges and uncertainty, from inclement weather to damaging insects. They also face health and safety dangers, from exposure to chemicals and the operation of machinery to tending livestock. In 1999, the agriculture industry suffered more than 770 deaths and 150,000 disabling injuries. Of these victims, many were children and young people injured or killed in preventable farm and ranch accidents.

Progress is being made in developing technology that makes farm and ranch work safer. Safety equipment features for tractors, such as roll-over protective structures, bypass starter covers, and hazard warning lights, aid in the prevention of injuries and save lives. Sunscreens, hearing protection devices, and other personal protective equipment reduce the serious health problems caused by toxic gases, chemicals, and harsh environmental conditions. We must increase awareness of the availability of safety and health protection measures. I encourage farmers and ranchers to develop safety and health plans that meet the needs of their businesses, families, and employees. Safety equipment should be installed, maintained regularly, and used consistently. Children also must be taught to recognize risks on the farm and ranch and to help with chores safely.

Despite many hazards and uncertainties, America's farmers and ranchers remain among the most dedicated and productive contributors to our Nation's economy. I am committed to supporting the American farmer and rancher, and my Administration will help those facing financial difficulties caused by storms, droughts, or any other unforseen natural catastrophe. In times of emergency, farmers and ranchers will get the assistance they need, when they need it. I recently signed a $5.5 billion agriculture supplemental bill that affirms my commitment to maintaining a strong and healthy agricultural economy.

My Administration also will support tax-deferred savings accounts to help farming and ranching families guard against downturns. To keep farms and ranches in a family from generation to generation, we are eliminating the death tax. Finally, farmers and ranchers need foreign markets to sell their products, and I will work hard to ensure that agriculture is a top priority in future trade negotiations.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to our farmers and ranchers for helping to ensure stability in our economy, for providing

food products that amply meet all our citizens' needs, and for representing what is best about America. They show the character and values that have made this country strong, values of love and family, faith in God, and respect for nature. We honor them by encouraging safe farming and ranching practices that improve and protect the lives of all farmers and ranchers.

Now, Therefore I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 16 through September 22, 2001, as National Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Week. I call upon agriculture-related agencies, organizations, and businesses to strengthen their commitment to provide quality safety and health training to farmers, ranchers, and their families. I also call upon citizens to recognize the sacrifice and dedication of those individuals and communities whose work in agriculture provides the quality food that we enjoy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:17 p.m., September 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Proclamation 7466—Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 2001

September 17, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As the delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia began working on what would become the United States Constitution, they grasped that a great democracy must be built on the twin foundations of national consent to a Federal Government and respect for individual rights. After more than two centuries of continual cultural, legal, and economic change, our unique experiment in self-government has borne successful witness to the prescient genius and timeless wisdom of our Founding Fathers. Throughout America's history, in times of turmoil and peace, liberty and oppression, our faith in the Constitution's promise of freedom and democracy has been a steadfast rock of national stability against the raging seas of political change. Today, in the face of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we must call upon, more than ever, the Constitutional principles that make our country great.

In creating our Nation's Constitutional framework, the Convention's delegates recognized the dangers inherent in concentrating too much power in one person, branch, or institution. They wisely crafted a Government that balanced the functions and authority of a Federal system among three separate but equal branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. As a further check on central power, the Framers granted citizens the right to vote, giving them the power to express their political preferences peacefully and thereby to effect change in the Government.

The Convention delegates ratified the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and submitted it to the States for approval. After much deliberation and discussion at the State level, the following two concerns emerged from among those who feared the Constitution's proposed centralization of Federal power: (1) the threat of tyranny; and (2) the loss of local control. To address these fears, our Founders amended the Constitution by adding a Bill of Rights. These ten amendments provided a series of clear limits on Federal power and a litany of protective rights to citizens. This development underscored the important and enduring Constitutional principle of enumerated powers, and it set our national course on a route that would eventually enhance and expand individual rights and liberties.

Today, our Nation celebrates not only the longest-lived written Constitution in world history, but also the enduring commitment

of our forebears who upheld the Constitution's core principles through the travails of American history. They pursued a more perfect Union as abolitionists, as suffragists, or as civil rights activists, successfully seeking Constitutional amendments that have strengthened the protections provided to all Americans under law. In so doing, they rendered the moral resolve of our Nation stronger and clearer.

Our Republic would surely founder but for the faith and confidence that we collectively place in our Constitution. And it could not prosper without our diligent commitment to upholding the Constitution's original words and implementing its founding principles. From the noble efforts of public servants to the civic acts of local people, our continuous Constitutional engagement has proved to be an exceptional feature of our Nation's prosperous development.

To continue this legacy, each of us must recognize that we bear a solemn responsibility to promote the ideals of freedom and opportunity throughout our land. We each should serve our Nation by actively supporting and shaping our Government's institutions, by working together to build strong communities, and by loving our neighbors. Doing this will ensure that the American dream will become real for every willing citizen; and, in fulfilling this call together, we will honor the spirit of our powerful and enduring Constitution.

The Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106), designated September 17 as "Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2001, as Citizenship Day and September 17 through September 23, 2001, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our commitment as citizens of our great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:17 p.m., September 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Proclamation 7467—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2001

September 17, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than three million minority business owners across the United States are helping to build a stronger America. These hard-working men and women contribute everyday to the economic development of their communities by creating jobs and other opportunities for their neighbors. Minority business entrepreneurs represent the best of the American spirit, in their determination to overcome obstacles and in their striving for better lives for themselves and for their families.

My Administration encourages the growth and success of minority businesses across the United States by giving them the tools to succeed. The recent passage of the largest tax cut in nearly two decades is just one of those tools. We also slashed the bottom Federal income tax rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and thereby put more money into the hands of consumers and entrepreneurs. We are eliminating the death tax that has been such a heavy burden on our minority business owners. And I signed into law, Public Law 107–16, the "Economic Growth and Tax Reconciliation Act of 2001," that will increase lower income groups' access to the middle class, promote equal opportunity, and encourage entrepreneurship.

One important way that we can encourage entrepreneurial growth in the minority-owned business community is to open up new markets abroad for American products. If Congress gives me trade promotion authority (TPA), I will have the negotiating power to knock down the trade barriers that prevent American goods from entering some markets around the world. The growth and expanded opportunities that TPA would bring will mean jobs for many working people and more opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

As we celebrate the achievements of our Nation's minority entrepreneurs during Minority Enterprise Development Week, we also affirm our commitment to the principle of equal opportunity. My Administration is working hard to achieve an historic reform in our education system that will significantly improve our schools and make sure that no child is left behind. My agenda also supports effective job training for all Americans to ensure that the American dream touches every willing heart. In so doing, we will enhance our Nation's strength and productivity, while creating more vibrant communities and improved standards of living for every citizen.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 23 through September 29, 2001, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:17 p.m., September 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5762

September 17, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Jews in the United States, Israel, and other nations around the world as you observe Rosh Hashanah. This year's observance comes in the wake of great tragedy and at a time of national mourning and recovery.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a New Year within the Jewish community, and it is a time for personal reflection. As you prepare for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, may this solemn period bring forth a deeper devotion to your faith's noble ideals. During this time of renewal and recovery, may countless others join in praying for peace and for the growth of religious tolerance around the world.

Rosh Hashanah celebrates Judaism's remarkable heritage, and it is a reaffirmation of God's mercy, glory, and love. As you look ahead to the coming year, I join with other Americans of diverse backgrounds and beliefs in receiving inspiration from your faith, your holy acts of repentance, and your loving kindness. May this year's celebration bless all who participate as we heal from the wounds inflicted by the recent terrorist attacks.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Honoring Charitable Organizations

September 18, 2001

Please be seated. Welcome. Last week, America suffered greatly. Thousands of our citizens lost lives. Thousands were hurt, but thousands of our citizens rose to the occasion to help.

Last week was a really horrible week for America. But out of our tears and sadness, we saw the best of America, as well. We saw a great country rise up to help.

Tens of millions of dollars and thousands of hours and tons of food and clothing have

all been donated to help rebuild shattered lives. Americans' love for America was channeled through our Nation's great charities, and as President of this great land, nothing made me more proud.

In the week since the attack, our compassionate and generous citizens have led the first phase in the war on terrorism. They have sustained and strengthened the homefront. Today I'm joined by representatives of charities which have brought relief to citizens in New York City and Virginia and Pennsylvania. We've got representatives of firefighters, police officers, entrepreneurs who have helped out all across America.

We've got many good citizens here who represent the large national charities like the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the United Way. We've got folks here in the Nation's Rose Garden who represent the community-based programs and faith-based programs, firefighter and police associations, local businesses, nonprofits. Large and small, these important charitable efforts are saving lives and, as importantly, are restoring hope.

I'm also joined by Libby Pataki, the better half of the Governor of New York; Tony Carbonetti, the chief of staff to Rudy Giuliani; and my friends and former fellow Governors—actually, they're Governors; I was a former Governor—Jim Gilmore and Tom Ridge. These Governors and their wives and the mayor of New York have shown impressive leadership—impressive leadership—in the face of the challenges that faced their cities and their States.

They put public agencies on full alert to provide immediate assistance to victims and their families, and for all those who helped, our Nation is most grateful. They've called on the men and women of the National Guard to help maintain calm and order. And we thank those who wear the uniform, as well. And they've led and supported valiant rescueworkers in New York City and northern Virginia, whose bravery is seared into our national consciousness.

I was honored to be able to stand amidst the rescueworkers, and looked in their eyes and saw the determination that would make all Americans proud. In spite of their exhaustion, in spite of the fact that they had worked themselves into a state of total fatigue, they still wanted to keep fighting on for their fellow brothers and sisters trapped in the rubble.

Mayor Giuliani, and Pataki, have led New York City through its most difficult of all days, and they have done so with class and bravery and distinction. And we owe them a debt of gratitude. The mayor, the Governors, all New Yorkers, have demonstrated the very best American values to a world that has been watching to see how our Nation would react.

The world watches the great country called America, and they say, "What will they do? What will Americans do?" And what they've seen—the best of America. They've seen leadership; they've seen courage; and as importantly, they've seen compassion.

Last evening marked the start of Rosh Hashanah. In Jewish teaching, this holy day is the anniversary of the creation of the world. It is a season of renewal and of hope, and people of every faith, all across America, embrace that spirit of renewal and hope.

Funds in New York and Washington are providing food, clothing, and financial help to husbands and wives and sons and daughters who suffer mightily. Citizens near ground zero in New York have provided sandwiches, drinks, and clean clothes to the tired and hungry rescueworkers. And in one of America's greatest traditions, a handful of entrepreneurs from Springfield, Virginia, collected $600 by selling lemonade and gave it to the Red Cross.

These acts of generosity and kindness are spreading all across America. There are challenges that remain for those who suffer today. Make no mistake about it: We've got a lot of work to do as a nation. And these good efforts, these good, charitable, compassionate efforts need the full support of Americans everywhere.

People all across the country are asking how they can help. What can they do to provide hope? What can they do to help heal the wounds by helping their fellow Americans? Well, there are many ways to contribute. Local stores and businesses on Main Street America are collecting money to send

to appropriate relief and help agencies. National media organizations are helping collect; Internet portals providing an interesting opportunity for people to contribute and provide their help.

Many of the charities, themselves, welcome donations through Web sites. So I urge my fellow Americans to continue contributing through Web sites. If you're interested in helping, call up one of the great charities of America and contribute.

Thus far, I'm proud to report through the Web sites of our charities, Americans have donated $55 million in 7 short days. Some of America's high-tech leaders, AOL/Time Warner and Microsoft, Amazon, eBay, Cisco Systems, and Yahoo have joined together in a private effort to encourage online giving so that we can funnel resources to help our citizens in need.

They have formed what's called the American Liberty Partnership. It has a Web site called libertyunites.org. And this will help Americans find out how to help. If a concerned American wants to help a neighbor in need, even though the neighborhood might not be right next to each other, they can get on libertyunites.org and find out how to help. And I urge my fellow Americans to do so.

Americans can not only make online donations, they can figure out where to send food, where to donate blood, where to give clothes. They can find out how best to donate their time.

Now, it's important to realize that at this moment, many of our charities are overwhelmed by the public response. That's the kind of problem we like in America. But because the portals may be jammed, because the phones may be busy is not an excuse for Americans not to continue to fight to help their neighbors.

And so, I ask my fellow Americans to be patient with those charities that want their help, to keep trying to give, to not lose sight of the mission. And that is, we'll fight terrorism on all fronts; we will not be terrorized so that their hearts are hardened.

Nobody can threaten this country. Oh, they may be able to bomb buildings and obviously disrupt lives. But we're too great a nation to allow the evildoers to affect our soul and our spirit.

Today I herald the soul and spirit of America with live examples of people who have made a huge difference and those who suffer and those who hurt. This is a great land. It's a great land, because our people are so decent and strong and compassionate.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Pataki, wife of Gov. George E. Pataki, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia and his wife, Roxane; and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and his wife, Michele.

Statement on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force

September 18, 2001

Today I am signing Senate Joint Resolution 23, the "Authorization for Use of Military Force."

On September 11, 2001, terrorists committed treacherous and horrific acts of violence against innocent Americans and individuals from other countries. Civilized nations and people around the world have expressed outrage at, and have unequivocally condemned, these attacks. Those who plan, authorize, commit, or aid terrorist attacks against the United States and its interests—including those who harbor terrorists—threaten the national security of the United States. It is, therefore, necessary and appropriate that the United States exercise its rights to defend itself and protect United States citizens both at home and abroad.

In adopting this resolution in response to the latest terrorist acts committed against the United States and the continuing threat to the United States and its citizens from terrorist activities, both Houses of Congress have acted wisely, decisively, and in the finest traditions of our country. I thank the leadership of both Houses for their role in expeditiously passing this historic joint resolution. I have had the benefit of meaningful consultations with members of the Congress since the attacks of September 11, 2001, and

I will continue to consult closely with them as our Nation responds to this threat to our peace and security.

Senate Joint Resolution 23 recognizes the seriousness of the terrorist threat to our Nation and the authority of the President under the Constitution to take action to deter and prevent acts of terrorism against the United States. In signing this resolution, I maintain the longstanding position of the executive branch regarding the President's constitutional authority to use force, including the Armed Forces of the United States and regarding the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution.

Our whole Nation is unalterably committed to a direct, forceful, and comprehensive response to these terrorist attacks and the scourge of terrorism directed against the United States and its interests.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2001.

NOTE: S.J. Res. 23, approved September 18, was assigned Public Law No. 107–40.

Memorandum on FY 2002 Refugee Admissions Consultations

September 18, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 2002 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 70,000 refugee admissions during FY 2002, to be allocated by specific region as follows:

Africa	22,000
East Asia (including Amerasians)	4,000
Latin America/Caribbean	3,000
Near East/South Asia	15,000
Former Soviet Union	17,000
Former Yugoslavia	9,000

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers to be made available for the adjustment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States;
3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who, if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France and an Exchange With Reporters

September 18, 2001

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome a good friend, a good personal friend and a good friend of America, to the Oval Office. It's the first formal visit I've had with any world leader since the terrible day a week ago.

After the incident, after that day, I got a lot of phone calls, and one of the most meaningful phone calls of all was from Jacques Chirac, who expressed his concern for the American citizens. He expressed his desire to stand solidly with America during this terrible, terrible day.

President Chirac understands that we have entered a new type of war. It's a war against people who hate freedom. And I am honored to welcome our friend here to the Oval Office.

Welcome, sir.

President Chirac. Thank you. I've come here to tell you of the emotion—the emotion of France, of the French people, an emotion which has no precedent in history before this tragedy, which does not have a parallel. Indeed, it is a tragic event, something which is beyond crime; there are no words to qualify it.

I want to tell President Bush, who is my friend, that we stand in total solidarity. We bring you the total solidarity of France and the French people. It is solidarity of the heart.

I also wanted to say that we are completely determined to fight by your side this new type of evil, of absolute evil, which is terrorism. And I also wanted to say that France is prepared and available to discuss all means to fight and eradicate this evil.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Nature of the Alliance

Q. Mr. President, sir, do you expect French and British soldiers to fight side by side with ours?

And President Chirac, do you agree that we are in a war, and is France in it? Will you fight side by side with U.S. troops?

President Bush. This is a new kind of war. This war will require determination and patience. People who love freedom, such as Jacques Chirac and the people of France, will join us—I'm confident of that—in finding those who feel like they can terrorize nations because they hate freedom.

We will—it's a policy of my Government not to discuss any plans we may have as to how we intend to deal with the terrorists and the terrorist networks that believe they can disrupt lives anyplace, anytime in the world. I look forward to talking with one of our strongest allies in private about what's on my mind.

But make no mistake about it: This administration has got a firm goal and a determination to achieve the goal, and that is to rally the world toward a campaign to find terrorists, to smoke them out of their holes, and to get them, and to bring them to justice.

And there's no doubt in my mind France joins with us in this most important campaign. Jacques Chirac has—this is my fourth meeting with this leader. He's a man of vision. He's a man who understands what I understand, that we've entered into a new era. And I feel confident that we're going to work in a collaborative way to achieve a common objective.

If you love freedom, you must join with us; you must join with America and France. That's the message of this meeting. And we will discuss ways that we can work in a way that will achieve the goal. And there's no doubt in my mind that we'll find solidarity with the French and the French Government.

Q. Will your citizens fight shoulder to shoulder with ours?

President Chirac. I don't know whether we should use the word "war," but what I can say is that now we are faced with a conflict of a completely new nature. It is a conflict which is attempting to destroy human rights, freedom, the dignity of man. And I believe that everything must be done to protect and safeguard these values of civilization.

Therefore—and we are, naturally, prepared to work in complete solidarity with the United States and do everything which is necessary, in consultation with them, to reach this target which is the elimination of terrorism. And I would also like to add that practically all the leaders of the world are following the same line.

U.S. Response to Nations Harboring Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, don't you think it's high time for the occidental world to review in a very tougher way its relationship with a certain number of, let's say, Arabic countries which have been helping or harboring the terrorists?

President Bush. In my statement to our Nation, I told the people of the United States that we would not only hold those who committed these horrible acts accountable, that we would also hold those accountable who harbored them, who fed them, who hide them. That's our policy.

Many, many Arab—first of all, it is important to know that this is not a campaign against Islam. This is not a campaign against Arab people. This is a campaign against terrorists. This is a campaign against evildoers who hate freedom.

I have had, and I'm sure Jacques, as well, has had strong statements of solidarity from governments in the Middle East. I've talked to many world leaders, Arab leaders, all of whom are outraged by the acts of terrorism against America, all of whom understand it could be them, as well. Terrorism knows no borders.

And so I've been very pleased with the outpouring of support. And we will take the governments for their word and will work with

them to disrupt the finances, the travel, the communications. We will find them in their hiding places, and we'll get them moving, and we'll bring them to justice. Make no mistake about it.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Yes, Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Middle East Cease-Fire

Q. Do you think the Middle East cease-fire will hold? And what do you think the next step should be for both the Israelis and the Palestinians?

President Bush. We've had very positive developments in the Middle East today, and it's one of the subjects that my friend and I will discuss. I was very pleased by the statements by Chairman Arafat, followed by the strong statements by the Israelis that they would stand down troops.

And I hope in my heart of hearts that out of this evil comes good. I think it will; I'm a very optimistic person. And one of the goods that can come is that people involved with the Middle East conflict, that both leaders here want to resolve, realize that a terrorist way of life is not going to lead to a peaceful resolution for people.

The next step, of course, is to stay involved in the region, is to work with both the Palestinians and the Israelis to encourage them to seize the moment, to hold Mr. Arafat to his word that he will fight violence, and to encourage the Israelis to sit down and have meaningful dialog, with the attempt to get into the Mitchell process. And it's a glimmer of hope that all of us hope that the parties involved will seize.

U.S. Response to Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, how will this new war be fought, this new war against terrorism?

President Bush. It is new, and it's important for the world to understand that there are no beaches to storm, there are no islands to conquer, there are no battle lines to be drawn. It's a war that is going to take an international effort. It's going to take all of us to gather the necessary intelligence, the necessary information, to be able to find the location of terrorists, to work with governments to smoke them out of their safe houses, to get them moving, and then have the courage to bring them to justice.

My Government will commit whatever resources is necessary to be effective in this all-important cause. I repeat: We're fighting for liberty and freedom, a way of life that is so essential for humankind, mankind to be able to realize their full potential. And we are focused on achieving the goal.

There's going to be a time when free nations settle into what is viewed as an ordinary life, and I hope that happens soon; I hope that happens soon. But make no mistake about it: My goal, my intentions will not diminish with time. I am absolutely—I know that we are called to respond to terror now. This is the time, and the world is ready for leadership. And Jacques Chirac is ready to provide that leadership, as am I.

I want to thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Create the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission

September 18, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2133, to create the "Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission." The Commission will advise the Secretary of Education on activities to help celebrate one of the most important decisions ever issued by the U.S. Supreme Court—the decision that recognized the constitutional right to freedom from racial discrimination in our public schools. Establishing a commission to help celebrate the decision is particularly appropriate as we work to secure passage by the Congress of my Administration's educational initiatives, so that we leave no child behind.

Consistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of the Constitution, I welcome the participation, in an advisory capacity on the commission, of representatives of the Judiciary; the Brown Foundation for

Education Equity, Excellence, and Research; the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; and the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the activities of the commission. While the Constitution does not permit them to participate in the performance of executive functions, their advice will be crucial to the effective functioning of the commission. As I exercise my constitutional power of appointment to name 11 members of the commission, under the Appointments Clause and the enabling legislation, I welcome, as a matter of comity, the suggestions of the congressional leadership for those positions.

I look forward to the national celebration in 2004 of the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2133, approved September 18, was assigned Public Law No. 107–41. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia and an Exchange With Reporters

September 19, 2001

President Bush. President Megawati was just telling me she had visited Washington during President Kennedy's time. It is my honor to welcome you back to Washington and to the Oval Office as President of your great nation.

I look forward to having a very good discussion about our relations, as well as what we're going to do, as people who love freedom, about terrorism. I want to thank you very much for your strong statements of support for the American people and your strong statement against terrorist activities. It meant a lot to us. You represent the nation with the most Muslim people in the world. I've made it clear, Madam President, that the war against terrorism is not a war against Muslims, nor is it a war against Arabs. It's a war against evil people who conduct crimes against innocent people.

And so, welcome to Washington, DC. I look forward to a long discussion. I appreciate so very much your vision for your very important country. Welcome.

President Megawati. Thank you, Mr. President. I will speak in Indonesian. I'm very honored to be your guest here today, even though we are in a moment of grief. I would like to express on behalf of the people and Government of Indonesia our deepest condolences to the American people. And we share this moment of grief with you.

I also want to say thank you, because even though you're having a difficult time, you're still able to meet me in this place which I'm quite familiar with. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Yes. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

U.S. Response to Nations Harboring Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reason to believe Iraq is connected with the terrorist attack? And if so, what would your response be?

And could I ask your guest if she could respond to her Vice President saying that the tragedy would cleanse the sins of the United States?

President Bush. First, let me—anybody who harbors terrorists needs to fear the United States and the rest of the free world. Anybody who houses a terrorist, encourages terrorism will be held accountable. And we are gathering all evidence on this particular crime and other crimes against freedom-loving people.

And I would strongly urge any nation in the world to reject terrorism, expel terrorists. I would strongly urge the Taliban to turn over the Al Qaida organizers who hide in their country. We're—we're on the case. We're gathering as much evidence as we possibly can to be able to make our case to the world about all countries and their willingness to harbor or not harbor terrorists.

Q. A specific message to Iraq?

President Bush. The message to every country is, there will be a campaign against terrorist activity, a worldwide campaign. And

there is an outpouring of support for such a campaign. Freedom-loving people understand that terrorism knows no borders, that terrorists will strike in order to bring fear, to try to change the behavior of countries that love liberty. And we will not let them do that.

Now, this is a campaign in which nations will contribute in a variety of ways. Some nations will be willing to join in a very overt way. Other nations will be willing to join by sharing information. And information, in a campaign such as this, is going to be incredibly important. It's very important for us to be able to find where these people are. There's going to need to be a campaign—there needs to be a financial component of the campaign, where we need to cooperate to make sure we cut off funds, find these organizations that serve as front groups for funding these terrorist cells.

And so my message to all nations is we look forward to full cooperation.

Did you have a question for the President?

Indonesia's Response

Q. Yes. Could you respond, please, to the Vice President of your country who said that the tragedy will cleanse the Nation—the sins? Thank you.

President Megawati. After I heard and witnessed and saw what happened, the tragic events in New York and Washington, I immediately issued a statement which strongly condemned these attacks, which were very inhumane. And afterwards I sent a letter to President Bush expressing my condolences. So this is the position of my Government on this issue. So it's very clear.

Defining the Terms of the Conflict

Q. Mr. President, since you've declared war against terrorism, there are a number of countries who seem to be saying, not so fast. China, in particular, has said that any strike must be preceded by irrefutable evidence. Others have raised concerns about civilian casualties. So the first question is, are you now prepared to provide such irrefutable evidence to countries? And what, in your mind, is the biggest challenge that you face in trying to construct this coalition?

President Bush. Well, first of all, we'll do what we need to do to achieve the first objective of a long campaign. And the first objective is to bring people to justice who we feel like committed this particular set of atrocities, and to hold the organization accountable and to hold those who harbor them accountable. That's the first objective of a very long campaign.

David [David Gregory, NBC News], I think that the real challenge for America and our allies in this effort is to do a couple of things: One, condition the world, starting with our own country, that this will be a different kind of battle, a series of battles; that they will be fought visibly sometimes, and sometimes we'll never see what may be taking place; that the—and that we fully understand that some nations will be comfortable supporting overt activities, some nations will be comfortable supporting covert activities, some nations will only be comfortable in providing information, others will be helpful and only feel comfortable helping on financial matters. I understand that. Thirdly, that as these various—as the campaign evolves, some nations may take a more active role than others.

The mind-set of war must change. It is a different type of battle. It's a different type of battlefield. It's a different type of war. And that, in itself, is going to be a real challenge for America and those other nations who understand that, because sometimes—look, the mission is to rout out terrorist activities. And there's a variety of ways in which that can happen.

Clearly, one of our focuses is to get people out of their caves, smoke them out and get them moving and get them. That's about as plainly as I can put it. And we're focused on that. But we're also focused, and we recognize that the Al Qaida organization exists in some 60-plus countries, and we're beginning to work with other nations that are receptive to the notion of fighting terrorism, and say, "Help us round up these people. You can play a constructive role."

We fully understand that certain NGOs, nongovernmental organizations, serve as fronts, as a funding mechanism for terrorist organizations. We expect there to be activity on those fronts, as well.

So the challenge is to redefine the terms of the conflict, the campaign, in a way that the leaders understand, and in a way that the people of the world understand. There's a certain impatience with war of the past. People demand a certain clarity of a specific battlefield. But this is the first—this is a new type of struggle. It's really the first series of battles in the 21st century.

Again I repeat, terrorism knows no borders. It has no capital, but it does have a common ideology, and that is they hate freedom, and they hate freedom-loving people. And they particularly hate America at this moment. But many leaders understand that what happened in New York City and Washington, DC, could have easily have happened in their capital, as well.

It's a long answer to a short question.

U.S. Response to Terrorism

Q. Can I follow on one point? Do you, to your mind, have irrefutable evidence that links Al Qaida and specifically Usama bin Laden to these attacks?

President Bush. When we take action, we will take action because we believe—because we know we'll be on the right. And I want to remind people that there have been terrorist activities on America in the past, as well. And there has been—there have been indictments have been handed down. This is a war not against a specific individual, nor will it be a war against solely one organization. It is a war against terrorist activities. Our Nation must do everything we can to protect the homeland, and we are. The Attorney General briefs on a daily basis, as does the Director of the FBI, talking about what we're doing to do the best we can to protect the American people from any further activity.

But the best way to make sure that America is safe, the people of Indonesia are safe is to find terrorism at its roots and to root it out, to get them out of their caves and get them moving, cut off their finances, and hold them accountable.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, now that Chairman Arafat has said he was willing to fight terrorism and he wants to join your coalition, are you willing to talk to him?

And for President Megawati, a quick question is, are you able to offer your Government and your people's support for this coalition, or do you have that support in your country?

President Bush. Let me first—I would hope that Chairman Arafat backs up his strong statement with action. We take his words very seriously that he is interested in doing everything he can to reduce terrorism and violence in the Middle East. That was a very positive statement he made. And I hope he stays focused on achieving the goal he stated. And so to that end, our administration and our Government is continuing to talk to Chairman Arafat to encourage him to live up to his words, and at the same time working with the Israelis to encourage them to seize the moment. Progress is being made.

Madam President, I said at the time, through my tears I see opportunity. One of the opportunities I saw was the ability not to put—not only for freedom-loving nations to come together to say resolutely we will fight terrorism, but I felt like there would be—that this event may shake up the attitudes of the Middle East where people would end up resolving to show the world that there could be peace there as well. And progress is being made. And I want to tell the American people, the Secretary of State—even though we're focused on what happened in New York and Washington, DC, we're also very much involved in the Middle East, and Secretary Powell was on the phone yesterday with leaders in the Middle East, urging them to seize this moment. And so we have a sense of—we now have a sense of optimism that something positive may take place in the Middle East.

Your question to the President?

Indonesia's Response

Q. Are you able to offer the support of your country to this coalition against terrorism?

President Megawati. Indonesia has always been against violence. Anything that relates to violence, including acts of terrorism, we will definitely be against it.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A reporter referred to Vice President Hamzah Haz of Indonesia. President Megawati spoke in Indonesian, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia

September 19, 2001

As leaders of the world's second and third largest democracies, President George W. Bush and President Megawati Soekarnoputri today vowed to open a new era of bilateral cooperation based on shared democratic values and a common interest in promoting regional stability and prosperity. They agreed that a strong bilateral partnership between the two countries will benefit both nations, the region, and the international community. President Bush and President Megawati emphasized the importance of a strong and prosperous ASEAN and pledged to cooperate to promote those objectives.

President Megawati condemned the barbaric and indiscriminate acts carried out against innocent civilians and pledged to cooperate with the international community in combatting terrorism. She underscored that terrorism also increasingly threatens Indonesia's democracy and national security. The two Presidents agreed that their respective officials would soon discuss concrete ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation on counterterrorism, in particular on capacity and institution building. They further affirmed their intention to expand cooperation to combat other transnational crimes, including piracy, organized crime, trafficking in persons, narcotics, and smuggling of small arms.

President Bush expressed his conviction that Indonesia's transition to democracy is one of the most significant developments of this era. Noting the great importance the United States attaches to Indonesia's success, he pledged his support for President Megawati's efforts to build a stable, united, democratic and prosperous Indonesia. In that context, President Bush pledged to work with Congress to secure the Administration's request for at least $130 million in bilateral assistance for Indonesia in fiscal year 2002, with a special focus on assisting Indonesia's efforts with legal and judicial reform. Recognizing the priority President Megawati places on rebuilding communities in conflict zones, President Bush pledged an additional $10 million to assist internally displaced persons, with a focus on the Moluccas. He further pledged $5 million for Aceh, to support reconciliation, help rebuild schools and other infrastructure destroyed in the ongoing violence, and assist with economic development projects, including environmental improvements and transportation. To strengthen Indonesia's law enforcement capability, President Bush also committed, subject to Congressional approval, to provide $10 million in police training.

The two Presidents discussed the situation in the provinces of Aceh and Irian Jaya and agreed on the urgent need for peaceful resolution of separatist pressures. President Megawati affirmed her determination to pursue a multidimensional approach to these regions, including implementation of special autonomy, resource sharing, respect for cultural identity and human rights, restoration of peace, order and the rule of law, and continued efforts at dialogue and reconciliation. President Bush reiterated the firm support of the United States for Indonesia's territorial integrity and emphasized that the U.S. does not support secessionist aspirations in these areas or elsewhere.

President Bush and President Megawati agreed to work together to support a stable and prosperous independent East Timor. The Presidents further agreed on the urgent need to find a comprehensive solution to the remaining problems of East Timorese in West Timor, East Nusa Tenggara province, notwithstanding the significant assistance already provided by the United States to alleviate Indonesia's burden. Recognizing that the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) still in West Timor is both an Indonesian and an international problem, the two leaders agreed to cooperate in developing a comprehensive plan that supports and implements the choice of remaining IDPs to resettle or return to East Timor. In their discussions, President Bush committed to provide both technical assistance and seed money in

the amount of $2 million dollars to help Indonesia develop and implement a credible plan, and to assist with the resettlement of those who choose to stay in Indonesia. The United States and Indonesia further pledged to work together to seek additional international support, upon completion of the plan.

The two Presidents agreed that economic reform and restructuring are pressing challenges now facing Indonesia. President Bush expressed strong support for President Megawati's commitment to press ahead with structural economic reforms, including privatization of banks and the disposal of assets within the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency. President Megawati underscored her determination to improve Indonesia's investment climate, in particular by strengthening the rule of law, resolving outstanding investment disputes, and protecting investors' assets and property.

As an expression of confidence in both President Megawati's leadership and the enormous potential of the Indonesian economy, President Bush announced that the three U.S. trade finance agencies—the Export Import Bank (ExIm), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA)—have developed a joint trade and finance initiative to help promote economic development in Indonesia. The three agencies will undertake to provide up to a combined $400 million to promote trade and investment within Indonesia, especially in the Indonesian oil and gas sector.

The two Presidents resolved to work closely to expand trade bilaterally, regionally and globally. President Bush agreed to provide Indonesia $100 million in additional benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). To explore prospects for the further expansion of trade and commercial ties, the two Presidents directed their Trade Ministers to re-establish and convene the U.S.-Indonesia Trade and Investment Council at a mutually convenient date, based on the preparatory work already undertaken by senior officials in Jakarta on September 10. Both leaders noted the importance of open markets and expanded trade for economic growth and agreed on the importance of launching a new round of WTO negotiations at Doha, taking into account the need for a balanced agenda that reflects the interests of all WTO members.

President Bush recognized the important role of the Indonesian military (TNI) as a national institution and both leaders observed the importance of military reforms in Indonesia's democratic transition. In that regard, the two Presidents agreed to expand modest contacts and resume regular meetings between their militaries to support Indonesia's efforts at military reform and professionalization. Upcoming activities will include Indonesian participation in a variety of conferences, multilateral exercises, subject matter exchanges on issues such as military reform, military law, investigations, budgeting and budget transparency, as well as humanitarian assistance and joint relief operations.

President Bush and President Megawati agreed that military-to-military relations, while important, should constitute only one aspect of the bilateral security relationship and that the two countries should cooperate to increase civilian participation in Indonesian defense and security issues. To promote this objective, the two leaders agreed to establish a bilateral Security Dialogue under the supervision of their respective civilian ministers of defense, which would provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on a broad range of security and defense issues. To further support President Megawati's efforts to foster proper civil-military relations in Indonesia's new democratic setting, President Bush also expressed his commitment to work with Congress to allocate $400,000 to educate Indonesian civilians on defense matters through the Expanded International Military Education and Training.

President Megawati expressed her full appreciation that Indonesia must resolve outstanding issues relating to past human rights violations, especially in conflict zones. She asserted that as a state based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and freedom of religion, Indonesia recognizes the importance of accountability for human rights abuses. In that context, and in the spirit of their shared commitment to promote reform

and professionalization of the military in a democratic Indonesia, President Bush announced that the United States would lift its embargo on commercial sales of non-lethal defense articles for Indonesia, with individual applications to be reviewed on a case by case basis, as is standard practice in the United States.

The two Presidents noted that both the United States and Indonesia were founded on the belief that a nation's diversity is a source of strength, not weakness—a concept embodied in their respective national mottos. They pledged to build on this shared belief as a basis for strengthening the bonds between their two peoples and for forging a new era of cooperation to advance their common interests.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia on Terrorism and Religious Tolerance

September 19, 2001

President George W. Bush and President Megawati Soekarnoputri today condemned the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and pledged to strengthen existing cooperation in the global effort to combat international terrorism. On behalf of the 210 million people of Indonesia, President Megawati expressed her deepest sympathies to the American people and pledged solidarity with the United States in this hour of grief. Noting that the victims included innocent civilians of many nationalities, including an Indonesian citizen, the two leaders agreed that these indiscriminate attacks have no place in a civilized world.

The two Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of religious freedom and tolerance in relations within and among nations. As leader of the world's largest Muslim population and third largest democracy, President Megawati joined President Bush in underlining the importance of differentiating between the religion of Islam and the acts of violent extremists. Emphasizing that Islam is a religion of peace that neither teaches hatred nor condones violence, President Megawati encouraged President Bush in his stated purpose of building a broad coalition across religious lines and cultures to deal with these new and dangerous threats. She further emphasized the importance of taking into account the views of the Muslim world as the United States leads an appropriate response to the events of September 11. Noting that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States, President Bush assured President Megawati that the American people respect Islam as one of the world's great religions and that the United States would join hands with freedom-loving people of all religions to combat transnational terror.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

September 19, 2001

The President. I want to welcome the members of the leadership of the Congress here, and I want the Nation to know how proud I am of how they have helped unite our country. Senator Daschle and the Speaker and Senator Lott and Representative Gephardt have really showed that in times of emergency and crisis, that our Government can function in a way that is just exemplary. And I want to thank them for coming down.

I'm also so pleased to accept the invitation of the Speaker and the leaders to come and address the Congress tomorrow night. I look forward to the opportunity, to explaining to the American people who it is and who would do this to our great country, and why—why would people choose America? A lot of our citizens have got a lot of questions about what has taken place on September the 11th and subsequent to that, and I owe it to the country to give an explanation. And I want to thank the Congress for giving me a chance. I can't think of a better place than to talk about freedom and the battle to maintain

freedom in one of the greatest halls of freedom, and that is in the United States Congress.

So, thank you for the invitation. I accept wholeheartedly, and I will see you all tomorrow night.

I would be glad to answer a couple of questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]?

Public Safety

Q. Mr. President, will you be able to tell all Americans whether they're going to be safe while you prepare to retaliate, or could terrorists strike again while we prepare for war?

The President. Ron, I think America needs to know that we in Government are on alert, that we recognize life around the White House or around the Congress is not normal or is not the way it used to be because we're very aware that people have conducted an act of war on our country, and that all of us urge our fellow Americans to go back to work and to work hard, but we must be on alert. Our Government is working hard to make sure that we run down every lead, every opportunity, to find someone who would want to hurt any American.

The American people are united. They're united in their resolve to help heal the Nation. But they're also united in the understanding that we've entered into a new day, and we'll deal with it.

Role of Religions

Q. Sir, you've been stressing that this is not a war against Islam. However, there are some around the world who view the coming battle along religious lines. I'm wondering how worried you are that some view this as a holy war, and are declarations of jihad at all affecting U.S. plans?

The President. I appreciate that question. First of all, it is so important for my fellow Americans, as well as everybody in the world to understand that America will hold those evildoers accountable. We don't view this as a war of religion, in any way, shape, or form. As a matter of fact, Islam preaches peace. The Muslim faith is a peaceful faith, and there are millions of good Americans who practice the Muslim faith who love their country as much as I love the country, who salute the flag as strongly as I salute the flag.

And for those who try to pit religion against religion, our great Nation will stand up and reject that kind of thought. We won't allow that to creep into the consciousness of the world. We're going to lead the world to fight for freedom, and we'll have Muslim and Jew and Christian side by side with us.

Social Security Surplus

Q. Mr. President, you promised only to dip into the Social Security surplus in an emergency, a recession, or war. And in your words, this constitutes a war. How much of the Social Security surplus are you prepared to spend?

The President. We are—not only has someone conducted an act of war on us; our economy has slowed way down; and this is an emergency. We've had all three, it seems like to me. And I'm going to work with Congress to send a clear message to America, American workers, American business people, that this Government will respond to this emergency.

We'll respond to the emergency in terms of working on a package for the airline industry that has been severely affected. We'll respond to work to fight terrorism. The Congress has already responded with a supplemental that will not only help fund our military but, as importantly, will send a clear message to the people of New York and New Jersey and Connecticut that we'll help you rebuild.

And this is exactly the subject we talked about. The definition of how much—is enough to get America going again as to be able to endure this emergency.

Q. And if that means all the surplus, are you prepared to spend all the surplus?

The President. We're reasonable people. The Members here, the leaders from the Congress, are very reasonable. And they are mindful about Government money as well as anybody else. But we're dedicated—we're dedicated to saying to the American people, "This is an emergency, the likes of which we have not seen in a long time in this country, and this Government will come together and deal with it." And that's exactly what's going to happen.

National Economy

Q. Sorry to ask another one, but did you mean to say just now that we are in a recession? You said, "It looks to me like we've got all three."

The President. No, I said—well, I said—let me put it this way—tough economic times. There's no question it's tough times. And Ron, I don't have all the numbers, but let me just say this: I can pick up all the statistics, but make no mistake about it, this has affected our economy in a big way. Now, I've still got faith that we'll recover. The strength of the American economy has always been our entrepreneurial spirit and our workers, and that's still prevalent. But you've seen the statistics on the airlines—they're beginning to lay off people. Big airline manufacturing companies responding. And this government will respond.

Now, I don't have—don't get me wrong—I don't have all the numbers at my disposal because they have to start counting them up, but this has shocked our economy. And we're going to respond. And that's exactly what this leadership and I have been talking about.

Support From Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, do you feel like you've got the full support of President Musharraf? And how hard is it going to be for him to live up to his pledges, given his domestic situation?

The President. Well, there's no question that President Musharraf has taken a bold position, which is to say he will work to the extent he can with America and our allies as we deal with the prime suspect in the case. And we appreciate so very much his statement of support. I said we'll give the President a chance to perform, and I believe he has done—done so. We will work and consult closely with Pakistan and India to make sure that that part of the world is as stable as can possibly be stable.

Let me say that, in terms of foreign policy and in terms of the world, this horrible strategy has provided us with an interesting opportunity. One of the opportunities is in the Middle East. I'm pleased with the fact that Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Sharon have taken positive steps toward bringing peace to the region. I think we have an opportunity to refashion the thinking between Pakistan and India. I think there's some interesting opportunities to shake terrorism loose from sponsor states.

And this Government, working with Congress, are going to seize the moment. Out of our tears I said I see opportunity, and we will seek opportunity, positive developments from this horrible tragedy that has befallen our Nation.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7468—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

September 19, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)), provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) because imports of the article from that country exceeded the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to the article if imports of the article from that country did not exceed those limitations during the preceding calendar year.

2. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Indonesia should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

3. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody

in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that Indonesia, which has not been treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles, should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to those articles for purposes of the GSP:

(a) general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in paragraph (1) of the Annex to this proclamation; and

(b) the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in paragraph (2) of the Annex to this proclamation is modified as provided in such paragraph.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The modifications made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 21, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex were published in the *Federal Register* on September 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa–9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2001.

Remarks on Departure for Capitol Hill With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters

September 20, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome my friend, and a friend to America, Prime Minister Tony Blair to the White House. I appreciate him coming to America in our time of need. One of the first phone calls I got after that terrible day was from the Prime Minister. He was reassuring to me. He was—he showed to be a true friend, and I appreciate that. I'm so honored you're here.

And I look forward to giving a speech tonight. The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to come and listen to it. So I'm not going to answer any questions tonight. I'm going to let my speech be exactly what I want to say.

In the meantime, the Prime Minister has agreed to say a few comments and then take a couple of questions from you.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President. It's my honor to be here and also to pay tribute to your leadership at this immensely difficult time. I was in New York earlier today, and it's perhaps only when you are actually there that the full enormity and horror of what happened comes home to you.

And I said then, I would like to repeat, that my father's generation went through the experience of the Second World War, when Britain was under attack during the days of the Blitz. And there was one nation and one people that, above all, stood side by side with us at that time. And that nation was America, and those people were the American people. And I say to you, we stand side by side with you now, without hesitation.

This is a struggle that concerns us all, the whole of the democratic and civilized and free world. And we have to do two things, very clearly: We have to bring to account those responsible, and then we have to set about at every single level, in every way that we can, dismantling the apparatus of terror and eradicating the evil of mass terrorism in our world.

And I know that America, Britain, and all our allies will stand united together in that task. And I give you, on behalf of our country, our solidarity, our sympathy, and our support.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

United Kingdom's Response

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, have you discussed what Britain's involvement in any military action might be?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, of course, we've discussed the full range of issues. Now is not the moment to go into the details of whatever response we make. But I think that you can be in no doubt at all of our determination to act to make sure, as I say, that those responsible for this event are brought to account. And in the talks I had in Europe before I left, I believe that sense of solidarity is echoed right round the world.

Q. Prime Minister, how are you prepared to go on supporting a full-scale war—[*inaudible*]——

Prime Minister Blair. I believe we have to go on fighting terrorism as long as it takes, because what happened on the 11th of September was, of course, a brutal and horrific attack on America, but it was a demonstration of what these people are capable of in any part of the world. And the important thing to realize is that there is no limit on what they would do that is moral. They have no regard for the sanctity of human life. They don't share the values of democracy or freedom or justice. The only limits on what they do are practical or technical.

And that is why it is our duty—I believe this—it is our duty to take action to make sure that at every level we can—how these groups are financed, how they operate, how they move about, the weapons that they acquire—at every single level, we have to take the action necessary to put an end to it.

International Support

Q. Prime Minister, the President said tonight that countries have to choose between being with you or being with the terrorists. How many countries do you believe are making the choice to be with terrorists? And what are the consequences to countries still not sure which side they're on?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I just wanted to say this to you in conclusion to that question. I believe right round the world there

is support for firm action now. And I believe the coalition of support for that action is growing. It is strengthening; it is not diminishing. And that is the impression that I have had from many of the conversations I've had with world leaders in all different parts of the world. Because this struggle is something that should unite people of all faiths, of all nations, of all democratic political persuasions, and I believe it will.

President Bush. We've got to go. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:12 p.m. in the Grand Foyer at the White House.

Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the United States Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11

September 20, 2001

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, Members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

In the normal course of events, Presidents come to this Chamber to report on the state of the Union. Tonight, no such report is needed. It has already been delivered by the American people.

We have seen it in the courage of passengers, who rushed terrorists to save others on the ground, passengers like an exceptional man named Todd Beamer. And would you please help me to welcome his wife, Lisa Beamer, here tonight. [*Applause*]

We have seen the State of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people who have made the grief of strangers their own.

My fellow citizens, for the last 9 days, the entire world has seen for itself the state of our Union, and it is strong.

Tonight we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.

I thank the Congress for its leadership at such an important time. All of America was touched, on the evening of the tragedy, to see Republicans and Democrats joined together on the steps of this Capitol, singing "God Bless America." And you did more than sing, you acted, by delivering $40 billion to rebuild our communities and meet the needs of our military.

Speaker Hastert, Minority Leader Gephardt, Majority Leader Daschle, and Senator Lott, I thank you for your friendship, for your leadership, and for your service to our country.

And on behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our national anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, on the streets of Paris, and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. We will not forget South Korean children gathering to pray outside our Embassy in Seoul, or the prayers of sympathy offered at a mosque in Cairo. We will not forget moments of silence and days of mourning in Australia and Africa and Latin America.

Nor will we forget the citizens of 80 other nations who died with our own: dozens of Pakistanis; more than 130 Israelis; more than 250 citizens of India; men and women from El Salvador, Iran, Mexico, and Japan; and hundreds of British citizens. America has no truer friend than Great Britain. Once again, we are joined together in a great cause—so honored the British Prime Minister has crossed an ocean to show his unity with America. Thank you for coming, friend.

On September 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars, but for the past 136 years, they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war, but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day, and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack.

Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking, who attacked our country? The evidence we have gathered all

points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as Al Qaida. They are some of the murderers indicted for bombing American Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and responsible for bombing the U.S.S. *Cole.* Al Qaida is to terror what the Mafia is to crime. But its goal is not making money. Its goal is remaking the world and imposing its radical beliefs on people everywhere.

The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics, a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam. The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinctions among military and civilians, including women and children.

This group and its leader, a person named Usama bin Laden, are linked to many other organizations in different countries, including the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. There are thousands of these terrorists in more than 60 countries. They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to camps in places like Afghanistan, where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction.

The leadership of Al Qaida has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country. In Afghanistan, we see Al Qaida's vision for the world. Afghanistan's people have been brutalized. Many are starving, and many have fled. Women are not allowed to attend school. You can be jailed for owning a television. Religion can be practiced only as their leaders dictate. A man can be jailed in Afghanistan if his beard is not long enough.

The United States respects the people of Afghanistan—after all, we are currently its largest source of humanitarian aid—but we condemn the Taliban regime. It is not only repressing its own people; it is threatening people everywhere by sponsoring and sheltering and supplying terrorists. By aiding and abetting murder, the Taliban regime is committing murder.

And tonight, the United States of America makes the following demands on the Taliban: Deliver to United States authorities all the leaders of Al Qaida who hide in your land. Release all foreign nationals, including American citizens, you have unjustly imprisoned. Protect foreign journalists, diplomats, and aid workers in your country. Close immediately and permanently every terrorist training camp in Afghanistan, and hand over every terrorist and every person in their support structure to appropriate authorities. Give the United States full access to terrorist training camps, so we can make sure they are no longer operating. These demands are not open to negotiation or discussion. The Taliban must act and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate.

I also want to speak tonight directly to Muslims throughout the world. We respect your faith. It's practiced freely by many millions of Americans and by millions more in countries that America counts as friends. Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah. The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.

Our war on terror begins with Al Qaida, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated.

Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what we see right here in this Chamber, a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms—our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other.

They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa.

These terrorists kill not merely to end lives but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows

fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us, because we stand in their way.

We are not deceived by their pretenses to piety. We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century. By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except the will to power, they follow in the path of fascism and Nazism and totalitarianism. And they will follow that path all the way, to where it ends, in history's unmarked grave of discarded lies.

Americans are asking, how will we fight and win this war? We will direct every resource at our command, every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war, to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network.

This war will not be like the war against Iraq a decade ago, with a decisive liberation of territory and a swift conclusion. It will not look like the air war above Kosovo 2 years ago, where no ground troops were used and not a single American was lost in combat.

Our response involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. Americans should not expect one battle but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen. It may include dramatic strikes, visible on TV, and covert operations, secret even in success. We will starve terrorists of funding, turn them one against another, drive them from place to place, until there is no refuge or no rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime.

Our Nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack. We will take defensive measures against terrorism to protect Americans. Today dozens of Federal departments and agencies, as well as State and local governments, have responsibilities affecting homeland security. These efforts must be coordinated at the highest level.

So tonight I announce the creation of a Cabinet-level position reporting directly to me, the Office of Homeland Security. And tonight I also announce a distinguished American to lead this effort to strengthen American security, a military veteran, an effective Governor, a true patriot, a trusted friend, Pennsylvania's Tom Ridge. He will lead, oversee, and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism and respond to any attacks that may come.

These measures are essential. But the only way to defeat terrorism as a threat to our way of life is to stop it, eliminate it, and destroy it where it grows. Many will be involved in this effort, from FBI agents to intelligence operatives to the reservists we have called to active duty. All deserve our thanks, and all have our prayers. And tonight, a few miles from the damaged Pentagon, I have a message for our military: Be ready. I've called the Armed Forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud.

This is not, however, just America's fight, and what is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight of all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance and freedom.

We ask every nation to join us. We will ask, and we will need, the help of police forces, intelligence services, and banking systems around the world. The United States is grateful that many nations and many international organizations have already responded, with sympathy and with support, nations from Latin America, to Asia, to Africa, to Europe, to the Islamic world. Perhaps the NATO Charter reflects best the attitude of the world: An attack on one is an attack on all.

The civilized world is rallying to America's side. They understand that if this terror goes unpunished, their own cities, their own citizens may be next. Terror, unanswered, can not only bring down buildings, it can threaten the stability of legitimate governments. And you know what? We're not going to allow it.

Americans are asking, what is expected of us? I ask you to live your lives and hug your

children. I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat.

I ask you to uphold the values of America and remember why so many have come here. We are in a fight for our principles, and our first responsibility is to live by them. No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith.

I ask you to continue to support the victims of this tragedy with your contributions. Those who want to give can go to a central source of information, libertyunites.org, to find the names of groups providing direct help in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The thousands of FBI agents who are now at work in this investigation may need your cooperation, and I ask you to give it.

I ask for your patience with the delays and inconveniences that may accompany tighter security and for your patience in what will be a long struggle.

I ask your continued participation and confidence in the American economy. Terrorists attacked a symbol of American prosperity. They did not touch its source. America is successful because of the hard work and creativity and enterprise of our people. These were the true strengths of our economy before September 11th, and they are our strengths today.

And finally, please continue praying for the victims of terror and their families, for those in uniform, and for our great country. Prayer has comforted us in sorrow and will help strengthen us for the journey ahead.

Tonight I thank my fellow Americans for what you have already done and for what you will do. And ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, I thank you, their representatives, for what you have already done and for what we will do together.

Tonight we face new and sudden national challenges. We will come together to improve air safety, to dramatically expand the number of air marshals on domestic flights, and take new measures to prevent hijacking. We will come together to promote stability and keep our airlines flying, with direct assistance during this emergency.

We will come together to give law enforcement the additional tools it needs to track down terror here at home. We will come together to strengthen our intelligence capabilities, to know the plans of terrorists before they act and find them before they strike. We will come together to take active steps that strengthen America's economy and put our people back to work.

Tonight we welcome two leaders who embody the extraordinary spirit of all New Yorkers, Governor George Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. As a symbol of America's resolve, my administration will work with Congress and these two leaders to show the world that we will rebuild New York City.

After all that has just passed, all the lives taken and all the possibilities and hopes that died with them, it is natural to wonder if America's future is one of fear. Some speak of an age of terror. I know there are struggles ahead and dangers to face. But this country will define our times, not be defined by them. As long as the United States of America is determined and strong, this will not be an age of terror; this will be an age of liberty, here and across the world.

Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger, we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom, the great achievement of our time and the great hope of every time, now depends on us. Our Nation—this generation—will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail.

It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, life will return almost to normal. We'll go back to our lives and routines, and that is good. Even grief recedes with time and grace. But our resolve must not pass. Each of us will remember what happened that day and to whom it happened. We'll remember the moment the news came, where we were, and what we were doing. Some will remember an image of a fire or a story of rescue. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever.

And I will carry this: It is the police shield of a man named George Howard, who died at the World Trade Center trying to save others. It was given to me by his mom, Arlene,

as a proud memorial to her son. It is my reminder of lives that ended and a task that does not end. I will not forget this wound to our country and those who inflicted it. I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people.

The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them.

Fellow citizens, we'll meet violence with patient justice, assured of the rightness of our cause and confident of the victories to come. In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom, and may He watch over the United States of America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Gov. George Pataki of New York; and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York City.

Proclamation 7469—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2001

September 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The noble ideals that became our Nation's constitutional foundation were formed over two centuries ago in the hearts of courageous patriots who risked their lives in the name of liberty and justice. Throughout our history, American patriots have risen to answer the call when the enemies of freedom have jeopardized our liberties. Our military history is replete with heroes who put love of country above their own well-being. In answering the call to defend our ideals, generations of brave Americans have left home and family to protect our great Nation, some never to return.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is notably significant for many American families. It reminds us of the men and women who withstood great hardship while imprisoned by our Nation's enemies; and it reminds us of those still missing, loved ones lost at war but whose fate is not yet fully known. We will not forget these patriots who were willing to give their all to preserve and protect our freedoms.

Nearly 50,000 former POWs live among us, including those held captive during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, throughout the Cold War era, and during Operation Desert Storm. We owe an incalculable debt of gratitude to these quiet heroes who displayed great honor and indomitable wills and who sacrificed so much for our Nation.

To the families of those who are still missing, we renew our unwavering commitment and determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting for them, including their recovery or repatriation and the identification of the remains of those who have died.

On September 21, 2001, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia will be flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, U.S. Military installations, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country. This observance will serve as a powerful reminder to all Americans that we will always keep faith with those who served our Nation with honor, integrity, and great sacrifice, remembering those still missing and honoring those who were imprisoned during war.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2001, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join me in honoring former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity and in renewing our commitment to those still missing in action. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 22, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Camp David, MD. Also in the morning, he had telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and President Vicente Fox of Mexico concerning cooperation against terrorism.

September 16

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India.

September 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Nuhayyan Zayid of the United Arab Emirates concerning cooperation against terrorism. He then met with his National Security Council concerning the U.S. response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. Later, the President went to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and later returned to the White House.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Islamic Center of Washington, and later returned to the White House.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom for a meeting and a working dinner on September 20.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar to Washington for a working visit on October 4.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jacques Chirac of France for a meeting and a private working dinner on September 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michelle Van Cleave to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom: Richard D. Land, William Francis Murphy, and Shirin Raziuddin Tahir-Kheli.

September 18

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil, and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada concerning the terrorist attacks. Also in the morning, he met with his National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey Shane to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrew S. Natsios as Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance.

The President announced his intention to designate Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to be the U.S. Representative to the 45th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The White House announced that the President made additional assistance available to New York by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for all categories of public assistance as a result of the September 11 fires and explosions.

September 19

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and President

Thabo Mbeki of South Africa concerning cooperation against terrorism. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

The President announced his intention to nominate James E. Newsome to be Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Norman A. Wulf to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Hammond to be Chairperson of the National Endowment of the Arts.

The President announced his intention to nominate Diane M. Ruebling to a member of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Josephine K. Olsen to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward Kingman to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Management and Chief Financial Officer.

September 20

The President announced his intention to nominate R. David Paulison to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The White House announced that on September 19 the President issued an emergency declaration for New Jersey and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in connection with the fires and explosions in New York on September 11.

September 21

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David.

The White House announced that the President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by fires and explosions on September 11.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to Washington for a working visit on September 25.

The White House announced that the President has invited Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to Washington for a working visit on September 24.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 19

William Baxter,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2002, vice Craven H. Crowell, Jr., resigned.

William Baxter,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the term expiring May 18, 2011 (reappointment).

Patrick J. Fitzgerald,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Scott Richard Lassar, resigned.

Alice Howze Martin,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of 4 years, vice G. Douglas Jones, resigned.

John McKay,
of Washington, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington for the term

of 4 years, vice Katrina Campbell Pflaumer, resigned.

John Price,
of Utah, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal and Islamic Republic of The Comoros and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Karl K. Warner II,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Rebecca Aline Betts, resigned.

Submitted September 21

William R. Brownfield,
of Kentucky, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Randy Crane,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, vice a new position created by Public Law 106–553, approved December 21, 2000.

Larry Miles Dinger,
of Iowa, a career member of the Foreign Service, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Clay D. Land,
of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, vice J. Robert Elliott, retired.

John H. Marburger III,
of New York, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, vice Neal F. Lane.

Kimberly Terese Nelson,
of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Edwin A. Levine, resigned.

Mary Ann Solberg,
of Michigan, to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy (new position).

Thomas M. Sullivan,
of Massachusetts, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, vice Jere Walton Glover, resigned.

Michelle Van Cleave,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Brian E. Sheridan.

William Winkenwerder, Jr.,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Sue Bailey.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 16

Transcript of remarks by Attorney General John D. Ashcroft

Released September 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Amir of Qatar to Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Jacques Chirac of France

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Statement by the Press Secretary: Belarus: Elections Declared Undemocratic

Released September 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance for New York

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2882, H.R. 2888, and S.J. Res. 22

Released September 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-Indonesia Trade & Finance Initiative

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia

Released September 20

Advance text of the President's remarks to a Joint Session of the Congress on the United States Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on the emergency declaration for New Jersey

Released September 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance for Virginia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 18

H.R. 2882 / Public Law 107–37
To provide for the expedited payment of certain benefits for a public safety officer who was killed or suffered a catastrophic injury as a direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001

H.R. 2888 / Public Law 107–38
2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States

S.J. Res. 22 / Public Law 107–39
Expressing the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001

S.J. Res. 23 / Public Law 107–40
Authorization for Use of Military Force

H.R. 2133 / Public Law 107–41
To establish a commission for the purpose of encouraging and providing for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education

Week Ending Friday, September 28, 2001

The President's Radio Address

September 22, 2001

Good morning. The terrorists who attacked the United States on September 11th targeted our economy, as well as our people. They brought down a symbol of American prosperity, but they could not touch its source. Our country's wealth is not contained in glass and steel. It is found in the skill and hard work and entrepreneurship of our people, and those are as strong today as they were 2 weeks ago.

Our economy has had a shock. Many workers lost their jobs this week, especially in the airline and hospitality industries, in restaurants and in tourism, as companies struggle to remain afloat. I applaud those companies who are making extra efforts to avoid laying off workers even during difficult times. Many Americans have also seen the value of their stocks decline. Yet, for all these challenges, the American economy is fundamentally strong. We have the best educated, most productive workforce in the world. Our factories produce more goods and a broader variety of goods than any country in the world.

Our scientists continue to push forward the frontiers of technology and science, and our entrepreneurs continue to invent new ways to bring these advances to market. This is why people from around the world invest in America.

We have taken action to address our year long economic slowdown. Tax rebate checks continue to arrive in Americans' mailboxes. The $40 billion in tax relief these rebates represent will nearly double next year to over 70 billion in tax relief, with more in each of the next 10 years as the child credit gets bigger, tax rates come down, and the marriage penalty relief kicks in.

You can look forward to an improved business climate in America in the years ahead. The Federal Reserve has done its job of keeping our financial system strong and stable, cutting interest rates in half in the last 8 months. Energy prices have remained steady. In fact, they are lower now than they were in the spring.

And Members of Congress are working together, regardless of party, in the best American spirit, to help get our economy moving again. The administration and congressional leaders of both parties have agreed to deliver emergency aid to keep our airlines flying. This will help the airlines maintain short-term stability as they work toward long-term viability for the benefit of all the workers and companies that depend on air travel.

And as well, we can assure the American traveler we are working hard to make sure that a tough new security program is implemented in our airports and our airplanes.

I appreciate so very much working with Congress to assure the safety of the travelers in America. I'm also working with Congress to strengthen our broader economy and to get Americans back to work. Both parties in both Houses of Congress are united in our determination to use the fundamental strength of our economy to meet our immediate economic challenges.

I'm deeply grateful to Speaker Hastert and Minority Leader Gephardt, to Majority Leader Senator Tom Daschle and Senator Trent Lott, for their helpful advice and for their constant support, and for their extraordinary service to our country in a difficult time.

I want to thank America for the outpouring of support. I want to thank America for their strong will. And I want to remind the people of America, we're still the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, and no terrorist will ever be able to decide our fate.

May God bless you all, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:33 p.m. on September 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September

22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on Signing the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

September 22, 2001

Today I signed the Airline Transportation and Systems Stabilization Act, which will provide urgently needed tools to assure the safety and immediate stability of our Nation's commercial airline system. This important legislation also establishes a process for compensating victims of the terrorist attacks.

The terrorists who attacked our country on September 11th will not shut down our vital businesses or thwart our way of life. I commend the Congress for their cooperation and quick action in passing responsible legislation that will improve passenger safety, help the victims and their loved ones, and keep America's airplanes flying while the airlines develop long-term viability plans.

NOTE: H.R. 2926, approved September 22, was assigned Public Law No. 107–42.

Memorandum on Waiver of Nuclear-Related Sanctions on India and Pakistan

September 22, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Nuclear-Related Sanctions on India and Pakistan

Pursuant to section 9001(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–79), I hereby determine and certify to the Congress that the application to India and Pakistan of the sanctions and prohibitions contained in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (G) of section 102(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act would not be in the national security interests of the United States. Furthermore, pursuant to section 9001(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–79), I hereby waive, with respect to India and Pakistan, to the extent not already waived, the application of any sanction contained in section 101 or 102 of the Arms Export Control Act, section 2(b)(4) of the Export Import Bank Act of 1945, and section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination and certification to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 1, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

Executive Order 13224—Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 23, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)(IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1214 of December 8, 1998, UNSCR 1267 of October 15, 1999, UNSCR 1333 of December 19, 2000, and the multilateral sanctions contained therein, and UNSCR 1363 of July 30, 2001, establishing a mechanism to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1333,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, find that grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania,

22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on Signing the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

September 22, 2001

Today I signed the Airline Transportation and Systems Stabilization Act, which will provide urgently needed tools to assure the safety and immediate stability of our Nation's commercial airline system. This important legislation also establishes a process for compensating victims of the terrorist attacks.

The terrorists who attacked our country on September 11th will not shut down our vital businesses or thwart our way of life. I commend the Congress for their cooperation and quick action in passing responsible legislation that will improve passenger safety, help the victims and their loved ones, and keep America's airplanes flying while the airlines develop long-term viability plans.

NOTE: H.R. 2926, approved September 22, was assigned Public Law No. 107–42.

Memorandum on Waiver of Nuclear-Related Sanctions on India and Pakistan

September 22, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Nuclear-Related Sanctions on India and Pakistan

Pursuant to section 9001(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–79), I hereby determine and certify to the Congress that the application to India and Pakistan of the sanctions and prohibitions contained in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (G) of section 102(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act would not be in the national security interests of the United States. Furthermore, pursuant to section 9001(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–79), I hereby waive, with respect to India and Pakistan, to the extent not already waived, the application of any sanction contained in section 101 or 102 of the Arms Export Control Act, section 2(b)(4) of the Export Import Bank Act of 1945, and section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination and certification to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 1, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

Executive Order 13224—Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 23, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)(IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1214 of December 8, 1998, UNSCR 1267 of October 15, 1999, UNSCR 1333 of December 19, 2000, and the multilateral sanctions contained therein, and UNSCR 1363 of July 30, 2001, establishing a mechanism to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1333,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, find that grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania,

and the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, acts recognized and condemned in UNSCR 1368 of September 12, 2001, and UNSCR 1269 of October 19, 1999, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and in furtherance of my proclamation of September 14, 2001, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks, hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat. I also find that because of the pervasiveness and expansiveness of the financial foundation of foreign terrorists, financial sanctions may be appropriate for those foreign persons that support or otherwise associate with these foreign terrorists. I also find that a need exists for further consultation and cooperation with, and sharing of information by, United States and foreign financial institutions as an additional tool to enable the United States to combat the financing of terrorism.

I hereby order:

Section 1. Except to the extent required by section 203(b) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)), or provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, all property and interests in property of the following persons that are in the United States or that hereafter come within the United States, or that hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons are blocked:

(a) foreign persons listed in the Annex to this order;

(b) foreign persons determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States;

(c) persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of those persons listed in the Annex to this order or those persons determined to be subject to subsection 1(b), 1(c), or 1(d)(i) of this order;

(d) except as provided in section 5 of this order and after such consultation, if any, with foreign authorities as the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, deems appropriate in the exercise of his discretion, persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General;

(i) to assist in, sponsor, or provide financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, such acts of terrorism or those persons listed in the Annex to this order or determined to be subject to this order; or

(ii) to be otherwise associated with those persons listed in the Annex to this order or those persons determined to be subject to subsection 1(b), 1(c), or 1(d)(i) of this order.

Sec. 2. Except to the extent required by section 203(b) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)), or provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date:

(a) any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in property or interests in property blocked pursuant to this order is prohibited, including but not limited to the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of those persons listed in the Annex to this order or determined to be subject to this order;

(b) any transaction by any United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited; and

(c) any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. For purposes of this order:

(a) the term "person" means an individual or entity;

(b) the term "entity" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup;

(c) the term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States; and

(d) the term "terrorism" means an activity that—

(i) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life, property, or infrastructure; and

(ii) appears to be intended—

(A) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(B) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(C) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, kidnapping, or hostage-taking.

Sec. 4. I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by United States persons to persons determined to be subject to this order would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this order, and would endanger Armed Forces of the United States that are in a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, and hereby prohibit such donations as provided by section 1 of this order. Furthermore, I hereby determine that the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (title IX, Public Law 106–387) shall not affect the imposition or the continuation of the imposition of any unilateral agricultural sanction or unilateral medical sanction on any person determined to be subject to this order because imminent involvement of the Armed Forces of the United States in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances.

Sec. 5. With respect to those persons designated pursuant to subsection 1(d) of this order, the Secretary of the Treasury, in the exercise of his discretion and in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may take such other actions than the complete blocking of property or interests in property as the President is authorized to take under IEEPA and UNPA if the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, deems such other actions to be consistent with the national interests of the United States, considering such factors as he deems appropriate.

Sec. 6. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other appropriate agencies shall make all relevant efforts to cooperate and coordinate with other countries, including through technical assistance, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements, to achieve the objectives of this order, including the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism, the denial of financing and financial services to terrorists and terrorist organizations, and the sharing of intelligence about funding activities in support of terrorism.

Sec. 7. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order.

Sec. 8. Nothing in this order is intended to affect the continued effectiveness of any rules, regulations, orders, licenses, or other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect heretofore or hereafter under 31 C.F.R. chapter V, except as expressly terminated, modified, or suspended by or pursuant to this order.

Sec. 9. Nothing contained in this order is intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, employees or any other person.

Sec. 10. For those persons listed in the Annex to this order or determined to be subject to this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that because of the ability to transfer funds or assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in this order, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to this order.

Sec. 11. (a) This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 24, 2001.

(b) This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:05 p.m., September 24, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24. This Executive order and the attached annex were published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Message to the Congress on United States Financial Sanctions Against Foreign Terrorists and Their Supporters

September 23, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency in response to the unusual and extraordinary threat posed to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States by grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. I have also issued an Executive Order to help deal with this threat by giving the United States more powerful tools to reach the means by which terrorists and terrorist networks finance themselves and to encourage greater cooperation by foreign financial institutions and other entities that may have access to foreign property belonging to terrorists or terrorist organizations.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, highlighted in the most tragic way the threat posed to the security and national interests of the United States by terrorists who have abandoned any regard for humanity, decency, morality, or honor. Terrorists and terrorist networks operate across international borders and derive their financing from sources in many nations. Often, terrorist property and financial assets lie outside the jurisdiction of the United States. Our effort to combat and destroy the financial underpinnings of global terrorism must therefore be broad, and not only provide powerful sanctions against the U.S. property of terrorists and their supporters, but also encourage multilateral cooperation in identifying and freezing property and assets located elsewhere.

This Executive Order is part of our national commitment to lead the international effort to bring a halt to the evil of terrorist activity. In general terms, it provides additional means by which to disrupt the financial support network for terrorist organizations by blocking the U.S. assets not only of foreign persons or entities who commit or pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism, but also by blocking the assets of their subsidiaries, front organizations, agents, and associates, and any other entities that provide services or assistance to them. Although the blocking powers enumerated in the order are broad, my Administration is committed to exercising them responsibly, with due regard for the culpability of the persons and entities potentially covered by the order, and in consultation with other countries.

The specific terms of the Executive Order provide for the blocking of the property and interests in property, including bank deposits, of foreign persons designated in the order or pursuant thereto, when such property is within the United States or in the possession

or control of United States persons. In addition, the Executive Order prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons in such property or interests in property, including the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of such designated persons.

I have identified in an Annex to this order eleven terrorist organizations, twelve individual terrorist leaders, three charitable or humanitarian organizations that operate as fronts for terrorist financing and support, and one business entity that operates as a front for terrorist financing and support. I have determined that each of these organizations and individuals have committed, supported, or threatened acts of terrorism that imperil the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States. I have also authorized the Secretary of State to determine and designate additional foreign persons who have committed or pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States. Such designations are to be made in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General.

The Executive Order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to identify, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, additional persons or entities that:

- Are owned or controlled by, or that act for or on behalf of, those persons designated in or pursuant to the order;
- Assist in, sponsor, or provide financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of acts of terrorism or those persons designated in or pursuant to the order; or
- Are otherwise associated with those persons designated in or pursuant to the order.

Prior to designating persons that fall within the latter two categories, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to consult with any foreign authorities the Secretary of State deems appropriate, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General. Such consultation is intended to avoid the need for additional designations by securing bilateral or multilateral cooperation from foreign governments and foreign financial and other institutions. Such consultation may include requests to foreign governments to seek, in accordance with international law and their domestic laws, information from financial institutions regarding terrorist property and to take action to deny terrorists the use of such property. The order also provides broad authority, with respect to the latter two categories, for the Secretary of the Treasury, in his discretion, and in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to take lesser action than the complete blocking of property or interests in property if such lesser action is deemed consistent with the national interests of the United States. Some of the factors that may be considered in deciding whether a lesser action against a foreign person is consistent with the national interests of the United States include:

- The impact of blocking on the U.S. or international financial system;
- The extent to which the foreign person has cooperated with U.S. authorities;
- The degree of knowledge the foreign person had of the terrorist-related activities of the designated person;
- The extent of the relationship between the foreign person and the designated person; and
- The impact of blocking or other measures on the foreign person.

The Executive Order also directs the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other agencies to make all relevant efforts to cooperate and coordinate with other countries, including through existing and future multilateral and bilateral agreements and arrangements, to achieve the objectives of this order, including the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism, the denial of the financing of and financial services to terrorists and terrorist organizations, and the sharing of intelligence about funding activities in support of terrorism.

In the Executive Order, I also have made determinations to suspend otherwise applicable exemptions for certain humanitarian,

medical, or agricultural transfers or donations. Regrettably, international terrorist networks make frequent use of charitable or humanitarian organizations to obtain clandestine financial and other support for their activities. If these exemptions were not suspended, the provision of humanitarian materials could be used as a loophole through which support could be provided to individuals or groups involved with terrorism and whose activities endanger the safety of United States nationals, both here and abroad.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, is authorized to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under IEEPA to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Executive Order. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order, and, where applicable, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

The measures taken here will immediately demonstrate our resolve to bring new strength to bear in our multifaceted struggle to eradicate international terrorism. It is my hope that they will point the way for other civilized nations to adopt similar measures to attack the financial roots of global terrorist networks.

In that regard, this Executive Order is an integral part of our larger effort to form a coalition in the global war against terrorism. We have already worked with nations around the globe and groups such as the G–8, the European Union, and the Rio Group, all of which have issued strong statements of their intention to take measures to limit the ability of terrorist groups to operate. In the next several weeks the 33rd Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) General Assembly and other fora will focus on terrorism worldwide. It is our intention to work within the G–7/G–8, the ICAO, and other fora to reach agreement on strong concrete steps that will limit the ability of terrorists to operate. In the G–7/G–8, the United States will work with its partners, drawing on the G–8 Lyon Group on Transnational Crime, the G–8 Group on Counter-terrorism, the G–7 Financial Action Task Force, and the existing G–8 commitments to build momentum and practical cooperation in the fight to stop the flow of resources to support terrorism. In addition, both the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings have been forwarded to the Senate, and I will be forwarding shortly to the Congress implementing legislation for both Conventions.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 24, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Provision of Aviation Insurance Coverage for Commercial Air Carrier Service in Domestic and International Operations

September 23, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–29

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Provision of Aviation Insurance Coverage for Commercial Air Carrier Service in Domestic and International Operations

By virtue of the authority vested in me by 49 U.S.C. 44302, *et seq.*, I hereby:

(1) determine that continuation of U.S.-flag commercial air service is necessary in the interest of air commerce, national security, and the foreign policy of the United States;

(2) approve provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance to U.S.-flag air carriers against loss or damage arising out of any risk from the operation of an aircraft, and/or reimbursement of insurance cost increases, in the manner and to the extent provided in Chapter 443 of 49 U.S.C.,

whenever he determines that such insurance cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions from any company authorized to conduct an insurance business in a State of the United States; and

(3) delegate to the Secretary of Transportation the authority, vested in me by 49 U.S.C. 44306(b), to extend this determination for additional 60-day periods, when he finds that the continued operation of aircraft to be insured or reinsured is necessary in the interest of air commerce or the national security, or to carry out the foreign policy of the United States Government.

You are directed to bring this determination immediately to the attention of all air carriers within the meaning of 49 U.S.C. 40102(2), and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:01 p.m., September 24, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Remarks on United States Financial Sanctions Against Foreign Terrorists and Their Supporters and an Exchange With Reporters

September 24, 2001

The President. Good morning. At 12:01 this morning, a major thrust of our war on terrorism began with the stroke of a pen. Today we have launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror network.

Make no mistake about it, I've asked our military to be ready for a reason. But the American people must understand this war on terrorism will be fought on a variety of fronts, in different ways. The frontlines will look different from the wars of the past.

So I told the American people we will direct every resource at our command to win the war against terrorists, every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence. We will starve the terrorists of funding, turn them against each other, rout them out of their safe hiding places, and bring them to justice.

I've signed an Executive order that immediately freezes United States financial assets of and prohibits United States transactions with 27 different entities. They include terrorist organizations, individual terrorist leaders, a corporation that serves as a front for terrorism, and several nonprofit organizations.

Just to show you how insidious these terrorists are, they oftentimes use nice-sounding, non-governmental organizations as fronts for their activities. We have targeted three such NGOs. We intend to deal with them, just like we intend to deal with others who aid and abet terrorist organizations. This Executive order means that United States banks that have assets of these groups or individuals must freeze their accounts. And United States citizens or businesses are prohibited from doing business with them.

We know that many of these individuals and groups operate primarily overseas, and they don't have much money in the United States. So we've developed a strategy to deal with that. We're putting banks and financial institutions around the world on notice. We will work with their governments, ask them to freeze or block terrorists' ability to access funds in foreign accounts. If they fail to help us by sharing information or freezing accounts, the Department of the Treasury now has the authority to freeze their banks' assets and transactions in the United States.

We have developed the international financial equivalent of law enforcement's "Most Wanted" list. And it puts the financial world on notice. If you do business with terrorists, if you support or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America.

I want to assure the world that we will exercise this power responsibly. But make no mistake about it, we intend to, and we will, disrupt terrorist networks. I want to assure the American people that in taking this action and publishing this list, we're acting based

on clear evidence, much of which is classified, so it will not be disclosed. It's important as this war progresses that the American people understand we make decisions based upon classified information, and we will not jeopardize the sources; we will not make the war more difficult to win by publicly disclosing classified information.

And by the way, this list is just a beginning. We will continue to add more names to the list. We will freeze the assets of others as we find that they aid and abet terrorist organizations around the world. We've established a foreign terrorist asset tracking center at the Department of the Treasury to identify and investigate the financial infrastructure of the international terrorist networks. It will bring together representatives of the intelligence, law enforcement, and financial regulatory agencies to accomplish two goals: to follow the money as a trail to the terrorists—to follow their money so we can find out where they are—and to freeze the money to disrupt their actions.

We're also working with the friends and allies throughout the world to share information. We're working closely with the United Nations, the EU, and through the G–7/G–8 structure to limit the ability of terrorist organizations to take advantage of the international financial systems.

The United States has signed, but not yet ratified, two international conventions, one of which is designed to set international standards for freezing financial assets. I'll be asking Members of the U.S. Senate to approve the U.N. Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Financing and a related convention on terrorist bombings and to work with me on implementing the legislation.

We will lead by example. We will work with the world against terrorism. Money is the lifeblood of terrorist operations. Today, we're asking the world to stop payment.

Now, the Secretary of Treasury would like to say a few remarks, followed by Secretary Powell, then I'll answer a few questions.

[*At this point, Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell made brief remarks.*]

The President. Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, when will you publish the paper which Secretary Powell mentioned yesterday, outlining some of the proof that you have of the involvement of bin Laden and Al Qaida and others?

The President. The Secretary said that he'd be glad to talk about the paper. Let me first tell you that I gave a speech to the Nation last Thursday in which I spent a great deal of time talking about the Al Qaida organization as the first terrorist organization that we're going to deal with. And the reason I did is there is a lot of classified information that leads to one person, as well as one global terrorist organization.

But for those of you looking for a legal peg, we've already indicted Usama bin Laden. He's under indictment for terrorist activity. Our war is against terrorism—those who would conduct terrorist acts against the United States, those who sponsor them, those who harbor them, those who challenge freedom wherever it may exist.

And Mr. Secretary, if you'd like to make a comment on that.

Secretary Powell. I just might point out that he has been under indictment for the bombings of our Embassy. And as we gather information and as we talk to our friends and allies around the world and as we get more cooperation, more information is coming in with respect to his activities and the activities of this network. Most of it is classified, and as we look through it, and we can find areas that are unclassified, and it will allow us to share this information with the public, we will do so. That would be our intent. But most of it is classified.

But there's no question that this network, with this gentleman at the head—if one can call a terrorist a gentleman, just for purposes of illustration—this guy at the head of this network, the chairman of this holding company of terrorism, is the one who is responsible.

And as we are able to provide information that is not sensitive or classified, I think we will try to do that in every way.

The President. Yes, Helen [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers].

Russia/Saudi Arabia

Q. How much cooperation are you getting from Russia? And is Saudi Arabia going to allow us to use its airbase, or aren't you allowed to talk about it?

The President. Well, first, I had an hour-long discussion—nearly an hour-long discussion with President Putin on Saturday. He was very forthcoming in his willingness to work closely with the United States in our efforts to battle terrorism. I was very pleased with my discussion, Helen. I found him to be a person who—first of all, understands the vision that we've entered into a new conflict in the 21st century.

You need to know that when I was on Air Force One and ordered alerts—increased alert status for our troops, President Putin was the first call I got. And he made it clear that he would stand down their troops. In other words, to me it was a moment where it clearly said to me, he understands the cold war is over. In the past, as you well know, that had the President put the—raised the DEFCON levels of our troops, Russia would have responded accordingly. There would have been inevitable tension.

Along those—the reason I bring that up is that Vladimir Putin clearly understands that the cold war is over and that the United States and Russia can cooperate. We can cooperate with a new strategic arrangement. We can cooperate in the battle against terrorism. We talked about a lot of areas of the world. We talked about the Central Asian republics. And as you know, they have been forthcoming in their statements about their understanding of a potential campaign. And I told him I appreciated his willingness to work with us in that area.

And so it was a very constructive dialog. He also understands that terrorist activity is going to require a—to fight terrorist activity is going to require a broad front, and that his nation, like ours, is subject to terrorist attack.

As far as the Saudi Arabians go—and again, the Secretary can comment on this; he's had more recent contact with them than I have—but they've been nothing but cooperative. Our dialog has been one of—as you would expect friends to be able to discuss issues. And my discussion with the Foreign Minister, as well as the Ambassador, have been very positive. And there's been no indication, as far as I'm concerned, that the Saudis won't cooperate once they understand exactly our mission.

Secretary Powell. That's exactly right, Mr. President. They have not turned down any requests that we have presented to them.

Waiver of Sanctions

Q. Mr. President, are you asking Congress for the power to waive military restrictions on countries—on all countries that help us, including those we've considered as rogue nations? And if so, why?

The President. No, you're—I think you're referring to—first of all, we've waived the sanctions on Pakistan and India, as related to the Glenn act. But I think you're referring to a report that we were going to ask for a blanket—blanket exceptions or blanket waivers for—and the answer is no, we're not. That's an erroneous report.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—just case-by-case now, is that idea, like——

The President. Well, where given the—where the law allows, I will do it case-by-case. But we don't intend to ask Congress for a blanket waiver, as reported in one of the journals.

Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, last week you condemned the Taliban regime, and said that if they did not comply with your demands, they would share the fate of the terrorists. That raises the question, what is your administration, and other coalition members, planning to do to maintain stability and order in Central Asia? Are we supporting this exiled King, the northern insurgence, some U.N. administration? What are our goals there, if the Taliban are to be removed?

The President. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], I—first of all, we were mindful that every action could have a consequence. And as you know, we have spent a lot of time and effort and focus on Pakistan. I just talked about the waiving of sanctions with Pakistan and India. We believe that will bring stability to that part of the world. We have talked to other friends about how to make sure that

the Musharraf Presidency is a stable presence in that part of the world.

In terms of activities within Afghanistan, I'm not going to talk about those. I will not jeopardize our mission in any way by talking about military or in-country plans. We have a responsibility as an administration to speak as candidly as we can to the American people but without jeopardizing life. And so, therefore, we will be willing to discuss that very important question at an appropriate time, and now is not the appropriate time.

U.S. Financial Sanctions Against Terrorist Assets

Q. Mr. President, to put some perspective into all of this, how much—can you tell us a rough estimate of how much the Al Qaida network is worth domestically, and perhaps and/or worldwide?

The President. Well, I think in my statement I made it clear that we don't anticipate many assets to be frozen here in the United States and that most of the assets will be overseas. And one of the jobs that the Secretary of Treasury is going to do is to help us identify the size of the organization's balance sheet.

I can't give you a rough estimate right now.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—tens of millions? Hundreds of millions?

The President. But let's put it this way—enough to fund terrorist activity that threatens freedom. And there are—take, for example, the non-governmental organizations. They run a fair amount of money through their organizations—and we're beginning, as you can tell from the list we've laid out, or will be able to tell from the list, that we're beginning to set priorities of those most egregious—and they're serving as fronts for terrorist activities. I don't know the full amount of their cash flows, but one dime of money into a terrorist activity is one dime too much.

And we know that these organizations cannot function if we're able to—the way they want to—if we're able to chop off their monies. And we intend to do so. And we've got a big task ahead. In Europe, for example, there are probably going to need to be some laws changed in order for those governments to react the way we expect them to. That's why I said in my comment, while we now—while the Secretary of Treasury now has the option of providing some draconian measure, we will look at it on a case-by-case basis. We expect there to be a complete and full effort to join us in affecting terrorist organizations in all ways, shapes, and forms.

The reason why we held this statement in the Rose Garden is it helps the American people understand we are waging a different kind of war. It is a war that is going to take a while. It is a war that will have many fronts. It is a war that will require the United States to use our influence in a variety of areas in order to win it. And one area is financial.

We know there are some banks, for example, that provide easy access money for terrorist organizations. We will deal with them. And if we can't deal with them individually, we will call upon our friends to deal with them.

One of the interesting things that the Secretary can tell you—both Secretaries will tell you—is a lot of nations and their representatives have asked, "How can we help? What can we do to join the effort?" Some nations will feel comfortable providing troops. Some nations will feel comfortable providing intelligence. Some nations will only feel comfortable helping us wage the battle on the financial front; and that's fine by us, because we understand how important it is to stop the flow of funds.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, one question on the economy. How concerned are you about consumer confidence right now? People are afraid to fly; they're not traveling. And are you, at this point, concerned that the economy has already dipped into a recession?

The President. Well, I'm—I haven't seen—I'm not a statistician, but I've got enough anecdotal evidence to tell you there are people hurting, and there are a little too many layoffs. And any time somebody loses a job in America, I'm concerned.

And I'm concerned about the shock this has had on our economy, and I'm concerned about, obviously, the effect of the airlines, for example, the weakness in the airline sector has had on the economy. That's why I signed the bill as soon as Congress passed it, to provide some non-recourse loans to the

airlines, to keep them up and running right now.

But I want to assure the American people that the fundamentals for growth are very strong. That which made us unique in the world existed prior to September—that existed prior to September 11th exists today. We're still a nation of entrepreneurs and small-business vitality. We're still a nation of innovation. We've got a very good tax structure.

There is no question the attacks have affected America, but I think when the investors sit back and take a hard look at the fundamentals of the economy, they'll get back in the market. I think that consumers will realize life is going on. I think people appreciate the fact that our Government has come together to act in a very significant way, to provide monies where necessary, for—whether it be to help rebuild New York or whether it be to provide a financial basis for airlines to stay in business. We'll come out of this, and we'll come out of it strong.

See, these terrorists thought they could affect the United States. They thought they could diminish our soul. They just strengthened our country. And while the numbers aren't going to look too good in the short run, we'll be a stronger nation as a result of this. And they've miscalculated. They made a terrible mistake. They thought somehow they could affect the psyche of our country. They're wrong.

And not only that, we'll prove them wrong. They have roused the ire of a great nation. And we're going to smoke them out of their caves and get them running. And we're going to use every means at our disposal to do so. And this is going to require patience and focus and discipline on behalf of the—by the American people and by my administration.

No, I understand 6 months from now we'll be sitting around talking about some statistic or something—maybe there will be an argument in Congress about some issue or something like that. But the American people have got to understand that when I held up that badge, I meant it: This war on terrorism is my primary focus. Of course I'm concerned about people being laid off. Of course I'm concerned about the pieces of legislation that may be stalled.

But we are talking about a campaign against people who hate freedom. And the legacy that this administration and this generation can leave for future generations is a legacy that is so vital for the underpinnings of this nation and others who love freedom.

And so I—we're a great nation, and the world has seen how great we are. And you bet there are problems with our economy short run but not long run. And you bet there's a concern about whether or not we'll be able to wrap up every financial instrument used to fund terrorism.

But make no mistake about it, we're going after them all. And we'll win; we're going to win. Terrorists are going to realize they can't face down freedom. Terrorists are going to realize they made a big mistake; they miscalculated America. And I think they miscalculate a lot of our allies and friends, too. There is a determined will, and we accept the challenge in this administration.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud al-Faysal and Ambassador to U.S. Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz al of Saudi Arabia; Muhammad Zahir Shah, former King of Afghanistan; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. He also referred to Public Law 103–236, title VIII, section 826, the "Glenn amendment" to the Arms Export Control Act.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

September 24, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome our close friend Jean Chretien to the White House again. Thank you for coming.

You know, after this terrible incident on September 11th, one of the first phone calls I received was from the Prime Minister, offering all his support and condolences to the United States and our citizens. It was like getting a phone call from a brother, and I appreciate that so very much.

We've got a great partner in our neighborhood who understands what I know, that we

are facing a new type of war. And those of us who love freedom, like the Canadians love freedom, now understand that freedom is under attack. And we've combined together to fight—to fight against a new enemy. And the Prime Minister understands that.

We had a great discussion about a variety of issues. We discussed the need for us to continue to work peacefully along a huge border. Border relations between Canada and Mexico have never been better. And there is no doubt in my mind that the Prime Minister and the Canadian people will work hard to make sure that Canada is secure from any terrorist activity that takes place, just like I can assure the Prime Minister we're doing the same. We both have a mutual responsibility in our hemisphere to find and disrupt terrorist organizations.

An amazing thing came up the other day. Somebody said to me, "Well, you know, in your speech to Congress, there were some that took affront in Canada"—because I didn't mention the name. I didn't necessarily think it was important to praise a brother; after all, we're talking about family.

There should be no doubt in anybody's mind about how honored we are to have the support of the Canadians and how strong the Canadian Prime Minister has been, and not only his condolences but his offer of support for the American people. I guess there's—somebody is playing politics with you, Mr. Prime Minister.

But I suggest those who try to play politics with my words and drive wedges between Canada and me, understand that at this time, when nations are under attack, now is not the time for politics. Now is the time to develop a strategy to fight and win the war. And Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for being here to continue those efforts with me.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you, Mr. President. And I am happy to be with you. I think that, as you say, we're part of—not America; we're your neighbor, friends, and family. And we have to work together. This problem of terrorism is a problem that concerns all the nations of the world. And we're working together to build a coalition that will defeat that, because it will disrupt the societies around the world. And I think that you know you have the support of Canadians. When you will need us, we will be there.

We had a very good discussion this morning on the element of the solutions, and we will carry on during the lunch time. I guess that the Canadians were traumatized by what happened 2 weeks ago. And we had the occasion to receive 45,000 Americans on the Canadian soil who had to be diverted to Canada. And we had a great demonstration of support when 100,000 Canadians appeared on the hill to offer support to our neighbor and friends and family, the Americans.

So we will work together. We will have occasion to carry this message that we have to be together, because Canada participates in the meeting of the Commonwealth next—10 days from now, in Australia. And later on, there will be the meeting of the Francophone in Lebanon, where, again, we'll have to talk to all the leaders and tell them that we're all in that fight.

[*At this point, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in French, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House.

Statement on Congressional Action on the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement

September 24, 2001

I commend the Congress for advancing trade and relations with Jordan, a valued friend and partner. The U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement will promote peace and security in the region, while creating jobs and new investment opportunities in both countries. The agreement demonstrates Jordan's strong commitment to economic reform and sends a strong signal to Jordan, as well as other countries in the region, that support for peace and economic reform yields concrete benefits. I look forward to signing this important legislation.

Proclamation 7470—Family Day, 2001

September 24, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Strong families make a strong America. Responsible, caring, and involved parenting dramatically affects the direction of a child's life and fundamentally influences the well-being of society as a whole. To help ensure a bright future for our children and for our Nation, we must expand our efforts to strengthen and empower families in their important task of effectively preparing children for the challenges of tomorrow.

To help families, we must fight crime and violence in our schools and communities, and we must make a quality education available to all young people, regardless of background. We must also work to ensure that adults have the skills and resources they need to provide for the health, safety, and well-being of their children.

Our Nation should send a consistent message that hails the vital importance of families. We live in an era of busy schedules and significant commitments to work, school, and community. However, quality time among family members remains as vital as ever to maintaining strong and loving bonds between parents and children and to protecting young people from harm. In its most recent survey, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) found that a teenager who sits down to dinner with his or her family seven nights a week is 20 percent less likely to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs than those that do not. By contrast, teenagers who never eat dinner with their families are 61 percent more likely to engage in these activities.

According to CASA's research, other family-bonding activities can similarly promote the avoidance of drug, alcohol, or cigarette use by teens. These include helping teenagers with homework, attending religious services with them, making religion an important part of their lives, and praising and disciplining teens as appropriate. CASA also advises that parents should monitor their teen's television viewing, music purchases, and Internet use, and should establish curfews and know where their children are after school and on weekends. Perhaps most importantly, parents should send a clear message, by example and word, of their clear disapproval of cigarette, alcohol, and drug use.

CASA's findings demonstrate how parental influence remains the single most important weapon in the war on drugs. Americans must continue to recognize the importance of strong families and involved parents in setting our Nation on the road to a drug-free society. The health, safety, and well-being of our young people merit nothing less.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24, 2001, as Family Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day by spending quality time with family members and engaging in other wholesome activities that help unite and strengthen the bonds between parents and children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:17 a.m., September 26, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 24, 2001

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared by President Clinton on September 26, 1993, by Executive Order 12865, to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the National Union for the

Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The order prohibits the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S. registered vessels or aircraft, of arms, related materiel of all types, petroleum, and petroleum products to the territory of Angola, other than through designated points of entry. The order also prohibits the sale or supply of such commodities to UNITA.

President Clinton took additional measures with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865 by issuing Executive Orders 13069 and 13098 on December 12, 1997, and August 18, 1998, respectively. Those orders close all UNITA offices in the United States, block all property and interests in property of UNITA and designated UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families, prohibit the importation of certain diamonds exported from Angola, and impose additional sanctions with respect to the provision of mining and transportation equipment and services.

Because of our continuing international obligations and the prejudicial effect that discontinuation of the sanctions would have on prospects for peace in Angola, the national emergency declared on September 26, 1993, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 26, 2001. Therefore, I am continuing the national emergency with respect to UNITA.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 24, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:06 p.m., September 24, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Message to the Congress on the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 24, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 2001.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998) continue to oblige all member states to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the prospects for peace in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its military operations.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 24, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 24, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 24, 2001.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Forces in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11

September 24, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four U.S. commercial airliners. These terrorists coldly murdered thousands of innocent people on those airliners and on the ground, and deliberately destroyed the towers of the World Trade Center and surrounding buildings and a portion of the Pentagon. In response to these attacks on our territory, our citizens, and our way of life, I ordered the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of foreign nations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. In the future, as we act to prevent and deter terrorism, I may find it necessary to order additional forces into these and other areas of the world, including into foreign nations where U.S. Armed Forces are already located.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. It is not now possible to predict the scope and duration of these deployments, and the actions necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States. It is likely that the American campaign against terrorism will be a lengthy one.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Senate Joint Resolution 23, which I signed on September 18, 2001. As you know, officials of my Administration and I have been regularly communicating with the leadership and other Members of Congress about the actions we are taking to respond to the threat of terrorism and we will continue to do so. I appreciate the continuing support of the Congress, including its passage of Senate Joint Resolution 23, in this action to protect the security of the United States of America and its citizens, civilian and military, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters

September 25, 2001

President Bush. I am really pleased and honored that my personal friend and a friend of the United States has come all the way from Japan to express his solidarity with the American people and our joint battle against terrorism.

The Prime Minister and I had a wide-ranging discussion about ways that we can cooperate with each other to fight global terrorism. Most notably, we talked about the need to work in a way to cut off their funding. The Prime Minister also talked about ways that Japan will share intelligence, that we'll work cooperatively on the diplomatic front. We had a great discussion.

Not only am I pleased with the great cooperation that we're having with our friend

the Japanese; I am most pleased that the Saudi Arabians yesterday cut off relations with the Taliban, and that President Putin, in a strong statement to the world, talked about the cooperation that Russia and the United States will have in combating global terrorism, as well.

The coalition of legitimate governments and freedom-loving people is strong. People will contribute in different ways to this coalition. But the mission won't change. The duties of the coalition may alter, but the mission won't alter. And that is to rout out and destroy international terrorism.

The Prime Minister understands this requires a long-term vision, requires a patience amongst both our people. And it also requires a determination and a strong will. I know he's got a determination and strong will, and he knows I am determined and willful in this struggle.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I'm very pleased to say, we are friends. Had a great talk, friendly. And I convey what I am thinking. We Japanese are ready to stand by the United States to fight terrorism. We could make sure of this global objective. We must fight terrorism with a determination and a patience. Very good meeting—fantastic meeting.

President Bush. I'll take a few questions.

Airlines Security/Airline Labor Issues

Q. Mr. President, on the domestic front, sir, why not extend unemployment and health insurance benefits to airline workers? And what do you think of the proposals to put reservists and military police on airplanes and to allow pilots to carry guns?

President Bush. Well, we're looking at all options—this doesn't require translation, by the way—we're looking at all options as to how to enhance airline security. I had a breakfast this morning with leaders of the Senate and the House. This was one of the topics we discussed. Secretary of Transportation Mineta is coming over this afternoon to present me with some of the options. And I look forward to working with Congress to put some concrete steps in place that will assure the American public that the Government and the airlines are doing as much as we can to enhance security and safety.

In terms of the labor issues, Elaine Chao is developing a list of recommendations, a list of options, to make sure that the displaced worker is given due consideration in the halls of Government. That subject came up, as well. There is no consensus yet. There is a desire to work toward taking care of displaced workers. And both the Congress and the White House will be presenting options.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Pakistan/Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned Saudi Arabia. What does this mean in terms of isolating the Taliban? And would you now encourage Pakistan to do the same?

President Bush. Well, we've gotten broad cooperation from Pakistan. We're most pleased with their response. They are a country that has—going to be, obviously, deeply affected by actions we may or may not take in that part of the world.

It's very interesting that the Prime Minister shared with me the fact that his country has provided $40 million in humanitarian assistance to the Pakistanis, and I want to thank him for that. We, too, are providing humanitarian assistance for people in that world, as are the Saudis. And that's an important part of the coalition, to understand that one of the issues is to make sure that Pakistan is a stable country and that whatever consequences may occur as a result of acts that we may or may not take is one that we do the best we can to manage.

In terms of——

Q. Isolation of the Taliban.

President Bush. Oh, isolating the Taliban? Well, I think most people in the world understand that I was very serious, and they're serious, when we say if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. That's pretty isolated, it seems like to me.

Japan

Q. Mr. President, according to opinion poll, about 90 percent of the Japanese are concerned that Japan's support of the U.S. military action could trigger terrorist attacks

on Japan, itself. Do you have anything to say to them, to their concern?

President Bush. Well, I think this: I think 100 percent of the Japanese people ought to understand that we're dealing with evil people who hate freedom and legitimate governments, and that now is the time for freedom-loving people to come together to fight terrorist activity. We cannot be—we cannot fear terrorists. We can't let terrorism dictate our course of action. And we will not let a terrorist dictate the course of action in the United States, and I'm sure the Prime Minister feels the same way about Japan.

No threat—no threat will prevent freedom-loving people from defending freedom. And make no mistake about it: This is good versus evil. These are evildoers. They have no justification for their actions. There's no religious justification; there's no political justification. The only motivation is evil. And the Prime Minister understands that, and the Japanese people, I think, understand that, as well.

Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, amid signs of increasing turmoil in Afghanistan and signs that there may be splits within the Taliban regime, itself, do you believe that the people of Afghanistan, themselves, are trying to liberate themselves from the Taliban rule, and would you support that as part of your campaign against terrorism?

President Bush. We have no issue and no anger toward the citizens of Afghanistan. We have, obviously, serious problems with the Taliban Government. They're an incredibly repressive Government, a Government that has a value system that's hard for many in America, or in Japan for that matter, to relate to—incredibly repressive toward women.

They have made the decision to harbor terrorists. The mission is to rout terrorists, to find them and bring them to justice. Or, as I explained to the Prime Minister in western terms, to smoke them out of their caves, to get them running so we can get them.

The best way to do that, and one way to do that, is to ask for the cooperation of citizens within Afghanistan who may be tired of having the Taliban in place or tired of having Usama bin Laden, people from foreign soils, in their own land, willing to finance this repressive government.

I understand the reality of what's taking place inside Afghanistan, and we're going to have a—listen, as I've told the Prime Minister, we're angry, but we've got a clear vision. We're upset, but we know what we've got to do. And the mission is to bring these particular terrorists to justice and, at the same time, send a clear signal, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], that says if you harbor a terrorist, if you aid a terrorist, if you hide terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists.

And this is an administration—we're not into nationbuilding; we're focused on justice. And we're going to get justice. It's going to take a while, probably. But I'm a patient man. Nothing will diminish my will and my determination—nothing.

Japan

Q. Mr. President, do you expect any financial support also from Japan, including——

President Bush. Financial proposals?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. You mean, related to our——

Q. For the entire mission against terrorism.

President Bush. For our—well, first of all, the Prime Minister, as he said, talked about $40 million of aid to Pakistan. That's a very important contribution. And I repeat the reason why: A stable Pakistan is very important to a stable world. After all, Pakistan has nuclear weapons, and we want stability in countries that may have nuclear weapons. And so that's a very important financial contribution.

Remember, this war will be fought on a variety of fronts. It is not like wars that we're used to. There's very little that's conventional about it. It's different. And so, for example, the sharing of information is vital to find and rout out terrorism. It's vital that we have a cooperative relationship. It's vital that if we hear anything that may affect the security of Japan, that we're forthcoming with that information and vice versa.

And so the resources—again, you—the tendency is to think in terms of a conventional war, where people might put money in to support a military operation. That's not the kind of war we're talking about now. And so resources will be deployed in different ways: intelligence-gathering, diplomacy, humanitarian aid, as well as cutting off resources. And one effective tool in getting these people is to cut off their money. And yesterday I made an announcement here about how we intend to do so.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I believe there are many ways to cooperate. It is one way to provide financial assistance, but there are diplomatic means; there are ways to provide medical assistance; there is assistance to refugees; there is ways to transport supplies. And I believe these are all various ways in which we can cooperate.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. After the Prime Minister's opening remarks, he spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to Federal Bureau of Investigation Employees

September 25, 2001

Thank you all. Thanks. It's been my honor to come over to thank everybody for their hard work. I know there's a lot of folks here at the FBI who are working long hours. People are away from their families more than they want. But my presence here should assure you that I recognize the important contribution you make and that the FBI and the wonderful men and women who work here are an incredibly important part of the army that is going to win the war on terrorism.

You've got some pretty good generals here, starting with General Ashcroft, who is doing a fine job as the Attorney General of America. I told the country when I picked the man that you don't have to worry where he stands and the values he brings to the job. I'm proud of the service. And I appreciate so very much Larry, as well, coming up from Atlanta, Georgia, to serve our country.

As you know, I made an important pick to head the agency. I picked a good, solid American, a man who has been under fire before and who doesn't flinch under fire this time around, either. And that's Bob Mueller. Thank you for your service.

First, I—as I mentioned to many of your colleagues, we're facing a different kind of war than our country is used to; that 2 weeks ago there was an act of war declared on America. No one could have possibly dreamed that it would come in the way it did, and it shocked our Nation, of course.

And we've had time to think about it here in the country, and we're angry. But we're also clear—we've got clear vision about what the country needs to do. This is a nation that has come together to defend our freedom and our way of life.

I see things this way: The people who did this act on America and who may be planning further acts are evil people. They don't represent an ideology; they don't represent a legitimate political group of people. They're flat evil. That's all they can think about, is evil. And as a nation of good folks, we're going to hunt them down, and we're going to find them, and we will bring them to justice.

Ours is a nation that does not seek revenge, but we do seek justice. And I don't care how long it takes to rout out terrorism, we're going to do it. We will take the time and effort and spend the resources necessary to not only find these who—these evildoers who did what they did to America on September the 11th; this is a larger campaign against anybody who hates freedom, anybody who can't stand what America and our allies and friends stand for.

And so I'm here at the FBI to thank you for your work. Most of your job is to help us win the war here at home. Most of your job is to prevent something else from happening. And I know that hundreds of FBI agents and other employees of the agency are working long, long hours to do that. I was able to see the war rooms where information is being collected and analyzed and dispersed. I was able to see the consoles where people have been sitting at long hours,

detailing every piece of information that is being gathered across the country. I know there are over 4,000 employees of the FBI working on not only gathering evidence for the particular actions that took place on September the 11th but running down every scrap of information that is being found all across our land and analyzing that information and preparing our great Nation to disrupt any action that may be being planned.

There are some other things we can do in the country, and our Congress needs to work with us. And I believe—I had breakfast this morning with Republican and Democrat leaders, and I will tell you, the spirit on Capitol Hill is good for America. It's a united spirit, and I want to thank the leaders from both parties and both Houses for their willingness to listen to anybody who has got a good idea about how to fight terrorist activity in the country. And I believe the Attorney General has taken some good ideas to Capitol Hill, and I'd like to share some of them with you.

First, what we've seen is these terrorists are very sophisticated, and so are their communications. They must—their calls must be penetrated when we feel there's a threat to America. We've got to know what's on their mind. And so, therefore, we must give the FBI the ability to track calls when they make calls from different phones, for example.

Now, this is what we do for drug dealers and members of organized crime. And it seems like to make sense to me, if it's good enough for the FBI to use these techniques for facing down those threats to America, that now that we're at war, we ought to give the FBI the tools necessary to track down terrorists. And so I hope Congress will listen to the wisdom of the proposals that the Attorney General brought up, to give the tools necessary to our agents in the field to find those who may think they want to disrupt America again.

We're asking Congress for the authority to hold suspected terrorists who are in the process of being deported, until they're deported. That seems to make sense—[*laughter*]—that if a suspected terrorist is detained, and our Nation has decided to deport the person, then they ought to be held in custody until the action actually takes place. We believe it's a necessary tool to make America a safe place.

Now, this would of course be closely supervised by an immigration judge. Now, the only alternative is to let suspected terrorists loose in our country. I don't think anybody wants to do that. [*Laughter*] I certainly hope not.

And we're asking for the authority to share information between intelligence operations and law enforcement, so we can direct the best of both in the critical effort. That, too, is a reasonable request to make of Congress.

I want you to know that every one of the proposals we've made on Capitol Hill, carried by the Attorney General, has been carefully reviewed. They are measured requests; they are responsible requests; they are constitutional requests. Ours is a land that values the constitutional rights of every citizen, and we will honor those rights, of course.

But we're at war, a war we're going to win. And in order to win the war, we must make sure that the law enforcement men and women have got the tools necessary, within the Constitution, to defeat the enemy.

And there's going to be one other thing that's required to defeat the enemy, and that's the will and determination of the American people. I believe the evildoers miscalculated when they struck America. They thought we would shy away. They thought their threats could hold this Nation hostage. They must have felt like they could diminish our soul. But quite the opposite has taken place. They've strengthened the spirit of America. They have united the country. They have awoken a mighty nation that understands that freedom is under assault, a mighty nation that will not rest until those who think they can take freedom away from any citizen in the world are brought to justice.

They've got a problem on their hands. We're going to find them. And if they're hiding, we're going to smoke them out. And we'll bring them to justice. And not only will we bring them to justice, we will bring those who harbor them, who hide them, who feed them, who encourage them, to justice.

America is a nation built upon freedom and the principles of freedom, the values of freedom. And this is a nation that will not—will not—blink from the fight. This is a nation

that will stand strong for the great values that have made us unique.

I'm proud of the work of the FBI. I want to thank you all for your dedication. Stay at it. The Nation is counting on you. You're making a great, great contribution for the country.

May God bless you all and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. in a conference room at the Operations Center at the FBI headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Defense Authorization Bill

September 25, 2001

I am pleased that the House has taken the vital step to ensure our Nation's security by passing the Defense authorization bill. The legislation will improve the quality of life for the men and women of our Armed Forces by providing the most significant pay raise in recent memory. Equally important, the bill strengthens the United States' ability to meet the security challenges ahead. I look forward to signing a strong bill into law.

Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

September 25, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians were forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we provided Liberians in the United States with Temporary Protected Status because of these difficulties. Although the civil war in Liberia ended in 1996 and conditions improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status was no longer warranted, the political and economic situation continued to be fragile. On September 27, 1999, and September 28, 2000, based on compelling foreign policy reasons, President Clinton directed Attorney General Reno to defer enforced departure of certain Liberians in the United States for 1-year periods from September 29, 1999, and September 29, 2000.

There continues to be compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time. In particular, there is a significant risk that such a decision would cause the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees in West Africa, causing instability in Liberia and the region.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 1 year the deportation of any Liberian national who is present in the United States as of September 29, 2001, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 1 year from September 29, 2001; and
2. authorization for employment for 1 year from September 29, 2001.

This directive shall not apply to any Liberian national: (1) who is ineligible for Temporary Protected Status for the reasons provided in section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; (2) whose removal you determine is in the interest of the United States; (3) whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States; (4) who voluntarily returned or returns to Liberia or his or her country of last habitual residence outside the United States; (5) who was deported, excluded, or removed prior to the date of this memorandum; or (6) who is subject to extradition.

These measures shall be taken as of the date of this memorandum.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority to Compensate Air Carriers for Losses Resulting from the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

September 25, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Compensate Air Carriers for Losses Resulting from the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 101 of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107–42) (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Transportation the authority vested in the President under section 101 (a) (2) of the Act to compensate air carriers for the direct and incremental losses they incurred from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and any resulting ground stop order.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:17 a.m., September 26, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Funding for Air Carriers

September 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I am providing up to $5 billion to the Department of Transportation's Compensation for Air Carriers account. These funds are urgently needed to enable the Nation's air carriers to meet the challenges resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I designate the entire $5 billion as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. In addition, I have delegated the authority vested under section 101(a)(2) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to the Secretary of Transportation.

The funds contained in this designation are intended to stabilize the air transportation industry and compensate air carriers for direct losses resulting from the Secretary of Transportation's order to ground all aircraft immediately following the attacks, as well as any similar orders that may be issued in the future.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Sikh Community Leaders

September 26, 2001

It's my honor to welcome citizens from all across our country here to the Roosevelt Room and the White House to discuss our common commitment to make sure that every American is treated with respect and dignity during this period of—during any period, for that matter, of American history, but particularly during this time.

An American Sikh has been killed, unjustly so. These citizens bring their hearts with them, and I can assure them that our Government will do everything we can to not only bring those people to justice but also to treat every human life as dear and to respect the values that made our country so different and so unique. We're all Americans, bound together by common ideals and common values.

So I want to welcome you all here. We're honored that you're here in the White House, and I look forward to a good, frank discussion.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Balbir Singh Sodhi, an Indian immigrant who was killed September 15 in Mesa, AZ, in a suspected hate crime.

Remarks to Central Intelligence Agency Employees in Langley, Virginia

September 26, 2001

Thank you all very much. Well, George, thank you very much, and thanks for inviting me back. [*Laughter*] There is no question that I am in the hall of patriots, and I've come to say a couple of things to you.

First, thanks for your hard work. You know, George and I have been spending a lot of quality time together. [*Laughter*] There's a reason. I've got a lot of confidence in him, and I've got a lot of confidence in the CIA, and so should America.

It's important for America to realize that there are men and women who are spending hours on the task of making sure our country remains free; men and women of the CIA who are sleeping on the floor, eating cold pizza—[*laughter*]—calling their kids on the phone, saying, "Well, I won't be able to tuck you in tonight," because they love America. And I'm here to thank everybody who loves America in this building. And I want to thank you for what you're doing.

We are on a mission to make sure that freedom is enduring. We're on a mission to say to the rest of the world, "Come with us—come with us; stand by our side to defeat the evildoers who would like to rid the world of freedom as we know it." There is no better institute to be working with than the Central Intelligence Agency, which serves as our ears and our eyes all around the world.

This is a war that is unlike any other war that our Nation is used to. It's a war of a series of battles that sometimes we'll see the fruits of our labors, and sometimes we won't. It's a war that's going to require cooperation with our friends. It is a war that requires the best of intelligence. You see, the enemy is sometimes hard to find; they like to hide. They think they can hide, but we know better.

This is a war that not only says to those who believe they can disrupt American lives—or for that matter, any society that believes in freedom lives—it's also a war that declares a new declaration, that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you provide safe haven to a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you fund a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist.

And in order to make sure that we're able to conduct a winning victory, we've got to have the best intelligence we can possibly have. And my report to the Nation is, we've got the best intelligence we can possibly have, thanks to the men and women of the CIA.

The cooperation with Capitol Hill is unique and, I hope, lasting. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the work of Senator Daschle and Senator Lott, Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt. There's deep concern amongst Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill to do what's right for America—is to come together to provide the necessary support for an effective war.

And that includes making sure that the CIA is well funded, well staffed, has got the latest in technology. I believe we can work together to make sure that that's the case. After all, as America is learning, the CIA is on the frontline of making sure our victory will be secure.

I intend to continue to work with Congress to make sure that our law enforcement officials at home have got the tools necessary—obviously, within the confines of our Constitution—to make sure the homeland is secure; to make sure America can live as peacefully as possible; to make sure that we run down every threat, take serious every incident. And we've got to make sure, as well, that those who work for the Nation overseas have got the best available technologies and the best tools and the best funding possible.

There is a good spirit in Capitol Hill because Americans want to win. They want to win the first war of the 21st century. And win we must. We have no choice; we can't relent.

Now, there's going to be a time, hopefully in the near future, where people say, "Gosh, my life is almost normal. September 11th is

a sad memory, but it's a memory." But those of us on the frontlines of this war must never forget September 11th. And that includes the men and women of the CIA. We must never forget that this is a long struggle, that there are evil people in the world who hate America. And we won't relent.

The folks who conducted the act on our country on September 11th made a big mistake. They underestimated America. They underestimated our resolve, our determination, our love for freedom. They misunderestimated the fact that we love a neighbor in need. They misunderestimated the compassion of our country. I think they misunderestimated the will and determination of the Commander in Chief, too.

So anyway, I was sitting around having coffee with George and Michael. [*Laughter*] I said, "I think I'd like to come out to thank people once again. I'd like to come out to the CIA, the center of great Americans, to thank you for your work."

I know how hard you're working. And I hope all the Americans who are listening to this TV broadcast understand how hard you're working, too. You're giving your best shot, long hours, all your brainpower, to win a war that we're going to win. And I can't thank you enough on behalf of the American people.

Keep doing it. America relies upon your intelligence and your judgment. America relies upon our capacity to work together as a nation to do what the American people expect. They expect a 100 percent effort, a full-time, no-stop effort on not only securing our homeland but to bringing to justice terrorists, no matter where they live, no matter where they hide. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Thank you very much. May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Go back to work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:23 p.m. in the headquarters building lobby at the George Bush Center for Intelligence. In his remarks, he referred to George J. Tenet, Director of Central Intelligence.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Muslim Community Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

September 26, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome to the White House my fellow Americans, Arab-Americans, Americans who are Muslim by faith, to discuss about the current incident that took place, the aftermath of the incident, and what our country is going to do to make sure that everybody who is an American is respected.

I have told the Nation more than once that ours is a war against evil, against extremists, that the teachings of Islam are the teachings of peace and good. And the Al Qaida organization is not an organization of good, an organization of peace. It's an organization based upon hate and evil.

I also want to assure my fellow Americans that when you pledge allegiance to the flag with your hand on your heart, you pledge just as hard to the flag as I do; that the outpouring of support for our country has come from all corners of the country, including many members of the Muslim faith. And for that I am grateful.

I appreciate the contributions of time, the contributions of blood to help our fellow Americans who have been injured. And I'm proud of the Muslim leaders across America who have risen up and who have not only insisted that America be strong but that America keep the values intact that have made us so unique and different, the values of respect, the values of freedom to worship the way we see fit. And I also appreciate the prayers to the universal God.

And so, thank you all for coming. I don't know if you all remember, the imam led the service at the National Cathedral. He did a heck of a good job, and we were proud to have him there. And I want to thank you very much for the gift you gave me, Imam, the Koran. It's a very thoughtful gift. I said, "Thank you very much for the gift." He said, "It's the best gift I could give you, Mr. President." I appreciate that very much.

Q. Mr. President——

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thank you all very much. Thank you all.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes? Wait a minute. I feel guilty that John [John Roberts, CBS News] couldn't—yes?

U.S. Intelligence

Q. Sir, Senator Shelby this morning had some pretty direct comments about his thinking that somebody needs to be held accountable for what has been characterized by some people as a massive intelligence failure. I wonder what you think of his comments. Is he trying to inject politics in this? Does someone need to fall on their sword, if you will?

The President. Well, John, the intelligence-gathering capacity of the United States is doing a fine job. These terrorists had burrowed in our country for over 2 years. They were well organized. They were well planned. They struck in a way that was unimaginable. And we are a united nation. We're going to go forward with our war against these terrorists. And our Nation should have all the confidence that the intelligence-gathering capacity of the United States is doing everything possible to not only keep us informed about what's happening overseas but to keep us informed about what might happen here at home.

Q. So how would you characterize his comments over the last few days?

The President. Well, he's a concerned American. I'm sure other Americans are asking how could this have happened, including the President. But what Americans need to know is that I'm receiving excellent intelligence; the CIA is doing a fine job; the FBI is responding on every single lead we're getting; and that we're doing everything we can to make the homeland safe, as well as everything we can to bring people to justice.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Granted the extremism, do you—and I'd like to ask the imam the same question—do you consider bin Laden a religious leader or a political leader?

The President. I consider bin Laden an evil man. And I don't think there's any religious justification for what he has in mind. Islam is a religion of love, not hate. This is a man who hates. This is a man who's declared war on innocent people. This is a man who doesn't mind destroying women and children. This is man who hates freedom. This is an evil man.

Q. But does he have political goals?

The President. He has got evil goals. And it's hard to think in conventional terms about a man so dominated by evil that he's willing to do what he thinks he's going to get away with. But he's not going to get away with it.

Airline Industry

Q. Sir, there were thousands of more layoffs in the airline industry today. What is the administration going to do about it?

The President. Come to Chicago tomorrow.

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thanks. Thank you all. Can we go now? Thank you. I don't want to shout you down, so let's just leave. Thank you.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. On the Middle East—think that's going to lead to a durable peace in the Middle East?

The President. Steve's [Steve Holland, Reuters] question was on the Middle East. Sorry, Gordon. That's what happens when you invite guys—[*laughter*]. You invite John Roberts in here—aggressive reporters, you get—Steve asked about the Middle East.

We're encouraged that there are discussions going on that could lead to the implementation of Mitchell. There is the framework for peace. There is the process now available. It's the Mitchell plan, which everybody agreed to is the right way to get to a peaceful resolution in the Middle East. And there is a series of discussions that took place. Hopefully, there will be more discussions and that both parties get into Mitchell. And that's going to be good for America, and it will be good for the Middle East and good for the world. And so we're hopeful.

I don't know if you remember, but I said out of this crisis, this tragedy that hit America, I do see opportunity. And one of the opportunities would be that there's some sensible thinking that goes into the Middle East and that people now realize that this violence, this terrible destruction of human life,

is not the correct path to follow and that, hopefully, people use this example as—the incidents that took place on September 11th to bring some reality to the Middle East.

The discussions are moving on. And I want to thank the Secretary of State for staying with it, staying on the phone, and encouraging both parties to get to the table. And we'll see what happens. We're hopeful.

Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, have you changed your thinking on Chechnya, in light of what's happened since September 11th?

The President. Well, first of all, to the extent that there are terrorists in Chechnya, Arab terrorists associated with the Al Qaida organization, I believe they ought to be brought to justice; as you heard me say, that our initial phase of the war on terrorism is against the Al Qaida organization. And we do believe there are some Al Qaida folks in Chechnya.

However, I do believe it's very important for President Putin to deal with the Chechen minority in this country with respect, respect of human rights and respect of difference of opinion about religion, for example. And so I would hope that the Russian President, while dealing with the Al Qaida organization, also respects minority rights within his country.

Airport and Airline Security

Q. Mr. President, tomorrow you'll be announcing some new security measures, one of them likely to include some Federal role in training airport security personnel and monitoring their work as time goes on, moving forward.

The President. Well, we're going to deal with airport security tomorrow, as well as other measures, to try to convince the American public it is safe to fly. One of my concerns is that this terrible incident has said to many Americans—convinced many Americans to stay at home. And one of the keys to economic recovery is going to be a vital—the vitality of the airline industry.

I presume many of you came to Washington today by flying, and you're here safely. And it's a—we'll announce some confidence-boosting measures, some concrete proposals, and I believe we'll be able to work with Congress to get them done in an expeditious way.

Q. You don't support arming pilots?

The President. Army pilots?

Q. Arming pilots.

The President. Oh, arming. As I said, I look forward to any suggestion that—there may be better ways to do it than that, but I'm open for any suggestion. And the good news is, is that there's a willingness on Capitol Hill to work with the administration, and vice versa, to come up with constructive, sound ways to convince the American public it's safe to fly.

Q. How quickly do you think you can put these plans in place?

The President. Oh, some of them will be—some of them will take a while; some of them could happen very quickly. Just give me a chance to give my speech. You're trying to jump the gun on me, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. [*Laughter*]

Q. It's my job, sir.

The President. You're doing it well, too, my boy. [*Laughter*]

John, no longer can you say, I haven't answered your questions. [*Laughter*]

Q. One of the three ain't bad. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

The President. [*Inaudible*]—batting .333. All right.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Gordon, good job—no questions. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Imam Muzammil H. Siddiqi, president, Islamic Society of North America; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5762

September 26, 2001

The kindness of the Lord has not ended, His mercies are not spent.

Lamentations 3:22

Yom Kippur is a day of holy awe—and a day of awesome hope. It is the day, Judaism

teaches, on which God judges the world—and the day when humanity rediscovers the power of God's love and forgiveness. The Jewish tradition holds that all humans sin, but that atonement, prayer, and charity can avert God's decree.

This is a year in which we were stunned by humanity's capacity for cruelty and violence. It is a year in which we were astonished by humanity's capacity for compassion and self-sacrifice. We have endured great loss. We have suffered great wrong.

May God bring peace to all who mourn. May people of Jewish faith and heritage in this country and around the world be inscribed and sealed for a good year in the book of life. And may we be blessed with the strength and patience to pursue justice and defeat evil.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks to Airline Employees in Chicago, Illinois

September 27, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much for such a warm welcome. I first want to thank Craig and Michele for their love and compassion for their friends, and for being such great representatives of an incredibly important industry for America's future.

I want to thank all the airline employees who are here from all the airlines around America. I want to thank you for your dedication, for your concern, and for being such great patriots for this great country.

Besides you all, I'm keeping pretty good company today. First, I'm pleased to introduce the Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta. I want you to know that Norm took a United flight. And he said the flight was just perfect. I appreciate Norm's hard work and concern about our mutual goal, and that's to get the airplanes flying again all across America.

I'm proud to be on the stage with your Governor and with his honor, the mayor. The mayor said he's going to buy me lunch today. [*Laughter*] I like my cheeseburger medium. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate so very much Jane Garvey from the FAA being here. Thank you for coming.

I'm really proud of the attitude in Washington, DC, right now. Traveling with me today were Republicans and Democrats, but make no mistake about it, they're first and foremost patriotic Americans.

The State of Illinois has produced a good man and a good Speaker, and that's Denny Hastert. Thank you, Denny, for being here. Also traveling is Minority Leader Dick Gephardt. Dick has been a joy to work with as we do what's right for America. I appreciate Senator Dick Durbin for being with us today, and I want to thank you coming, Dick. Henry Hyde of the great State of Illinois; Mark Kirk of Illinois; Jerry Weller of Illinois.

We've got quite a crowd traveling today, all of whom—all of whom are here to say as clearly as we can to the American public; get on the airlines, get about the business of America.

That's got a nice ring to it, doesn't it? I want to thank not only the employees, the people that make the airlines go, but I want to thank the chief executive officers from American Airlines and United Airlines, as well as old Herb Kelleher from Southwest Airlines, Jim Goodwin, and Don Carty. George Mikelsons of American Trans Air is here, as well. Thank you all for coming, and thank all your employees for being here. I know this will make Representative Gephardt feel good: There's a lot of folks from TWA here.

I'm so honored to be here. I think it's interesting that on one side, we see American; on the other side, it says United. Because that's what we are: America is united. We are united. We are united in bringing justice to those folks who did the evil deed on September 11th.

We're not only united; we're determined. We're determined to find those terrorists who tried to affect our way of life. We're determined to find them and to bring them to justice, and we will.

But our determination goes beyond the immediate and the short term. This is a nation that's determined to defend freedom

from any terrorist, anyplace in the world. This is a determined nation, and we're a strong nation. We're a nation based upon fabulous values.

We're also a nation that is adjusting to a new type of war. This isn't a conventional war that we're waging. Ours is a campaign that will have to reflect the new enemy. There's no longer islands to conquer or beachheads to storm. We face a brand of evil, the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time in the world. These are people who strike and hide, people who know no borders, people who are—people who depend upon others. And make no mistake about it, the new war is not only against the evildoers, themselves; the new war is against those who harbor them and finance them and feed them.

We will need patience and determination in order to succeed. We must understand that sometimes we will see our resources deployed, and sometimes we won't. But we will use every resource at our disposal.

We will use the military might of the United States. We will use our intelligence-gathering capacity of the United States. We will use every diplomatic means of the United States. We will disrupt their financial networks. We will do everything we can to achieve our objective, which is to rout out and destroy global terrorism.

Americans understand we fight not a religion; ours is not a campaign against the Muslim faith. Ours is a campaign against evil.

And there is a broad coalition of nations that understand what's at stake that have come rallying to our side. And I want to thank the nations of the world that have stood side by side with our country to defend freedom. It's heartening to know that we stand not alone in the world. It's a coalition that will require different efforts from different countries. Some countries may want to participate in one way but not in another. All we ask is that you participate. All we ask is that you use the same amount of effort the United States will to win this war against freedom, to win this battle against global terrorism.

This coalition will exist to achieve the mission, and I can assure you our mission will not change to fit any coalition's. America will stand strong. Others will tire and weary—I understand that—but not our Nation. Others will get—others will second-guess, but not our Nation. Others will become impatient, but not this great Nation. We will stand firm and stand strong until we've achieved our mission. We hope everybody follows, but we're marching on. We're marching on to do what's right.

This great Nation will not only deploy resources overseas, but we will work at home, as well, to fight terrorism and to win this war. I had the honor of announcing an Office of Homeland Security the other night in front of Congress. My good friend the Governor of Pennsylvania has agreed to leave his office early to serve the Nation, to coordinate activities to make sure that anybody who wants to harm America will have a hard time doing so, to make sure that we're strong at home as we are abroad, to make sure our resources are deployed effectively.

We have thousands of FBI agents working today to chase down any lead, to look at any hint, to make sure America is as secure as can possibly be.

And we must stand against terror by going back to work. Everybody here who showed up for work at this important industry is making a clear statement that terrorism will not stand, that the evildoers will not be able to terrorize America and our workforce and our people.

America understands—America understands that these have been incredibly tense days for the people who work in the airline industry, difficult times for stewardesses and captains and baggage handlers and people who are running the desks. America knows that, and we appreciate—we appreciate your steadfast willingness to fight terror in your own way. You stand against terror by flying the airplanes and by maintaining them. You stand against terror by loading a bag or serving a passenger. And by doing so, you're expressing a firm national commitment that's so important; that we will not surrender our freedom to travel; that we will not surrender our freedoms in America; that while you may think you have struck our soul, you haven't touched it; that we are too strong a nation to be carried down by terrorist activity.

When they struck, they wanted to create an atmosphere of fear. And one of the great goals of this Nation's war is to restore public confidence in the airline industry. It's to tell the traveling public: Get on board; do your business around the country; fly and enjoy America's great destination spots; get down to Disney World in Florida; take your families and enjoy life the way we want it to be enjoyed.

And we've got a role—the Government's got a role. Not only do you have a role to play, which you're playing in such fine fashion, but the Government has a role to play, as well. We've got a significant responsibility to deal with this emergency in a strong and bold way. And we are doing so.

The first action we took was when Republicans and Democrats alike came together and put together a package to provide stability for the airline industry. We approved—it was the first part of an economic recovery package. We understand, when we get our airlines up and running, it's going to affect so much of our economy. And so we jointly approved $15 billion of monies available to provide not only relief for airlines but loan guarantees for airlines, to make sure our airlines are strong and healthy in the aftermath of this national emergency.

And I want to thank the Speaker and Leader Gephardt for taking the lead. They showed folks that Washington can work in concert and in a constructive way. But there's more to do. We must address the issue of airline safety in a constructive, smart way. For the sake of every passenger, every crew member, and every pilot, we are going to make our airline security stronger and more reliable.

Last week I reserved $3 billion in funding to achieve this goal. And today I want to outline some of our plans to do just that. First, I will work with Congress to put the Federal Government in charge of passenger and bag screening and all safety inspections. We will make our standards tougher and better and consistent all around the country.

I understand it takes time for legislation to work through the halls of Congress, and you need to understand that, too. And so, to make sure we improve security right now, the Federal Government will pay for Governors to call up National Guard and place guardsmen at inspection stations in airports.

Some airports already meet high standards, and you all know that. But for those airports that need help, we will work with the Governors to provide security measures—visible security measures—so the traveling public will know that we are serious about airline safety in America.

Secondly, we are going to dramatically increase the number of Federal air marshals on our airplanes. When Americans fly, there need to be more highly skilled and fully equipped officers of law flying alongside them. Now, these marshals, of course, will wear plainclothes; they're going to be—they'll be like any other passenger. But Americans will know that there's more of them. And our crews will know there's more of them. And the terrorists will know there's more of them.

And third, we will set aside $500 million in new funding for aircraft security. Grants will go to airlines for enhanced cockpit protection. We look forward to working with the pilots and airlines to fortify doors and provide stronger locks, so our pilots will always be in command of the airplanes.

We will invest in new technology for aircraft security, with grants to develop transponders that cannot be switched off from the cockpit, video monitors in the cockpit to alert pilots to trouble in the cabin. And we will look at all kinds of technologies to make sure that our airlines are safe—and for example, including technology to enable controllers to take over distressed aircraft and land it by remote control.

With all these actions, we're returning America's airlines back to the American people. We're making a strong statement that together—together—the Government and the private sector will make flying a way of life again in America.

The American people must know that my administration is confident. Tomorrow nine Cabinet members will board U.S. airlines to fly around our country to do their jobs, and so will thousands of other citizens, from all walks of life, will board aircraft. And these are good things for our Nation, because this Nation will not live in fear. We have awakened to a new danger, but our resolve is

great, and the spirit of America is incredibly strong.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. The attacks on America were intended to break our spirit. But the evildoers failed. It's a fabulous land; we're lucky to live in it. It's a land—they have stirred a mighty nation to action, and the world is seeing what we're made out of. The world sees our resolves and is willing to follow. The world sees our commitment to freedom, as it impressed. The world sees our compassion toward one another, as neighbor helps neighbor, as neighbor grieves with neighbor, as people from all across our country want to hold the families who have been dangered—and have been hurt in their arms.

The world sees a nation at prayer, Christian, Jew, and Muslim, alike, praying for strength to an almighty and merciful God. The world is beginning to see the best of this great land. The world is beginning to understand why we all treasure America so much—our values, our freedom, and the strength of the American character.

No, they thought they attacked America and hurt us. We are stronger than ever, and we will prove it to the world.

Thank you all for coming. God bless America. And now it is my honor to introduce the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Illinois' own, Denny Hastert.

Mr. Speaker.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. on the tarmac at O'Hare International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Capt. Craig Eldridge, pilot, United Airlines; Michele Smith, flight attendant, American Airlines; Gov. George H. Ryan of Illinois; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; Herbert D. Kelleher, chairman of the board and chairman of the executive committee, Southwest Airlines; James E. Goodwin, chairman and chief executive officer, United Airlines; Donald J. Carty, president and chief executive officer, American Airlines, Inc.; George Mikelsons, chairman and founder, American Trans Air; and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

September 28, 2001

President Bush. Your Majesty, welcome back.

King Abdullah. Thank you.

President Bush. It's great to see you. I look forward to our discussions. Jordan is a strong, strong friend of America. And right after September 11th, one of the early messages I received was from His Majesty, expressing the condolences of the Jordanian people, as well as his own personal condolences.

I'm so pleased with our cooperative—the cooperation we have in fighting terror. I have assured His Majesty that our war is against evil, not against Islam. There are thousands of Muslims who proudly call themselves Americans, and they know what I know—that the Muslim faith is based upon peace and love and compassion, the exact opposite of the teachings of the Al Qaida organization, which is based upon evil and hate and destruction.

And finally, as a welcoming gift, it is my honor to present you with a pen. This is no ordinary pen, since it's the pen I used to sign the Free Trade Agreement with Jordan this morning. At long last, we have together accomplished one of your main objectives, in terms of economic cooperation, which is the Free Trade Agreement.

I'm proud of the actions of our leadership in the House and the Senate, from both political parties, that recognize the importance of trade with Jordan. And so, Your Majesty, it's now officially the law, and here's the pen that signed it.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, sir. Very grateful.

President Bush. Welcome back to the Oval Office.

King Abdullah. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for seeing us today. Obviously, I wish our meeting was under better circumstances, but obviously,

we're here to give our full, unequivocal support to you and to the people of America. And we will stand by you in these very difficult times. And we're proud of our friendship. We're proud of the relations we've had with your country over many, many years, as far back as his late Majesty, King Hussein.

And it's in difficult times like this that true friends must stand with each other, and we'll be by your side, and we'll be there to support you. And I'm here to see what we can do to help.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

We'll take a few questions.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. You're after the retirement lady. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'm now the retirement lady. I feel very old. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, once you leave the White House, we view it as retirement. But go ahead. [*Laughter*]

Saudi Arabia

Q. What's your reaction to the Saudis' announcement that we can—that the U.S. can use airbases? And also, do you feel the military deployment is adequate; do you feel comfortable with where it is?

President Bush. Well, first, we will not be discussing any of the—our military plans. It is very important for the American people to know that any public discussion of military or intelligence matters could jeopardize any mission that we may be thinking about.

Secondly, that I am most pleased with the cooperation we're getting in the Middle East. Clearly, the cooperation with our friend the Jordanians is strong and powerful, and we're united—but the Saudis, as well. Not only are they helping stabilize Pakistan, which is a very important part of our diplomatic efforts, they are also cooperating with us in terms of any military planning we might be doing. And I'm really pleased.

I had very good discussions—I know the King has, as well—with our Saudi Arabian friends.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Russian Experience in Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Have you had any chance to study the long and difficult conflict that the Russians had in Afghanistan? And if so, what, if anything, did you learn that might be helpful in the conflict you have coming ahead?

President Bush. Well, one of the things we will do is enforce the doctrine, part of the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And in my speech to the Nation, I laid out the conditions that we expect the current Government of Afghanistan to follow.

I am fully aware of the difficulties the Russians had in Afghanistan. Our intelligence people and our State Department people are also fully aware. It is very hard to fight a conventional war—a guerrilla war with conventional forces. And we understand that. That's why I have explained to the American people that the new war on terror is going to be a different war. It will be fought on a variety of fronts. It will be fought on a financial front. It will require the best of intelligence and the sharing of intelligence. There may or may not be a conventional component to it.

I said loud and clear, sometimes people will be able to see what we do on the television screens. Other times the American people won't be able to see what we're doing. But make no mistake about it; we're in hot pursuit. We're going to enforce the doctrine. We're going to be diligent and patient and determined to bring people to justice and to rout out terrorist activity around the world.

And so there have been lessons learned in the past, and our government is very aware of those lessons.

Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Afghanistan/Middle Eastern Response

Q. Mr. President, if I may, for Your Highness, how difficult is it for Middle Eastern nations to unite against someone who claims to be speaking and acting on behalf of Islam?

And Mr. President, what's your reaction to word today that the Taliban says it has now located Usama bin Laden and has delivered an invitation to him to leave the country?

President Bush. First of all—I'll answer first, and then Your Majesty. First, there is no negotiations with the Taliban. They heard what I said. And now they can act. And it's

not just Mr. bin Laden that we expect to see and brought to justice; it's everybody associated with his organization that's in Afghanistan. And not only those directly associated with Mr. bin Laden, any terrorist that is housed and fed in Afghanistan needs to be handed over. And finally, we expect there to be complete destruction of terrorist camps. That's what I told them; that's what I mean. And we expect them—we expect them to not only hear what I say but to do something about it.

And I want to tell His Majesty what I said the other day, and then he can respond to your question. The Al Qaida people don't represent Islam, as far as America is concerned. They represent evil. They're evil people. And that's not the Muslim faith that I know and understand, nor is it the Muslim faith of millions of Americans who are proud and devout Muslims.

King Abdullah. Well, sir, as the President so well put it, what these people stand for is completely against all the principles that Arab Muslims believe in. And so, on those principles alone, I think it will be very, very easy for people to stand together. As the President said, this is a fight against evil, and the majority of Arabs and Muslims will ban together with our colleagues all over the world to be able to put an end to this horrible scourge of international terrorism. And you'll see a united front.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7471—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2001

September 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than 30 years, the United States has annually celebrated the rich history and cultural traditions of our Nation's Hispanic American people. National Hispanic Heritage Month provides us an opportunity to express deep appreciation to Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our society and to pay tribute again to America's distinctive diversity.

Since our Nation's founding, Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our country's exceptional story of success. Hispanic Americans served with heroism in every major American military conflict. The Continental Army benefited from the valor of Bernardo de Gálvez, who led his frequently outnumbered troops to numerous victories against the British. Luis Esteves organized the first Puerto Rico National Guard and rose through the ranks of the U.S. Army to become a distinguished Brigadier General. And 38 Hispanics have earned our Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. The United States academic and scientific communities benefited from the contributions of Hispanic Americans like physicist Luis Walter Alvarez, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1986. Business leaders like Roberto Goizueta have had a positive effect on our Nation's economy; and many Hispanics have greatly influenced America's artistic, legal, and political communities.

Today, Hispanic culture continues to shape the American experience. More than 30 million Americans, about 1 in 8 people in the United States, claim Hispanic origin. They contribute to every walk of contemporary American life, while simultaneously preserving the unique customs and traditions of their ancestors. All Americans, regardless of national origin, celebrate the vibrant Hispanic American spirit that influences our Nation's art, music, food, and faiths. We also celebrate the practices of commitment to family, love of country, and respect for others, virtues that transcend ethnicity, reflect the American spirit, and are nobly exemplified in the Hispanic American community.

The strong ties that Hispanic Americans maintain with their ancestral homeland remind us that the United States must pursue robust relations with its trading partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. The future of our hemisphere is closely tied to these relationships, and improving trade will play a vital role in building important links with our

Hispanic neighbors. Maintaining open and free trade creates job opportunities and promotes economic growth, improving the welfare of every citizen in every land it touches. Thus, we will negotiate for freer markets, which will allow us the opportunity to obtain better protections for our hemisphere's environment and will promote political freedom throughout the region.

We have a great opportunity before us. By working together, we can achieve a fully democratic hemisphere, bound together by good will, cultural understanding, and free trade. The many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our Nation will help us reach this important goal by helping connect our country with the Hispanic nations to our south. This month, we celebrate the talents, culture, and spirit of Hispanic Americans, which deeply enrich our country and bless our people.

The Congress, by Public Law 100–402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month." I am proud to do so.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2001, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

Proclamation 7472—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2001

September 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than a century, our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have played a vital role in providing opportunities for excellence in higher education to millions of African American students.

Throughout their history, these institutions of higher learning persevered in the face of many obstacles, offering university degrees to African Americans at a time when most schools refused them admission. Some of our HBCUs began when society was deeply segregated; and some were founded when the Nation still permitted the scourge of slavery. The Civil War eradicated slavery in America; and the United States Supreme Court ended the racial segregation of our schools. Notwithstanding the removal of these blights from the American scene, HBCUs have remained committed to providing African American students with extraordinary educational opportunities. The HBCUs' consistent tradition of offering high-quality, academic programs has enabled their students and graduates to prosper.

The success of our HBCUs should be a source of great pride for all Americans. Almost 300,000 African Americans currently are enrolled in HBCUs, and among their graduates are Members of Congress, hundreds of elected officials, military officers, physicians, teachers, attorneys, judges, ambassadors, and business executives.

Committed to excellence as well as to opportunity, our HBCUs reflect the determination and spirit that are essential to achieving my Administration's goal of educational success at every level. All Americans should have opportunities to pursue the American dream. Historically Black Colleges and Universities play an essential role in providing access to that dream for African Americans, and I salute them for their continuing commitment to serving African American students.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 2001, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and administrators, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, thereby demonstrating our appreciation of and support for these important educational institutions.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

Memorandum on Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

September 28, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–30

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to $25 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs of a new exodus of refugees from Afghanistan. These funds may be used, as appropriate, to provide contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations, and as necessary, for administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to arrange for the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 22

During the day, the President had a meeting and videoconference with national security advisers at Camp David, MD.

September 23

In the afternoon, the President returned to the White House.

September 24

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand concerning cooperation against terrorism. Later, the President met with his National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdullah II of Jordan to Washington for a working visit on September 28.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Belgian Prime Minister and President of the European Council Guy Verhofstadt for a meeting on September 27.

September 25

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders, and later he met with his National Security Council.

In the evening, the President and Laura Bush went to Arlington, VA, where they had

dinner at the El Paso Cafe. Later, they returned to the White House.

The White House announced that the President will attend the APEC Leaders Meeting in Shanghai on October 20–21 as scheduled, but is postponing planned stops in Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing.

September 26

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan concerning cooperation against terrorism. He then met with his National Security Council. Later, he met with finalists for the Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year award.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Langley, VA, and later returned to the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate John V. Hanford III to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary L. Walker to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Francis Kennedy to be Alternative Representative of the United States to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. William Swank to be a member of the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Leslie Silverman to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

September 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he met with Members of Congress.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

September 28

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines concerning cooperation against terrorism. The President also met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude M. Bolton, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology.

The President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding associated with Tropical Storm Gabrielle on September 13–21.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 25

Everet Beckner,
of New Mexico, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, vice Madelyn R. Creedon, resigned.

Harold Daub,
of Nebraska, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for the remainder of the term expiring September 30, 2006, vice Mark A. Weinberger, resigned.

Charles Lawrence Greenwood, Jr.,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Coordinator for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Stephan Michael Minikes,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

Cranston J. Mitchell,
of Missouri, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years, vice Timothy Earl Jones, Sr.

Wanda L. Nesbitt,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar.

Edward F. Reilly,
of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years (reappointment).

Gerald Reynolds,
of Missouri, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education, vice Norma V. Cantu, resigned.

Mary L. Walker,
of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, vice Jeh Charles Johnson.

Steven A. Williams,
of Kansas, to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, vice Jamie Rappaport Clark.

Drew Howard Wrigley,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice John Thomas Schneider, resigned.

Withdrawn September 25

Donald R. Schregardus,
of Ohio, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Steven Alan Herman, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on September 4, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: King Abdullah of Jordan to Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Belgian Prime Minister and President of the European Council Guy Verhofstadt

Fact sheet: Executive Order on Terrorist Financing

Released September 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President's Travel to APEC

Released September 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Signs Implementing Legislation for Free Trade Agreement Between the United States and Jordan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2603, the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement

Fact sheet: U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 65, continuing appropriations for FY 2002

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Florida

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 22

H.R. 2926 / Public Law 107–42
Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

Approved September 28

H.R. 2603 / Public Law 107–43
United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act

H.J. Res. 65 / Public Law 107–44
Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

Proclamation 7473—National Public Lands Day, 2001

September 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has the world's greatest public lands. The National Park System, established in 1916, protects some of America's most beautiful and essential natural resources. Our parks connect Americans with their land, giving us a common landscape and shared national treasures. With more than 80 million acres, these majestic and diverse parks, home to thousands of species of flora and fauna, represent our Nation's most important natural legacy to future generations.

Our national parks provide outstanding recreational possibilities for Americans, and more than 287 million visitors each year come to these beautiful places to explore those possibilities. My Administration recognizes and accepts the importance of making these great lands more accessible to all our citizens. Our Government bears a clear and direct responsibility for the stewardship of our parks. The Government alone, however, cannot fulfill the promise of preserving this outdoor legacy—a legacy first bequeathed to us by President Theodore Roosevelt and other early visionaries who understood the importance of these great landscapes, ecosystems, and historic and cultural settings. Only by developing partnerships among States, local communities, tribal governments, public agencies, the nonprofit sector, the private sector, and individual landowners can we truly maintain and protect our Nation's best places.

National Public Lands Day provides every American with a unique and valuable opportunity to promote environmental education and, more importantly, to put their hands to work on projects directly benefiting public lands. I encourage Americans to volunteer to build trails, restore habitat, improve accessibility for visitors with special needs, and repair weather-related damage. This year, more than 60,000 volunteers are expected to work at approximately 335 sites in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In cooperation with their community partners, these individuals will contribute nearly $9 million of needed improvements to America's public lands.

National Public Lands Day also serves as a special time for our country to recognize the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the hard-working men who built more than 800 of America's national and State parks during the 1930s and 1940s. Ceremonies honoring the Corps will be held at Virginia's Shenandoah National Park, as well as at 30 other locations throughout the country.

I encourage Americans to follow the worthy example set by those CCC members and pitch in by volunteering to improve our parks. Through these efforts, we can all do our part to ensure that the Nation's parks, forests, lakes, fields, and rivers remain vibrant and enduring legacies of America's natural beauty for ages to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2001, as National Public Lands Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities to improve the public lands they use for recreation, education, and enjoyment.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7474—Gold Star Mother's Day, 2001

September 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since its inception, this Nation has relied upon courageous young men and women to fight willingly for our country's ideals. Time and again, these men and women have secured America's liberty and prosperity. In defense of freedom and the values Americans hold sacred, many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Over the course of the last 226 years, more than 1 million American mothers have endured the loss of a son or daughter in service to our Nation.

In the aftermath of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson first used the term "Gold Star Mother." It signified not only the remembrance of a young life sacrificed in service to America, but the pride, dignity, and devotion of one who had first given life to that heroic young American. Since 1928, Gold Star Mothers have sustained themselves through their profound sorrow by lovingly serving others. From civic education and community service, to the care of veterans and those in need, the Gold Star Mothers promote patriotism, serve their country, and perpetuate the memories of their lost loved ones. Today, the Nation's Gold Star Mothers still stand as symbols of purpose, perseverance, and grace in the face of personal tragedy. Each year, the Nation remembers their sacrifice by honoring the Gold Star Mothers for their steadfast commitment to the legacy of their fallen children and their devotion to the United States of America.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895), has designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 30, 2001, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the United States flag over Government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suitable places as a public expression of the sympathy and respect that our Nation holds for our Gold Star Mothers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on Assistance for Pakistan

September 28, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–1

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assistance for Pakistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to $50 million for Pakistan without regard to any provision of law within the scope of section 614(a)(1) of the Act. I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress

and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 5, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 9. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 29, 2001

Good morning. I want to report to you on the progress being made on many fronts in our war against terrorism. This is a different kind of war, which we will wage aggressively and methodically to disrupt and destroy terrorist activity.

In recent days, many members of our military have left their homes and families and begun moving into a place for missions to come. Thousands of reservists have been called to active duty. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardmen are being deployed to points around the globe, ready to answer when their country calls. Our military families have accepted many hardships, and our Nation is grateful for their willing service.

The men and women of the Armed Forces are united in their dedication to freedom, and they will make us proud in the struggle against terrorism.

International cooperation is gaining momentum. This week, I met with the Prime Ministers of two of America's closest friends, Canada and Japan. Other countries, from Russia to Indonesia, are giving strong support as the war against terrorism moves forward. America is grateful to the nations that have cut off diplomatic ties with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which is sheltering terrorists.

The United States respects the people of Afghanistan, and we are their largest provider of humanitarian aid. But we condemn the Taliban, and welcome the support of other nations in isolating that regime.

We have also launched a strike against the financial foundation of the global terror network. Our goal is to deny terrorists the money they need to carry out their plans. We began by identifying 27 terrorist organizations, terrorist leaders, and foreign businesses and charities that support or front for terrorism.

We froze whatever assets they had here in the United States, and we blocked them from doing business with people, companies, or banks in our country. Many governments and financial institutions around the world are joining in this effort to starve terrorists of funding.

This week I visited the headquarters of the FBI and the CIA. Their agents and analysts have been on the case around the clock, uncovering and pursuing the enemy. In the long campaign ahead, they will need our continued support and every necessary tool to do their work.

I'm asking Congress for new law enforcement authority to better track the communications of terrorists and to detain suspected terrorists until the moment they are deported. I will also seek more funding and better technology for our country's intelligence community.

This week, we also took strong steps to improve security on planes and in airports, and to restore confidence in air travel. We're providing airlines with Federal grants to make cockpits more secure through measures including fortified doors and stronger locks. And we're dramatically increasing the number of Federal air marshals on our planes.

Americans will have the confidence of knowing that fully equipped officers of the law are flying with them in far greater numbers. I'm also working with Congress to put Federal law enforcement in charge of all bag and passenger screening at our airports. Standards will be tougher and enforced by highly trained professionals who know exactly what they're looking for. To enhance safety immediately, I've asked Governors to place National Guardsmen at security checkpoints in airports.

As all these actions make clear, our war on terror will be much broader than the battlefields and beachheads of the past. This war will be fought wherever terrorists hide or run or plan. Some victories will be won outside of public view, in tragedies avoided and

threats eliminated. Other victories will be clear to all.

Our weapons are military and diplomatic, financial and legal. And in this struggle, our greatest advantages are the patience and resolve of the American people.

We did not seek this conflict, but we will win it. America will act deliberately and decisively, and the cause of freedom will prevail. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:04 p.m. on September 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Executive Order 13225—Continuance of Certain Federal Advisory Committees

September 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Each advisory committee listed below is continued until September 30, 2003.

(a) Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Executive Order 11145, as amended (Department of the Interior).

(b) Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health; Executive Order 12196, as amended (Department of Labor).

(c) President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; Executive Order 12900 (Department of Education).

(d) President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13021, as amended, (Department of Education).

(e) President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13021, as amended (Department of Education).

(f) President's Commission on White House Fellowships; Executive Order 11183, as amended (Office of Personnel Management).

(g) President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; Executive Order 12367, as amended (National Endowment for the Arts).

(h) President's Committee on the International Labor Organization; Executive Order 12216, as amended (Department of Labor).

(i) President's Committee on the National Medal of Science; Executive Order 11287, as amended (National Science Foundation).

(j) President's Committee on Mental Retardation; Executive Order 12994 (Department of Health and Human Services).

(k) President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; Executive Order 12345, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services).

(l) President's Export Council; Executive Order 12131, as amended (Department of Commerce).

(m) President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12382, as amended (Department of Defense).

(n) Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12905 (Office of the United States Trade Representative).

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive Order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the committees listed in section 1 of this order shall be performed by the head of the department or agency designated after each committee, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 3. The following Executive Orders, or sections thereof, which established committees that have terminated and whose work is completed, are revoked:

(a) Sections 3 and 4 of Executive Order 13134 pertaining to the establishment and administration of the Advisory Committee on

Biobased Products and Bioenergy, superseded by the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 306 of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (Title III of Public Law 106-224);

(b) Executive Order 13080, establishing the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee;

(c) Executive Order 13090, as amended by Executive Order 13136, establishing the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History;

(d) Executive Order 13168, establishing the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health; and

(e) Executive Order 13075, establishing the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents.

Sec. 4. Sections 1 through 4 of Executive Order 13138 are superseded.

Sec. 5. This order shall be effective September 30, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 28, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 2, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3.

Executive Order 13226—President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

September 30, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to establish an advisory committee on science and technology, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). The PCAST shall be composed of not more than 25 members, one of whom shall be a Federal Government official designated by the President (the "Official"), and 24 of whom shall be nonfederal members appointed by the President and have diverse perspectives and expertise in science, technology, and the impact of science and technology on the Nation. The Official shall co-chair PCAST with a nonfederal member designated by the President.

Sec. 2. *Functions.* (a) The PCAST shall advise the President, through the Official, on matters involving science and technology policy.

(b) In performance of its advisory duties, the PCAST shall assist the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in securing private sector involvement in its activities.

Sec. 3. *Administration.* (a) The heads of the executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the PCAST with information concerning scientific and technological matters when requested by the PCAST co-chairs.

(b) In consultation with the Official, the PCAST is authorized to convene ad hoc working groups to provide preliminary nonbinding information and advice directly to the PCAST.

(c) Members shall serve without compensation for their work on the PCAST. However, members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(d) Any expenses of the PCAST shall be paid from the funds available for the expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(e) The Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide such administrative services as the PCAST may require, with the approval of the Official.

Sec. 4. *General.* (a) Notwithstanding any other Executive Order, the functions of the President with respect to the PCAST under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Office

of Science and Technology Policy in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The PCAST shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order unless extended by the President prior to that date.

(c) Executive Order 12882 of November 23, 1993; Executive Order 12907 of April 14, 1994; and section 1(h) of Executive Order 13138 of September 30, 1999, are hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 30, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., October 2, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3.

Remarks to Federal Emergency Management Agency Employees

October 1, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you. I admit he's not very pretty to look at. [*Laughter*] But he's doing a heck of a job. I'm so proud of my friend. It's become clear to all the hard-working FEMA employees that I didn't pick Joe Allbaugh because of his haircut. [*Laughter*] But I picked him because he's a good man who knows how to run a very important organization. And I'm proud of my friend. I'm proud of the job he's doing. And I'm proud of the work that the FEMA employees all across the country are doing on behalf of America.

I'm here to thank you all. I was up in the operations room, thanking the folks who are working 12 to 13, 14, 15 hours a day, still, to this day. I had the honor of going to New York City; I saw what they call "dirty boot" operations, from Sacramento and Puerto Rico—all FEMA employees, all people who love their fellow Americans, all who want to join in to say loud and clear to the evildoers, "Your actions won't stand in America."

Joe said it best. He said, "This is something I hope I never have to go through again as long as I live." I know every FEMA employee feels that way. After all, yours was an organization that was used to dealing with, generally, acts of nature, hurricanes or tornadoes and fires or floods. And then, all of a sudden, some evil people came, and they declared war on America. And your agency and the good-working people, true Americans, had to rise to the occasion.

And rise, you did. And for that, the people of New York and Connecticut and New Jersey and Pennsylvania and every other State in the Union are proud of the job you're doing. So on behalf of the American people, I say thanks from the bottom of our hearts for the FEMA employees.

I also want to talk about the battle we face, the campaign to protect freedom; the willingness of the American people to not only repair the damage done but the willingness of our Nation to stand united, to say loud and clear that freedom will stand, that you can tear down our buildings but you can't tear down our spirit, that we're strong and united in the cause of freedom not only here in America but all around the world.

This will be a different kind of campaign than Americans are used to. It's a campaign that must be fought on many fronts. And I'm proud to report that we're making progress on many fronts. Not only have the FEMA employees showed the world what it's like to stand up and help a neighbor in need; we're also beginning to make progress on the financial front.

As you may remember, I made it clear that part of winning the war against terror would be to cut off these evil people's money; it would be to trace their assets and freeze them, cut off their cash flows, hold people accountable who fund them, who allow the funds to go through their institutions, and not only do that at home but to convince others around the world to join us in doing so.

Thus far, we've frozen $6 million in bank accounts linked to terrorist activity. We've frozen 30 Al Qaida accounts in the United States and 20 overseas. And we're just beginning.

Also, on the military front, we're making progress. We've deployed 29,000 military personnel and 2 carrier battle groups, as well

as an amphibious-ready group and several hundred military aircraft. We've called about 17,000 members of the reserve to active duty, as well as several thousand National Guard operating under State authority.

As I said, this is a different kind of war. It's hard to fight a guerrilla war with conventional forces. But our military is ready. And as I said to the Congress, they will make us proud.

In this new kind of war, one that requires a coalition, we're making good progress on the diplomatic front. At our request, the United Nations unanimously enacted a binding resolution requiring all its members to deny financing support or safe harbor to terrorists. We've had 46 declarations of support from organizations including NATO, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Organization of American States.

You see, the evildoers like to hit, and then they try to hide. And slowly but surely, we're going to make sure they have no place to hide. Slowly but surely, we're going to move them out of their holes and what they think is safe havens and get them on the move.

We're a patient nation. We're a nation who has got a long-term view, a nation that's come to realize that in order to make freedom prevail, the evildoers will be forced to run and will eventually be brought to justice.

Now, along those lines, we're taking any threat seriously here at home. The FBI has conducted hundreds of interviews and searches, issued hundreds of subpoenas, and arrested or detained more than 400 people as it investigates the attacks. About 150 terrorists and their supporters, as well, have been arrested or detained in 25 different countries.

In my speech to the Congress, I said, sometimes the American people aren't going to see exactly what's taking place on their TV screens. But slowly but surely, the results are coming in. You see, we've said to people around the world, "This could have happened to you. This could have easily have taken place on your soil. So you need to take threats seriously, as well."

We're beginning to share intelligence amongst our nations. We're finding out members of the Al Qaida organization, who they are, where they think they can hide. And we're slowly but surely bringing them to justice. We're slowly but surely calling their hand and reining them in. We've just begun. There's 150 detained and more to come.

And along these lines, this weekend, through the collaborative efforts of intelligence and law enforcement, we've arrested a known terrorist who was responsible for the deaths of two U.S. citizens during a hijacking in 1986, a terrorist by the name of Zayd Hassan Safarini. He's not affiliated with Al Qaida. Yet he's an example of the wider war on terrorism and what we intend to do.

Here's a man who killed two of our own citizens when he hijacked a plane in Pakistan. By the way, obviously, there's only two Americans—that's two too many—but there was a lot of people from other countries, as well, involved. And he was convicted and sentenced to death. Yet he only served 14 years. Well, we arrested him; we got him; we brought him into Alaska. And today the United States of America will charge him with murder.

Sometimes we'll have success in the near term; sometimes we have to be patient. Sometimes we'll be able to round somebody up who threatens us today; sometimes it may take us awhile to catch him. But the lesson of this case, and every case, is that this mighty Nation won't rest until we protect ourselves, our citizens, and freedom-loving people around the world.

The evildoers struck, and when they did, they aroused a mighty land, a land of compassionate people, a land who wants to help a neighbor in need, but a land who stands solidly on principles, the principles of freedom: freedom to worship, freedom to govern, freedom to speak, freedom to assemble.

We sent a loud message to the world: We will not be cowed by a few. We sent another message to the world: Together we're going to bring these people to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you all so very much for your hard work and for your love for America. May God bless you all. May God continue to bless America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. in a ballroom of the Holiday Inn Capitol adjacent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters.

Proclamation 7476—Child Health Day, 2001

October 1, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Many of us fondly remember the joys and challenges of childhood and appreciate the endless sacrifices that our families made to love, protect, and encourage us as we grew into adulthood. On Child Health Day, we take time as parents and concerned citizens to assess the health and well-being of our children and to reaffirm our commitment to nurture and care for them in the best way possible.

To secure the strength and continued growth of our great Nation, we must work to provide all of our children with the opportunities and tools they must have to succeed. From quality health care and safe living environments to emotional support and timely encouragement, our children need and deserve our utmost attention.

In light of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that our children feel safe. We must listen carefully to them and help them express and work through feelings of fear, confusion, and sorrow. And, most importantly, we must let them know that they are loved. Children who feel loved and supported can better reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

As parents, teachers, and neighbors, we must be aware of, and work to prevent, the physical, emotional, and psychological threats that potentially endanger our children. Parents must be vigilant in ensuring that their children are immunized against preventable diseases. They should check their homes for cleaning products, gases, and other hazards, including lead-based paint, radon, carbon monoxide, and allergens that may cause chronic illnesses, respiratory disorders, and sometimes death. Children should be taught to be wary of strangers who approach them and to seek the help of someone they trust when faced with uncomfortable situations. We also must use innovative teaching methods to encourage our children to develop positive habits such as regular exercise, good nutrition, abstinence from drugs, alcohol, and inappropriate sexual behavior, and good personal hygiene.

Our steadfast commitment to the health and welfare of our children is especially important for those who have special health care needs. Children who suffer from chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional conditions require specialized services in their communities. I encourage parents and caretakers to recognize these health problems, to obtain specialized care as necessary, and to monitor their children's conditions closely in order to give them every advantage toward leading a successful, fulfilling life.

My Administration is strongly committed to supporting families and children in need and to improving our education system so that no child is left behind. Let us work together as individuals, families, communities, and Americans to ensure that the health of our children always remains a national priority. The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (U.S.C. 105), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 1, 2001, as Child Health Day. On this day, and on every day throughout the year, I call upon families, schools, child health professionals, communities, and governments to dedicate themselves to fostering the healthy development and well-being of all our children—especially those with special health care needs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Proclamation 7475—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2001

October 1, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The social blight of domestic violence has continued to burden America into the 21st Century. Our homes should be places of safety and comfort. Tragically, domestic violence can and does turn many homes into places of torment. The grim facts speak for themselves: almost one-third of American women murdered each year are killed by their current or former partners, usually a husband. Approximately 1 million women annually report being stalked. And many children suffer or witness abuse in their homes, which can sadly spawn legacies of violence in families across America.

Domestic violence spills over into schools and places of work; and it affects people from every walk of life. Though abuse may occur in the seclusion of a private residence, its effects scar the face of our Nation.

In the United States, we have strict laws intended to hold domestic abusers accountable for their vile conduct by bringing them to justice, but laws alone are not enough. A comprehensive, coordinated approach must shape our strategy to reduce domestic violence. Accordingly, the Federal Government is partnering with States, local communities, and other entities to implement tough and effective mechanisms to respond to reports of domestic violence.

These efforts include specialized units in police departments, and prosecutors offices that work with local victims' advocates to make the criminal justice system more responsive to victims and more retributive to their abusers. Jurisdictions throughout the country now provide legal assistance to ensure that when victims try to escape abuse, they can obtain legal help from attorneys who understand the dynamics of domestic violence. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, and service providers are working to improve their responses to the often hidden victims of elder abuse and violence against women with disabilities. Moreover, thousands of communities now have shelters and emergency services for abused women and their children.

As a Nation, we must prioritize addressing the problem of domestic violence in our communities every day of the year. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides us with a special opportunity to emphasize that domestic violence is a crime, to warn abusers that they will be prosecuted, and to offer victims more aid and support. We can and must radically reduce and work to eliminate this scourge from our land. To succeed, this effort must be echoed by officials from every segment of the criminal justice system, Federal, State, and local. Community leaders, health care professionals, teachers, employers, friends, and neighbors all will play an important role in eradicating domestic violence.

As we observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I call on all Americans to commit to preventing domestic violence and to assist those who suffer from it. These collective efforts will contribute to peace in our homes, schools, places of work, and communities and will help ensure the future safety of countless children and adults.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2001, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to learn more about this terrible problem and to take positive action in protecting communities and families from its devastating effects.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

October 2, 2001

The President. I want to thank the leaders of the Congress for coming down for breakfast this morning. We had a really good discussion, starting with the progress we're making on the war against terrorism. I briefed the Members about the fact that we're beginning to make progress in freezing assets—freezing assets of the Al Qaida organization. I also talked about that the net we're casting is wide and strong, that we've put together an international coalition that is impressive, and that the members of that coalition are staying steady.

It is my desire to make sure that as this war unfolds, that the leaders of both the Senate and the House are fully informed of what the Government is doing. I can't think of a better way to conduct foreign policy than to consult regularly with the leadership.

We also talked about airport security. I told the Members that I'm going to be going to Reagan Airport today to announce its opening, and that we need to work together to make sure that the package that's evolving in the House and the Senate is put together pretty quickly.

We talked about economic stimulus. There is agreement that we've got to come together with a vision about how big the package ought to be, to make sure that we affect the economy in the short run in a positive way, but don't affect it in the long run in a negative way.

We agree on principles, that we've got to make sure that demand for U.S. products stays strong, demand for products throughout our economy stays strong. Therefore, we talked about ways to stimulate demand. We understand that investment has fallen off in the corporate sector, and we talked about constructive ways to stimulate investments so that the manufacturing sector, for example, of the United States has got some added wind in order to grow, to make sure that people find work. We talked about worker displacement. And we had a good discussion.

And there's one thing that the American people must understand: that as we work through these important subjects, we will do so in a spirit of cooperation and consultation.

And finally, all of us want to get a budget done as quickly possible, get the appropriations process done. We're making very good progress on coming up with the size of the ultimate budget. And once that's decided, we pledged to work together to get the appropriations bills moving as quickly as possible. That would be a welcome relief from the old budget battles of the past.

And I'm most pleased with the conversations we've had. I admired all four leaders prior to September 11th; I admire them even more after September 11th, because they're dedicated patriots, anxious to bring our Government together to make sure that we respond to the American people in a positive way.

I'll answer a couple questions.

Situation in the Middle East/Taliban

Q. Mr. President, is the time running out on the Taliban regime? Are you prepared, sir, to recognize a Palestinian state as a part of a broader Middle East peace process, itself?

The President. Those are two questions, Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

Q. It's been a while since I've seen you.

The President. Don't take it personally.

Q. I never do, sir.

The President. The idea of a Palestinian state has always been a part of a vision, so long as the right to Israel to exist is respected.

But first things first, when it comes to the Middle East, and we've got to get to Mitchell, the Mitchell accord. Senator Mitchell put together a viable blueprint that most of the world agrees with as the necessary path to ultimately solving the problems of the Middle East. And we are working diligently with

both sides to encourage the reduction of violence so that meaningful discussions can take place.

Secondly, there is no timetable for the Taliban, just like there are no negotiations. I have said that the Taliban must turn over Al Qaida organization living within Afghanistan and must destroy the terrorist camps. And they must do so; otherwise, there will be a consequence. There are no negotiations; there's no calendar. We'll act on our time, and we'll do it in a manner that not only secures the United States as best as possible but makes the freedom in the world more likely to exist in the future.

Q. Mr. President, to follow up on the Middle East, sir. Were you prepared to support the idea of a Palestinian state before the United Nations conference that was canceled?

The President. Oh, I read all kinds of speculation about what this administration was or was not going to do. What I'm telling you is, is that we are fully committed to the Mitchell process. And we are fully committed to working with both sides to bring the level of terror down to an acceptable level for both. And I fully understand that progress is made in centimeters in the Middle East. And we believe we're making some progress.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

National Economy

Q. How big a stimulus package do you think is needed, sir, and what do you think is the best way to stimulate demand?

The President. Well, the definition—a stimulus package big enough—what is needed is big enough to get the economy moving in the short run but small enough so it doesn't affect long-term interest rates, for example. We are—all of us are listening to the voices of leading economists. We're all open for suggestions. The best way to stimulate demand is to give people some money, so they can spend it.

Domestic Reaction to September 11

Q. Mr. President, out of this terror comes fear.

The President. What? Out of what?

Q. Out of this terror on September 11th comes fear. Many Americans are still gripped with this fear, and they're buying gas masks in exuberant numbers. And they're also looking to—for anthrax vaccinations. What do you say to those people? Is their fear warranted?

The President. I say that America ought to be on alert, but we need to get back to business. That's why I'm opening up Reagan Airport. That's why we had Cabinet members get on commercial airlines over the weekend. The good news is, is that some of the load factors on American airlines looked like they increased over the weekend. Americans know their Government is doing everything they can to disrupt any terrorist activity that may occur. We're following every lead; we're interrogating every possible suspect. We're on full alert in America.

But the good news is, Americans also realize that in order to fight terrorism, they're going to go about their lives in a normal way. And Americans are.

National Economy

Q. Are we in a recession, sir?

The President. Are we in a what?

Q. Are we in a recession?

The President. You let the number-crunchers tell us that. But there's no question our economy is hurt as a result of September 11th. And the leaders here understand that. These Members go back to their districts and hear the plight of families who have been laid off. I, of course, hear it all the time, as well. And we're going to do something about it. That's exactly what these discussions are about.

In terms of how you call it, what the numbers look like, we've got statisticians who will be crunching the numbers and let us know exactly where we stand. But we don't need numbers to tell us people are hurting.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:13 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator George J. Mitchell, chairman, Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee.

Remarks Announcing the Reopening of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Virginia

October 2, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Governor, thank you very much. I am here to make an announcement that this Thursday, ticket counters and airplanes will fly out of Ronald Reagan Airport.

The ticket counters will be open for business. We will start a schedule of airplane flights that will reflect the new and tight security concerns that all Americans share. Ronald Reagan Airport is very important for our local economy, but it's also a national symbol, as the Governor mentioned. So Thursday flights will resume.

I want to thank all the captains and flight attendants and maintenance folks and ticket counter personnel, people who make this good airport run, for your patience and understanding.

We're doing the right thing. We've taken our time. We can assure the American public as best as we can, that we're taking the necessary safety precautions. Now it's time to start flying again.

I want to thank the Governor of Virginia for his hard work and concern about the working people in this part of the State. I want to thank Secretary Norm Mineta, the Transportation Secretary, for working hard to bring people together, to bring sensible policy to airports all across America. He's been working overtime. That's what we expect from the Secretary of Transportation during this period of time. And I'm proud of the work he's done.

I want to thank the Mayor of Washington, DC, for being here. The Mayor's a good, solid man. I want to thank Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton from Washington, DC, for being here, as well. Two United States Senators from the State of Virginia, John Warner and George Allen, have been deeply concerned about this airport. Members of the congressional delegation, Tom Davis, Jim Moran, and Frank Wolf, as well, have been working hard with us to come up with reasonable, sound policies to get the Reagan Airport started. I'm glad you all are here, as well as Connie Morella from the neighboring State of Maryland.

There really is no greater symbol that America's back in business than the reopening of this airport. After all, this is the airport that brings our Nation's leaders to Washington to do the people's business. It's the airport that welcomes millions of tourists to our Nation's Capital. And of course, the Mayor would want me to say, we want the tourists coming back to see our great monuments.

But one of the things those of us who live in the area understand, this airport is really important for the local economy, as well. There's a lot of people, a lot of small-business people, a lot of people who service the airport, obviously a lot of people who work here, depend upon this airport being open. And I understand that. And I appreciate once again your patience and understanding, as our Nation obviously is dealing with a tragedy, the likes of which we never envisioned.

I also know full-well that the Nation is asking this question: Are we taking the necessary safety precautions as we open not only Ronald Reagan Airport but other airports? The answer is, you bet. We sure are. We're spending a lot of time consulting with local officials to make sure that the security that all of us expect is in place. Not only have we worked with Members of the Congress to develop what we hope is a security plan that will enhance confidence from the traveling public, but we work with local officials, as well, to make sure this airport has got the toughest security measures possible.

We also, as you well know, are increasing the number of air marshals, armed marshals on airplanes. They'll be undercover—let me rephrase that—they'll be wearing civilian clothes. [*Laughter*] They will blend in. But we'll have many more air marshals on flights. It should send two signals: One to the American public that there will be protection; and to somebody who thinks they can disrupt America, we're watching for you; we're paying attention to you.

Every person who gets on an airplane, who goes to work, who takes their family to visit relatives, is taking a stand against terrorism. You see, the terrorists, they want to intimidate America. The terrorists, by conducting

their evil deeds, wanted our Nation to stop. But they underestimated our spirit, didn't they?

Audience member. Yes, they did.

The President. Yes, they made a mistake. And the spirit is strong in America. Our confidence is strong.

We've put together a coalition of nations that says terrorism won't stand. We've got our military alert—on alert for a reason: Terrorism won't stand. We're cutting off their money, because we're saying terrorism won't stand.

And we're saying that at home, as well. People who travel say terrorism is not going to intimidate us. Tonight I've asked the Mayor to go out to dinner with me, on a Washington—here in the District. He said he's going so long as I pay. [*Laughter*] You've got a deal. [*Laughter*]

When people go to ball games, they're sending a signal. I mean, we got struck hard on September the 11th. All of us know that. But you can't strike the American spirit. It's strong. It's vibrant. It's united. And by opening this airport, we're making yet another statement to the terrorists: You can't win.

Thank you all for being here. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. at Terminal C, north pier of the airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Bipartisan Agreement on Fiscal Year 2002 Discretionary Appropriations Levels

October 2, 2001

Dear _____ :

I support the bipartisan agreement to set FY 2002 discretionary appropriations levels at a total of $686 billion. If the Congress presents appropriations bills to me that comply with this aggregate spending level, and are otherwise acceptable, I will sign them.

Within this total, I understand that defense activities will be funded at the amended budget level. In addition, I understand that an appropriations bill for education will include $4 billion above my budget request and will be accommodated within the total discretionary level. I also understand that the agreement includes $2.2 billion in contingent emergency appropriations, within the $686 billion agreement. These emergency funds would be available only to the extent that they are necessary to fund unexpected costs that may arise as a consequence of urgent requirements beyond the program funding levels provided in the regular appropriations bills.

This agreement does not compromise my discretion to consider the policy and program content of legislation before agreeing to sign it. However, passage of appropriations measures within the agreed total will mean that there will be no disagreement between the Congress and my Administration over aggregate funding levels.

This agreement is the result of extensive discussions to produce an acceptable bipartisan solution to facilitate the orderly enactment of appropriations measures. This agreement and the aggregate spending level are the result of a strong bipartisan effort at this critical time for our Nation, and I expect that all parties will now proceed expeditiously and in full compliance with the agreement.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; Thomas A. Daschle, Senate majority leader; Trent Lott, Senate minority leader; and Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Executive Order 13227—President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education

October 2, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.* The education of all children, regardless of background or disability, while chiefly a State and local responsibility, must always be a national priority. One of the most important goals of my Administration is to support States and local communities in creating and maintaining a system of public education where no child is left behind. Unfortunately, among those at greatest risk of being left behind are children with disabilities. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a landmark statute that asserts the rights of all children with disabilities to a free, appropriate public education. My Administration strongly supports the principles embodied in the IDEA and the goal of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities so that they can meet high academic standards and participate fully in American society. It is imperative that special education operate as an integral part of a system that expects high achievement of all children, rather than as a means of avoiding accountability for children who are more challenging to educate or who have fallen behind.

Sec. 2. *Establishment.* There is established a President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education (the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of not more than 19 members to be appointed by the President from the public and private sectors, as well as up to 5 ex officio members from the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. The members may include current and former Federal, State, and local government officials, recognized special education experts, special and general education finance experts, education researchers, educational practitioners, parents of children or young adults with disabilities, persons with disabilities, and others with special experience and expertise in the education of children with disabilities. The President shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Commission. The Secretary of Education shall select an Executive Director for the Commission.

Sec. 3. *Duties and Commission Report.* (a) The Commission shall collect information and study issues related to Federal, State, and local special education programs with the goal of recommending policies for improving the educational performance of students with disabilities. In furtherance of its duties, the Commission shall invite experts and members of the public to provide information and guidance.

(b) Not later than April 30, 2002, the Commission shall prepare and submit a report to the President outlining its findings and recommendations. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) An examination of available research and information on the effectiveness and cost of special education and the appropriate role of the Federal Government in special education programming and funding. The examination shall include an analysis of the factors that have contributed to the growth in costs of special education since the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (a predecessor of IDEA);

(2) Recommendations regarding how Federal resources can best be used to improve educational results for students with disabilities;

(3) A recommended special education research agenda;

(4) An analysis of the impact of providing appropriate early intervention in reading instruction on the referral and identification of children for special education;

(5) An analysis of the effect of special education funding on decisions to serve, place, or refer children for special education services and recommendations for alternative funding formulae that might distribute funds to achieve better results and eliminate any current incentives that undermine the goals of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a high-quality education;

(6) An analysis of, and recommendations regarding, how the Federal Government can help States and local education agencies provide a high-quality education to students with disabilities, including the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel and the inclusion of children with disabilities in performance and accountability systems;

(7) An analysis of the impact of Federal and State statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements on the cost and effectiveness of special education services, and how these requirements support or hinder

the educational achievement of students with disabilities;

(8) An assessment of how differences in local educational agency size, location, demographics, and wealth, and in State law and practice affect which children are referred to special education, and the cost of special education; and

(9) A review of the experiences of State and local governments in financing special education, and an analysis of whether changes to the Federal "supplement not supplant" and "maintenance of effort" requirements are appropriate.

Sec. 4. *Administration, Compensation, and Termination.*

(a) The Department of Education shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Commission. In addition, appropriate Federal agencies may designate staff to assist with the work of the Commission. To the extent permitted by law, Federal Government employees may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement to the Federal agency.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but, while engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available for such purposes.

(c) The functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the Commission, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Department of Education in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(d) The Chairperson may from time to time prescribe such rules, procedures, and policies relating to the activities of the Commission as are not inconsistent with law or with the provisions of this order.

(e) The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, unless extended by the President.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 2, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:05 a.m., October 4, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 3, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

Remarks Following Discussions With Business Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in New York City

October 3, 2001

The President. It's an honor to be back in New York City. I want to thank the mayor and the Governor for welcoming us back. I'm pleased that Secretary Don Evans and Larry Lindsey from the White House staff are traveling with me, and I want to thank the business leaders from not only New York but others who have come from around the country to discuss the state of the Nation.

And we've had a very frank discussion about the state of our economy. I think there's no question we all agree that the events of September 11th shocked our economy, just like it shocked the conscience of our Nation. But like those terrorists, they can't affect our soul; they can't affect the greatness of America. We all believe that the underpinnings are there for economic recovery.

And we all must do our part, and the Federal Government has a role to play. Today Secretary Paul O'Neill testified at Congress, saying that the administration believes that we ought to have 60 to 75 billion dollars more of stimulus to encourage consumer confidence, to enhance business investment, as well as to take care of displaced workers.

I have shared that with the business leaders here. They understand that there is a role for the Federal Government, a strong and

active role. And I assured them it's a role that we intend to play.

I know there are people hurting in America; there are people who have lost their jobs. But as I assured these leaders, that our Government will do everything we can to get our economy growing, to make it as strong as possible. I am saddened by the sight of the World Trade Center, again, once again. But through my tears I do see a much better future for the country.

This is a great nation. It's an entrepreneurial nation. It's a nation that has got such generous and kind people. The leadership, the business leadership here has contributed $150 million to the funds, the variety of funds here in the New York City area, to help people, the victims. It speaks volumes about what America is about.

And I want to thank everybody for coming. I'm now going to ask Ken Chenault to say a few words.

Ken.

[*At this point, Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and chief executive officer, American Express Company, made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Ken.

Betsy.

[*Betsy Holden, chief executive, Kraft Foods, made brief remarks*]

The President. I appreciate that. Thanks. I'd be glad to take a few questions.

National Economy

Q. What form might this stimulus take? Are we looking at tax cuts for individuals, corporations?

The President. You bet. I know we need to provide more tax relief to individuals to boost consumer confidence. We've just finished passing out $40 billion of rebate checks; they were completed by October 1st of this year. There is going to be tax relief started next year as a part of the package that the Congress and I agreed to. We believe there ought to be more, to make sure that the consumer has got money to spend, money to spend in the short term.

Secondly, there needs to be business relief, as well, to encourage investment.

And finally, there needs to be a displaced worker package. We've got to recognize that as a result of September 11th, folks have been laid off, and we need to make sure they're able to survive until this economy gets going again.

And I've got to tell you, I had a great conversation with the leadership of the Congress yesterday. We're coming together on a plan that I believe needs to get passed as quickly as possible.

Budget Surplus

Q. Mr. President, is this going to eat up the rest of the surplus for the year, and does it matter?

The President. Well, as I said in Chicago during the campaign, when asked about should the Government ever deficit spend, I said only under these circumstances should Government deficit spend: if there is a national emergency, if there is a recession, or if there's a war. And you know, we've now got a reason to do what it takes to not only provide security at home, to do what it takes to win the war on terrorism, but we've also got to do what it takes to make sure this economy gets growing, so people can find work.

And we've got the basis for growth. We're an entrepreneurial nation. There's a lot of small-business growth in America. By and large, the banking system is very solid. The energy prices are reasonable. And now we've just got to be aggressive and make sure we do what we need to do at the Federal level to provide a kick-start to give people reasons to be confident. And we will do that.

This isn't a Republican idea or Democrat idea; it's an American idea. And it's the right time for us to come together to get it done.

Yes, ma'am.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, should the country brace itself for a recession? I mean, one of your advisers said yesterday that he can forecast it being likely that two negative quarters of growth are——

The President. We'll leave all that talk up to the statisticians. You're asking me about statistics, and we've got people who count numbers there in Washington, DC, and that's fine.

Here's my attitude: One person laid off is one person too many. And therefore, we've

got to do what it takes to make sure that that person who got laid off is able to find work. I'm not going to dwell on the past; I'm looking forward. And I believe we've got a fantastic opportunity to invigorate this economy and to assure the business leaders around America that the Government is playing a very active role and that we will take the steps necessary to provide growth and stimulus.

And that's why I believe we need additional stimulus beyond some of the spending that we've already put in place, to the tune of about 60 to 75 billion dollars. We'll let the accountants come up—they call it what they want; there's no question that the economy has been affected by September 11th.

Congressional Action on the Economy

Q. [*Inaudible*]—signed off on that $60 billion to $75 billion——

The President. No, they have not, yet. But they do understand we need to have a range, that as you go into a debate about, or discussions about how to stimulate the economy, first and foremost, it's important to come up with a total figure so that we don't undershoot or overshoot the mark. And they do recognize that some of the actions that we've all taken together, including the 40 billion supplemental plus the 15 billion for the airline, will have a positive effect on economic growth, and I do believe they recognize there needs to be more. And so one of the things that I'm doing is providing the leadership necessary to try to set the parameters on what the definition of "more" is.

Again, I want to repeat: We've just finished with $40 billion of rebate from the tax package we agreed upon earlier in the year, plus we'll have about 70 billion in the rate reductions starting next year. And so, what we're looking at is how to bridge into next year.

National Economy

Q. Sir, are you confident that the size of the package you're talking about will do the stimulating you need at this end, without putting pressure on interest rates——

The President. That's a very good question. I finally got one—no—anyway—[*laughter*]—I believe—I think you ought to ask the—I wish you could have heard the discussion we had, let me put it to you that way, where I believe people around this table, for example, believe it's important to be aggressive on the front end; that the risk-reward ratio is beneficial to be more aggressive on the front end. And obviously, we agree with that; that's why we've proposed up to 60 to 75 billion. But we're mindful of the effect on long-term interest rates, and we think that number is the right number.

Discussions With Business Leaders

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything specific about these discussions with these men and women, specifically about did you speak about corporate relief?

The President. Yes, we did. I can be very specific, just like I have been. They do believe we need to stimulate the economy through boosting consumer confidence with some kind of money in the hands of consumers. And there's a variety of ways to—excuse me? I'm sorry—there's a variety of ways to do that. There's rebates; there's acceleration of the tax cuts—are the two most effective ways to do that, and we discussed both of those.

Secondly, we discussed a variety of options for corporate relief. One, we talked about ways to encourage investment through expensing of depreciation. Some people thought we ought to look at one-time ITCs, investment tax credits. People talked about the idea of corporate tax relief. And so we did have specific discussions about ways to make sure that our economy continues to grow.

And I am most grateful for the input that we have been given here. It has been incredibly helpful. The thing I come away with is that these are men and women dedicated to America, first and foremost. They're dedicated to the workers that work for their company; they're dedicated to providing the security for their workers so they can go to work feeling safely. And they love their country, and they're going to do what it takes to join all of us together to recover from this awful incident of September 11th.

You only get one question a day.

Travel

Q. [*Inaudible*]—ask your average American to do besides spend, to help?

The President. Well, I think the average American must not be afraid to travel. We opened Reagan Airport yesterday for a reason: We think it's safe and that people ought to feel comfortable about traveling around our country. They ought to take their kids on vacations. They ought to go to ball games. The mayor wants them to come to the Yankee games, of course. [*Laughter*]

Mayor Giuliani. The World Series.

The President. The World Series, yes. [*Laughter*] No question he's an incurable optimist. [*Laughter*] But people ought to—listen, we ought to be aware in America—we are aware; how can you not be aware that we've entered into a new era? The imagery is vivid in people's minds. But nevertheless, Americans must know that their Government is doing everything we can to track down every rumor, every hint, every possible evildoer. And therefore, Americans ought to go about their business, and they are beginning to do so.

The load factors were up on the airlines, which means more people will be going to hotels and restaurants. I fulfilled my pledge, my promise last night to take the Mayor of Washington, DC, for dinner. I did—Morton's Steakhouse. We had a nice slice of beef—plus, I paid. [*Laughter*]

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's Visit to the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, why did you send Secretary Rumsfeld over to the Middle East to visit some countries?

The President. Pardon me, John [John Dickerson, Time]?

Q. Why did you send him, and what is he doing over there, visiting those countries?

The President. John, he's visiting with our friends. As you know, we've put together a broad coalition of nations that are interested in battling, joining us to battle terrorism. And Secretary Rumsfeld went over to visit with the leaders of a group of nations to share with them information, to discuss the determination of our Nation.

People need to be able to look us in the eye and know that when we say that we're in this for the long run, that we're going to find terrorism—terrorists and bring them to justice, we mean it; that this is a nation—see, it's hard for people around the world to understand the resolve of America. They may hear my speech occasionally, but they need to look at the eyes—in the eyes of members of my administration, because—and hear them say that not only is this President resolved, but America is resolved to rout out terrorism, to make sure that legitimate governments can survive as we head into the 21st century, and to make a strong stand for freedom.

And Secretary Rumsfeld is going to do a fine job of delivering that message, because he knows exactly how I feel about the mission we have ahead of us.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the first floor rotunda of the Federal Hall National Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York.

Exchange With Reporters in New York City

October 3, 2001

President's Visit

Q. What's your message for New York, sir?

The President. My message for New York is they've got great leadership—got great leadership with the mayor, got great leadership with the Governor, and all of America is proud, proud of the resilience of this city, too. People are coming together. It's an amazing feeling to be here in New York City. On the one hand, you see the destruction; on the other hand, you see—feel the compassion of a great city. I'm real proud to be here with my friends.

See you at the school.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:44 a.m. outside the Federal Hall National Memorial. In his remarks, the President referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at DeSoto Elementary School in New York City

October 3, 2001

The President. Okay. Thanks for letting us come. Can I introduce some people here? Mayor Rudy—do you know the mayor of New York, Rudy Giuliani? The Governor, George Pataki, of New York. And I'm President George Bush. And I wanted to come by your school to say a couple of things.

First, I want to say to the teachers who work in this school, and all throughout New York, how much we appreciate the courage that New York teachers showed. There are some—there's a lot of talk about heroes in our society. A hero is somebody you look up to, of course, and the teachers of New York City were very heroic.

They were not only heroic in taking boys and girls your age out of the buildings and helping them find places to stay at night or making sure nobody got hurt; they're heroic today. You know why? Because they love you. And if you've got any worries about what took place at the World Trade Center, they want to help you. Some of you—yes, they do want to help you, sure. They want to comfort you, and they want to make sure that you understand what went on. And I want to thank the teachers a lot. And I know the mayor and the Governor join me, as well.

I also want to tell you, you live in a great country. You know that; you've been telling me that. The principal's saying that you're practicing—that they're learning about patriotism. It looks like they've got—Stephen, for example, "I love America," he writes. Do you know what? There's a lot of people who love America today.

And one of the things that we're learning out of our sadness is what a great country this is. And the best way to realize this country is to learn how to read and write, and that's what you're doing here; is to study hard, because this country says, if you work hard, you can realize your dreams. And that's what we're here to say to you.

We want to thank you very much for letting us come by. We want to thank your principals and thank your teachers. Tell your moms and dads hello. It's good to see you.

Anybody have any questions for me or the mayor?

Q. Mr. President——

The President. You've already asked your questions. [*Laughter*] I've never seen somebody try to ask so many questions in one day in my life. [*Laughter*]

Well, anyway, thank you very much—are you planting questions? [*Laughter*]

Thanks for letting us come by. A lot of people care for you—they really do—starting with your moms and your dads and your teachers here. A lot of people love you, too. Thanks for letting us come by to say hello. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:14 p.m. in room 204 of the school, which is also known as P.S. 130. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; and Lily Woo and Howard Epstein, principal and assistant principal of the school.

Statement on Senate Action on a Bilateral Trade Agreement With Vietnam

October 3, 2001

Today's Senate action to establish a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam is a significant step toward strengthening the ties between our two countries and promoting strength and stability in this important region. The agreement will provide American companies with access to a large and growing market and, through the reforms it promotes, it will help create a more prosperous and engaged Vietnam. The trade agreement also brings hope for improving human rights. I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

Proclamation 7477—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2001

October 3, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This October, as we mark the 12th observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we renew our commitment to the struggle against breast cancer and salute the courage of Americans living with this serious disease. The effects of breast cancer have touched many of us, whether through personal diagnosis or the diagnosis of a family member or friend.

We may know someone who has survived breast cancer due to early detection and improved treatment. Unfortunately, we also know that a cure cannot come soon enough. This year, approximately 192,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. By increasing awareness about the importance of early detection and accelerating the use of recent innovative advances in medical research, we can reduce the incidence of breast cancer in our Nation.

Until a cure is found, health care professionals agree that regular mammograms are essential to ensuring the early detection of breast cancer. The good news is that the message about early detection is being heard. In 1998, almost 70 percent of women age 40 and older had a mammogram in the last two years. And this year, Medicare coverage was expanded to include digital mammograms, offering women another approach for early detection.

As the primary agency in the United States for cancer research, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) leads the research efforts to find a cure for this disease. Our goal is a future free of breast cancer. We will achieve this goal by developing new treatments and therapies and by better understanding what causes breast cancer. The NCI will spend an estimated $463.8 million on breast cancer research this year. That figure will increase to an estimated $510 million next year; and overall National Institutes of Health (NIH) expenditures on breast cancer research are slated to reach $630 million for Fiscal Year 2002. My Administration supports an increase in spending for the NIH, of which NCI is a part, and has proposed that, by 2003, funding for NIH be twice what it was in 1998.

I urge all Americans at risk for breast cancer to use appropriate screenings that can detect it at its initial stages. Until we find a cure, early detection is our most essential tool in fighting this disease. Recent medical successes allow us to say that the war on breast cancer will succeed.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2001, as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to controlling and curing breast cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

Proclamation 7478—National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2001

October 3, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month allows us to reflect upon, and consider the potential possessed by, the millions of Americans with disabilities who currently serve in our workforce, as well as those who are ready and willing to join the workforce.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Win with Ability," we recognize and salute the skills, creativity, and dedication of working people with disabilities and take appreciative note of their commitment to our Nation and its continued prosperity.

When President George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, our Nation made a promise to no longer underestimate the abilities of disabled Americans. That Act, and its subsequent implementation, has liberated the energies and talents of millions of Americans with disabilities. We have seen evidence of progress in improved access to employment, public places, commercial facilities, information technology, telecommunication services, housing, schools, and polling places.

Although America has made great progress since the signing of the ADA, many opportunities for further improvement still exist. My Administration is committed to tearing down any barriers that unreasonably prevent the full participation of Americans with disabilities. I proposed my New Freedom Initiative to help disabled Americans realize their dreams through meaningful and successful careers. I also have proposed programs that will give persons with disabilities greater access to technology, which will increase their productive capacity and allow some to work at home. My proposed programs will expand educational opportunities, facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities into the workforce, and will allow increased participation in community life. I have signed an Executive Order requiring full implementation of the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead Decision mandating that individuals with disabilities, who can receive support and treatment in a community setting, should be given a reasonable opportunity to live close to their families and friends, when appropriate.

We can no longer accept the continued existence of barriers, whether physical or social, that unreasonably prevent persons with disabilities from full integration into our society. I ask every citizen to join me in recognizing and valuing the contributions that people with disabilities have made to our society and to commit to a collective effort that creates reasonable access for disabled persons to all that America has to offer.

By joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), the Congress has, each year since 1945, called upon this Nation to recognize the contributions that workers with disabilities have made, and requested the President to issue a proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2001, as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon government leaders, labor leaders, and employers to collaborate to ensure the full inclusion of our Nation's persons with disabilities in the 21st Century workforce.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

Remarks to Department of State Employees

October 4, 2001

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you all. Mr. Secretary, I'm honored you invited me back. [*Laughter*] I'm glad to be back to be able to say thanks, on behalf of the American people, to the patriots who work for our Department of State. Thanks for your hard work. Thanks for your dedication. Thanks for your love of America.

I'm also here to announce an initiative to help the Afghan people in a time of crisis and in a time of need. America will stand strong and will oppose the sponsors of terror, and America will stand strong and help those people who are hurt by those regimes.

Mr. Secretary, I am proud of your leadership. Last time I came, I predicted you would be a great Secretary of State. You have not

let me down. And neither have the folks who work at the State Department, not only here in Washington but in Embassies throughout the world. America is proud of your service. And America is comforted by the fact that we are united as we stand to fight terror.

We are engaged in a noble cause, and that is to say loud and clear to the evildoers that we reject you, that we will stand firm against terror, and that this great Nation, along with many other nations, will defend freedom.

I want to thank those of you who have worked extra long hours to help forge this fantastic coalition that we're building, a coalition of people all around the world who understand that the evil acts could have happened to them, just like they happened to us.

People understand that now is the time to take a stand, to seize this moment, to say that out of this evil act will come good. And the State Department has helped lead the way. And I'm proud of your efforts, and I'm proud of your hard work.

After all, many of you understand the effects of terror. We had two of our Embassies bombed. Your colleagues were injured and died. I mean, the State Department has been on the frontline of battling terror and the frontline of seeing the effects of terror. And the American people appreciate the heroism of the people who serve our country overseas.

This is a unique type of war. It's a war that is going to require us building a broad coalition of nations who will contribute, one way or the other, to make sure that we all win. Some nations may be willing to commit troops, if that's a decision that we make. Other nations will help in cutting off funding. Truth of the matter is, the first shot we fired in this war against evildoers was when the Secretary and I and the Secretary of Treasury said we're going to find their money, and we're going to starve them of their money.

We're going to find their bank accounts, and we will freeze them. We're going to talk to banks all around the world and make it clear that if they are on our side, if they join the folks who are fighting evil, that they've got to do everything they can to cut off their funds. When we starve them of their funds, we starve them of their capacity to move against freedom.

I'm proud of the coalitions that we've built. I'm proud of the fact that the Secretary of State and the able team here at the State Department is a results-oriented group of folks. We've said, not only join the coalition; we've said, here's what we expect you to do. Here is your assignment. One of the things the American people appreciate about our administration is that we're results-oriented folks, that we expect there to be results. We expect if you're on our team, that we want your performance. And it's making a difference.

As I announced the other day, we've collectively rounded up 150 terrorists, people associated with the Al Qaida organization. Thanks to the Secretary of State's work and others' work and the work of people around the world, we've convinced those who joined our coalition to rout out terrorists, to find them, to incarcerate them, to question them, to find out what's in their mind and what their future activities may be. And we're making great progress.

This is a strong coalition. It's a strong coalition because we've got great leadership, but it's a strong coalition because we're right. Because it's a strong coalition, because we've made it clear, this is not a war between Christianity or Judaism and Islam. As a matter of fact, the teachings of Islam make it clear that peace is important, that compassion is a part of life. This is a war between good and evil. And we have made it clear to the world that we will stand strong on the side of good, and we expect other nations to join us.

This is not a war between our world and their world. It is a war to save the world, and people now understand that. And I want to thank you for all your work of making that simple, yet profound, mission clear.

We have no compassion for terrorists in this country. We have no compassion, nor will we have any compassion for any state that sponsors them. Oh yes, we're a compassionate nation, but our compassion is limited. We have great compassion, however, for the millions around the world who are victims of hate, of victims of oppressive government, including the people who live in Afghanistan.

Today I'm announcing, along with the Secretary of State, that America will contribute an additional $320 million in humanitarian assistance for Afghans for more food, more medicine, to help the innocent people of Afghanistan deal with the coming winter. This is our way of saying that, while we firmly and strongly oppose the Taliban regime, we are friends of the Afghan people.

We will work with the U.N. agencies such as the World Food Program and work with private volunteer organizations to make sure this assistance gets to the people. We will make sure that not only the folks in Afghanistan who need help get help, but we will help those who have fled to neighboring countries to get help as well.

There's no question that we're an angry people about what happened to our country. But in our anger, we must never forget we're a compassionate people as well. We will fight evil, but in order to overcome evil, the great goodness of America must come forth and shine forth. And one way to do so is to help the poor souls in Afghanistan. And we're going to do so.

I want to remind the world that helping people in need is a central part of not only the Christian faith but of Judaism and the Hindu faith and of course a central part of Islamic traditions. And that's why our coalition is more than just one to rout terrorism out of the world. It's one to bind together, to knit those traditions in a way that helps people in need.

You know, I talked to a lot of world leaders, and Colin has as well. And I told him, "Through our tears, we see opportunity, that in our sadness and grief, we see an opportunity to not only defend freedom but to make the world more peaceful."

I see an opportunity at home when I hear the stories of Christian and Jewish women alike, helping women of cover, Arab-American women, go shop because they're afraid to leave their home. I see a great opportunity when I see moms and dads spend more time with their children here at home.

I see out of this sadness and grief an opportunity for America to reexamine our culture, to reexamine how we view the need to help people in need, whether it be in our own neighborhood and around the world.

I see out of this evil will come good, not only here at home, as youngsters all of a sudden understand the definition of sacrifice, the sacrifice of those brave souls on Flight 93 who, after the 23d Psalm said, "Let's roll to save America."

I see an opportunity as well to bring peace to the world, the likes of which we've never seen. I appreciate the Secretary of State's hard work in the Middle East. It has been diligent. It has been consistent. It has been true to the principles of America, that in order for there to be peace, we must reduce the level of violence.

I see an opportunity to make sure the subcontinent is more peaceful. No, in our grief and in our sadness, I see an opportunity to make the world a better place for generations to come. And we will seize the opportunity. I fully understand that some will grow weary and some will tire—not this administration and not the people of the State Department.

I know there will be some nations that will become frustrated over time because we're fighting a different kind of campaign. But we won't weary. This is a nation that has determined—made a determination to rise up in a united way, to not only spread good will around the world but to find terrorists where they may live and may hide, and those who harbor them, and bring them to justice. Now is the time. Now is the time for this great Nation to lead. And I'm proud of the Secretary of State and the hardworking people of the State Department for joining us in this cause.

Thank you for letting me come by again. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the Department of State headquarters building.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vicente Fox of Mexico

October 4, 2001

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome my friend back to the White House. It wasn't all that long ago that we were standing out here for the opening ceremony of the first and only state dinner I've had since

I've been the President. He came as a friend then, and he's come back as a loyal friend to the United States.

September 11th really changed America. President Fox understood that right off the bat. One of the first calls I got was from Vicente Fox. He called expressing his deep condolences to the American people. He was very kind to me. He wished me well. President Fox understands that an attack on America affects Mexico in a significant way. After all, there are millions of Mexican-Americans and Mexican nationals living in America, men and women who saw a land they love attacked, men and women who have united around a great cause of defending freedom.

In this country we don't ask the question, what is your religion, or where are you from? We ask the question, are you united to defend freedom? And there are millions of Mexican-Americans who understand that call. So when the President said, "We stand with you," he is not only saying, "We stand with the United States Government"; he's saying, "We stand with millions of people living in our country, as well."

President Fox and I had a great discussion about ways we can continue to cooperate. We need to cooperate on security matters along our border, which we are. We need to continue working on other agenda items that we have been working on, and we will. Obviously, our Nation is now focused on the incidents of September 11th. But I assured him our relationship will go forward, that we'll work on the issues that we had discussed the last time we were here.

I talked to my friend about our economy. It has been affected significantly by the actions of September the 11th. But I assured him that we will take an aggressive role at the Federal level to try to spur economic growth, which is very important since we've got a significant amount of trade between our nations.

In sum, I'm so glad he came back. It's comforting to know that our friend to the south is going to be a friend in good times and in tough times.

So, Mr. President, welcome back. Thank you for coming.

President Fox. Thank you. And thank you, President, for the opportunity to be back here again, the opportunity to express very clearly, loudly, our sorrow, our solidarity with your Government, with the American people, with the victims and all those who suffered under these attacks, but also the opportunity to reaffirm our commitments.

We are a friend; we are neighbors; we are partners. And we want to make very clear that this means commitment all the way and that we will keep our commitments. And we are working on an everyday basis, either in the border, either in customs, either in migration, either—on each of the subjects that have to do with security. We will be side by side in your efforts to defeat terrorism in the world and wherever it is. We will be coordinating, participating, collaborating on our side with our resources that we have at hand.

And we know of your efforts not only to meet this challenge; we know the efforts also to keep America moving. And that's something that we very proudly see, that this Nation does not know about defeat, on the contrary. But it's working to come back to be the leader, to be that strong spirit and economy that is an example for all of us.

And we're working in the same direction. We know that in economic terms, things are interactive; as well, as we buy a lot of products, services from the United States, we sell a lot of products to the United States, being one of the largest trading two economies in the world. And through working in that direction, we can also contribute to overcoming this situation.

So, thanks again for giving us this opportunity. And we go back knowing that we have a lot of work to do, that we've been doing and that we will keep on doing. So, thank you, President.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Department of Labor Employees

October 4, 2001

Well, thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I'm glad to be in the midst of patriots, people who love their country and people willing to work hard to help our fellow Americans who may be in need.

First, I want to thank Elaine Chao for her leadership. I knew I picked a good one when I picked her to become the Secretary of Labor, and she's proven me right. And my old Governor buddy is doing a pretty good job, too. [*Laughter*] I appreciate the hard work of our Cabinet during this period. Like the country, we're united. We know we've got a job to do. The evildoers struck. But they may have hurt our buildings, and they are obviously affecting some family lives in such a profound and sad way, but they will not touch the soul of America. They cannot dim our spirit.

We've got a job to do, all of us. And I'm here to thank you in the Department of Labor for your hard work, your concern for your fellow Americans. All of us, from the President all the way throughout our Government, must be diligent and strong and unwavering in our determination and our dedication to win the war on terrorism.

I've got a job to do, and that's to explain to the American people the truth. And the truth is that we're now facing a new threat for freedom, that on September the 11th, war was declared on the United States, not by a religious group, not by one country versus another but by people motivated by evil. And I'm going to make it clear to the world what I've made clear to America, that this great country will not let evil stand.

The attack on our land roused a might nation. We're—never been united like we have been—as we are today. And we're examining a lot of things. We're examining, as moms and dads, what it means to be a parent. There are many Americans on bended knee from all different religions, praying to an almighty God. We're a nation united in our conviction that we must find those evildoers and bring them to justice. We seek not revenge in America, we seek justice.

Americans understand that this is a different type of campaign; it's a different type of struggle to defeat an enemy that's sometimes hard to see and sometimes hard to find. But what the enemy has found out is we're a determined people, and we're patient, and we will do what it takes to bring them to justice.

We built a vast coalition of nations from all around the world to join us, nations which understand that what happened in New York and Washington could happen to them, as well. They understand it's now time to unite to defeat evil. Each nation comes with a different set of capabilities and a different set of—a different willingness to help. America says, "We don't care how you help; just help. Either you're for us, or you're against us."

And the progress to date has been positive, really positive. We've got nations around the world willing to join us in cutting off the money of the evil ones. Our attitude is, if they can't fund evil deeds, they're not going to be able to affect freedom. And so we're talking to countries and banks and financial institutions and saying, "Either you're with us, or against us: Cut off their money."

We're applying diplomatic pressure from around the world. I promise you this: I will enforce the doctrine that says that if you house a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists themselves.

This is our calling. This is our Nation's time to lead the world, and we're going to do that. And we must do so in a bold and strong and determined fashion. We will not waver.

I fully understand, as I said to Congress, there will be times when people feel a sense of normalcy—and I hope that happens sooner rather than later—and that September 11th may be a distant memory to some, but not to me, and not to this Nation. Now is the time—now is the time to root out evil so that our children and grandchildren can live with freedom as the beacon all around the world.

The evildoers cost America a lot of lives. And for the two here in the Justice—I mean, in the Labor Department, I say, we will get justice, and we grieve with you—the two good folks who suffer as a result of September the 11th. I can't tell you how many

people are praying for you and praying for the victims all across America; people you can't even imagine, can't even—will never know, are on bended knee.

And they've also changed a lot of lives, these evil actions. It's clear, as a result of today's new unemployment claims, that the attack of September the 11th sent a shock wave throughout our economy. And we need to do something about it. And I'm going to lead the Congress in a way that provides the help and stimulus necessary for there to be economic growth.

It is not time to worry about partisan politics here in America. It is time for our Government to continue to work together, to say: We hear the cries of those who have been laid off; we worry about the shock waves throughout our economy; and instead of talking, we're going to do something about it.

And we've started. We have started. There are $40 billion of tax rebates that have been disbursed over the last months that should help our economy. The Congress came together and passed 15 billion in emergency help for airlines and $40 billion in supplemental spending that will help New York rebuild herself and will be a part of—a means for enhancing our economic growth.

But there's more to do. Now is not the time to be timid. It's the time to be wise. It's also the time to act. And that's why yesterday the Secretary of Treasury and I both said that we need to have more stimulus available. We need for there to be more tax cuts.

I want to remind my fellow Americans that starting next year, there will be 70 billion additional dollars of tax reductions and larger child credits coming, as a result of the tax package we passed and I signed. So there's stimulus available.

But I look forward to working with Congress in the interim, between now and when those tax cuts kick in, to do more. I think we must do more. I know we must do more to make sure that our economy gets started. And I'm going to ask Congress to ask this question: Will what I vote for encourage economic growth? Not will it make me look better at home, or will it satisfy a narrow constituency, but will my vote stimulate economic vitality and growth? That's the question that Americans are asking when we vote on a tax reduction package. And that's the question I will be asking.

I strongly believe we need to make sure that consumer confidence stays high, by giving people more of their own money back. We need to counter the shock wave of the evildoer by having individual rate cuts accelerated and by thinking about tax rebates.

Secondly, in order to make sure our economy grows, within the 60 to 75 billion dollar package that we've—the parameters of which we outlined, we need to make sure we have investment incentives for U.S. businesses, both large and small.

Not only should we make sure that the individual consumer confidence remains high but that we've got to understand that by encouraging investment, it will encourage employment. And one of the things that Elaine mentioned is that you're a department that makes sure that people find work. We've got to have good policy coming out of Congress to make sure that as you work hard to help people find work, there's a stimulus package that does so.

People say, "Well, why did you say that the parameters ought to be 60 to 75 billion dollars?" Well, one, we think that's the right size to encourage growth without affecting the economy in the long term. And secondly, I think it makes sense to have parameters, so that Congress doesn't feel like it has to invent a series of new programs in order to stimulate economic growth. We know what we need to do. And I look forward to working with both Republicans and Democrats to get it done. It's the right thing for the American people.

And there is no question that not only should our Government act to encourage economic growth; our Government ought to act to take care of people whose lives were affected on September the 11th. We need to move, and I've got some ideas as to how we ought to move.

First, in the post-attack economy, some workers need more help for more time. So I propose extending the unemployment benefits by 13 weeks in States that have been

hardest hit by job losses related to the September 11th attack. This emergency extension will be paid entirely by Federal dollars and should remain in place for 18 months.

And secondly, I believe the best way to help people meet health care needs or job training needs or income support is to fund the National Emergency Grant System by an additional $3 billion. This will be Federal money that will go to States so they can distribute monies directly to people whose lives have been affected.

I urge the Congress, as they plan ways to deal with this tragedy, to look at the Government programs that already exist. We don't have time to try to invent new programs. What we ought to do is make those programs that exist work better, and here's two solutions to do so.

And finally, I want to remind Governors and folks in the States what Tommy told me earlier today. Tommy said there's $11 billion available to help States provide health insurance for low-income workers and their families through the S-CHIP program. It's an important opportunity for States to expand coverage to people whose lives have been severely affected by the September 11th attack.

This is a way we can help. This is a set of principles for Congress to work together to help the American people, stimulate growth, and at the same time take care of the workers whose lives have been impacted by the September 11th attack.

And that's what we must do, because, you see, the terrorists hope to change our way of life. On the one hand, they hoped that America would become timid and cower in the face of their barbaric acts. They were wrong. On the other hand, they would hope that we'd become paralyzed and unable to act at home in order to do what's right for the American people. They were wrong again.

Instead they have provided interesting opportunities for America. I told some world leaders, through our tears we see opportunity; that we're sad and angry, but we've got a clear vision of the world; that this is a remarkable moment in history which our Nation will seize. We'll act boldly at home to encourage economic growth. We'll take care of people who hurt. We will comfort those who lost lives. We'll be compassionate as to how we deal with Afghan citizens, for example, by making sure there's humanitarian aid.

And we'll be tough and resolute as we unite, to make sure freedom stands, to rout out evil, to say to our children and grandchildren, "We were bold enough to act, without tiring, so that you can live in a great land and in a peaceful world."

And there's no doubt in my mind—not one doubt in my mind—that we will fail; failure is not a part of our vocabulary. This great Nation will lead the world, and we will be successful.

Thank you for working for the Government. Thank you for caring about our fellow Americans. May God bless you all and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Frances Perkins Department of Labor Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson; and Labor Department employees Eloise Clark and Paul Hylind, both of whom lost relatives in the September 11th attacks.

Statement on the Sibir Airlines Crash

October 4, 2001

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the crash of a Sibir Airlines passenger aircraft, flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the American people are with the people of Israel and Russia and the families of the many victims of this tragedy.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Policy Team

October 5, 2001

Good afternoon. I just concluded a meeting with my economic policy team. Secretary O'Neill has been up on the Hill talking to Members of Congress and brought back some encouraging news. And that is, the United States Congress is interested in working as quickly as possible to pass an economic stimulus package.

I want to remind the American people that the Congress has been working with us to provide relief. We passed monies for disaster relief, monies to help the people in New York. We passed appropriations to help beef up our security. We passed appropriations to help airlines. Yesterday, I proposed additional expenditures to help workers who have been laid off as a result of the September 11th tragedy. That spending totals about $60 billion.

And in order to stimulate the economy, Congress doesn't need to spend any more money. What they need to do is to cut taxes. So I propose this: I propose that the United States Congress, as quickly as possible, pass tax relief equal to or a little bit greater than the monies that we have already appropriated.

Tax relief should come in this kind of form: One, that we ought to stimulate demand by cutting—accelerating the marginal tax cuts that we've passed and I've signed; as well as, there ought to be a provision in the tax relief package to make sure that low- and moderate-income workers get tax relief, as well.

And on the business side, we need to stimulate investment by allowing for enhanced expensing of capital expenditures, and we believe they ought to eliminate alternative minimum tax on corporate America.

This is a package which will dovetail nicely with the marginal cuts and the increased child credit that will kick in next year as well. The American people expect us to act, and here is a way for us to act. We've spent money, and that will have a stimulative effect of some kind.

But to make sure that the economy gets the boost it needs, Congress ought to come together quickly and accept the ideas that I've just laid out. We believe that will be the best way to make sure that America recovers from the terrorist attack of September the 11th.

The terrorists attacked us, but they did not diminish our spirit, nor did they undermine the fundamentals of our economy. And we believe if we act expeditiously, that those fundamentals will kick back in, and people will be able to find work again.

I hope you all have a fine weekend. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation Authorizing United States Payments to the United Nations

October 5, 2001

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 248, which authorizes U.S. payments to the United Nations. This payment constitutes the second of three payments of arrears. When I met with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in March, I told him that the United States was committed to paying the arrears it owes to the United Nations. Today, I am glad to take this important step towards fulfilling that commitment.

As the world's preeminent multilateral institution, the United Nations plays a critical role in defusing international crises, resolving longstanding conflicts, and alleviating suffering, poverty, and disease. The United Nations also has a vital role in cracking down on violators of international law and eliminating sources of funding for terrorist operations.

This release of funds will enhance the close bond between the United States and the United Nations, and will help to facilitate the work the United States carries out in concert with other U.N. members.

In making these funds available, Republicans and Democrats in the Congress have again demonstrated their willingness to work together in a constructive manner to address our Nation's challenges at this important time in our history. I would like to pay a special tribute to Senators Helms and Biden, whose leadership has served as a catalyst for U.N. reform, and provided a means for the United States to fulfill its international obligations. I also wish to thank Representatives Hyde and Lantos, who have worked in a bipartisan manner toward making this payment to the United Nations a reality.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 5, 2001.

NOTE: S. 248, approved October 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107–46.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 30

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

October 1

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sichan Siv to be U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center: Neal McCaleb, Maureen Patricia Cragin, Sonya E. Medina, and Frances P. Mainella.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust: Donald G. Fisher, Tony Rosenblatt, an Mary G. Murphy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert R. Reilly as Director of the Voice of America.

October 2

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council. Later, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and then returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President had dinner with Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC, at Morton's Steakhouse.

The President announced his intention to nominate John B. Brown III to be Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Leidinger to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cameron R. Hume to be Ambassador to South Africa.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick W. Schieck to be Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

October 3

In the morning, the President traveled to New York City, NY.

In the afternoon, he met and had lunch with Gov. George E. Pataki of New York, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City, and firefighters of New York City's Engine Co. 55. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Vicente Fox of Mexico on October 4.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles S. Shapiro to be Ambassador to Venezuela.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the newly created President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education: Terry Edward Branstad, Adela Acosta, Steve Bartlett, Paul C. Butterfield, Jay G. Chambers, W. Alan Coulter, Thomas Albert Flemming, Jack M. Fletcher, Douglas H. Gill, David W. Gordon, Nancy S. Grasmick, Bryan C. Hassel, Douglas Carl Huntt, Michael J. Rivas, Cheryl Rei Takemoto, and Katie Wright. The President also announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as ex officio members of the Commission: Elizabeth Ann Bryan, Edward Sontag, Robert Pasternack, Reid Lyon, and Wade F. Horn.

October 4

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Amir Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland concerning cooperation against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President had a lunch meeting with Members of Congress to discuss his administration's domestic agenda.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Alex Acosta to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard S. Williams to be Alternate U.S. Representative for Special Political Affairs to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

October 5

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Zenawi Meles of Ethiopia and President Daniel T. Arap Moi of Kenya concerning cooperation against terrorism. Later, the President met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia. Later, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President signed H.R. 2510, the "Defense Production Act Amendments of 2001," which extends the Defense Production Act of 1950 through September 30, 2003, and the authorization of appropriations for that Act.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board: Brent Scowcroft; Cresencio S. Arcos; Jim Barksdale; Robert Addsion Day; Stephen Friedman; Alfred Lerner; Ray Lee Hunt; Rita E. Hauser; David E. Jeremiah; Arnold Lee Kantner; James Calhoun Langdon, Jr.; Marie Elizabeth Pate-Cornell; John Harrison Streicker; Peter Barton Wilson; and Phillip David Zelikow.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 2

Lyons Brown, Jr.,
of Kentucky, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

Charles Curie,
of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Nelba R. Chavez, resigned.

David R. Dugas,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Lezin Joseph Hymel, Jr., resigned.

Cameron R. Hume,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa.

Eric M. Javits,
of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

Patrick Francis Kennedy,
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform.

David E. O'Meilia,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen Charles Lewis, resigned.

Michael Smith,
of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), vice Robert Wayne Gee.

Clifford M. Sobel,
of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Submitted October 3

Sichan Siv,
of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Gaddi H. Vasquez,
of California, to be Director of the Peace Corps, vice Mark L. Schneider, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1424

Fact sheet: Campaign Against Terrorism Results—Period Covered: September 14–30, 2001

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma

Released October 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Opening Ronald Reagan National Airport

Announcement of appointment of Dan Bartlett as White House Communications Director

Released October 3

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Fox of Mexico to Visit Washington

Released October 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson

Fact sheet: The Back to Work Relief Package

Fact sheet: U.S. Assistance to the Afghan People

Released October 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Bush's meeting with President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2510

Statement by the Press Secretary on the death of Mike Mansfield, former Senate majority leader and Ambassador to Japan

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 1

S. 1424 / Public Law 107–45
To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa nonimmigrants

Approved October 5

S. 248 / Public Law 107–46
To amend the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, to adjust a condition on the payment of arrearages to the United Nations that sets the maximum share of any United Nations peacekeeping operation's budget that may be assessed of any country

Proclamation 7479—Death of Michael J. Mansfield

October 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of Michael J. Mansfield, retired Majority Leader of the United States Senate and Ambassador of the United States to Japan, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same lengths of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., October 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 10. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7480—Fire Prevention Week, 2001

October 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The well-being of our Nation's citizens requires that families, communities, emergency workers, and health professionals work together to ensure the highest levels of public safety. This goal is particularly important with respect to fire prevention. The 2000 National Fire Experience Survey, conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), reveals that fire claimed more than 4,000 American lives last year. In 2000, fire killed someone every 130 minutes and injured someone every 24 minutes. Fire also takes a significant economic toll on America, accounting for more than $11 billion in property loss last year.

In the United States, fires caused by cooking, heating, or electricity amount to almost half of all home fires. These accidental fires, though common, are also among the most preventable. Their high rates of occurrence point to the vital importance of safety and knowledge in helping to prevent these types of fires and thereby avoid the tragic deaths and serious injuries that they can cause.

This year marks the annual observance of Fire Prevention Week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. The event's theme, "Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire," encourages children and families to take an active role in preventing home fires and the injuries and deaths they cause, by conducting home fire safety inspections and preparing and practicing home fire drills. The NFPA is joining forces with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the United States Fire Administration, and with fire departments throughout the country to raise awareness of the leading causes

of home fires and encourage the actions that may be taken to prevent them. I urge all Americans to learn more about fire prevention and to take steps to better ensure the safety of our homes, places of work, and other public structures.

During this year's observance, I also call on Americans to join me in expressing appreciation for the devotion and dedication of our Nation's firefighters and other emergency response personnel. These brave men and women provide the first line of emergency response to a multitude of disasters and risk their own security and well-being to save the lives of others. As recent events in our Nation have demonstrated, these fine Americans truly exemplify selfless service and heroism. They serve to make our towns, cities, and communities safer places for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 7 through October 13, 2001, as Fire Prevention Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities and to renew efforts to prevent fires and their tragic consequences for human health and safety.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., October 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 10. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7481—German-American Day, 2001

October 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, on October 6, we recognize German Americans for their many contributions to our Nation. From the first German immigrants who accompanied Captain John Smith to Jamestown more than 300 years ago to the more than 7 million Germans who have since followed them to our shores, Americans of German descent have played a vital role in establishing the strength of our country's democratic spirit. Throughout our history, German Americans have contributed to every facet of the American experience.

German-American soldiers valiantly served our country during the American Revolution. General Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben helped train the Continental Army at Valley Forge; and General Nicholas Herkimer led German settlers in New York's Mohawk Valley in one of the war's bloodiest battles. German Americans also have influenced greatly our artistic heritage. Emanuel Leutze's 1851 painting, ''Washington Crossing the Delaware River,'' remains a cherished and recognized symbol of American courage and determination.

German Americans advanced our civic liberties through their strong support for freedom of the press. As publisher of the New York Weekly Journal, John Peter Zenger championed the rights of citizens to criticize elected officials in print. The German-language newspaper Pennsylvania Staatsbote published the first printed copy of the Declaration of Independence. And in directing The New York Times through modernization in the early 20th century, Adolph Ochs helped set a new standard for balanced and innovative reporting.

Many German Americans who settled here brought with them values that enhanced and developed the American commitment to

freedom. A considerable number of these immigrants joined other freedom loving Americans in becoming leaders in the anti-slavery movement. And thousands of German Americans volunteered to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

On this day, Americans of all backgrounds commemorate our Nation's close relationship with Germany. German Americans have influenced our history, strengthened our ideals, and enriched our culture, and, in the years ahead, they will continue their noble role in helping to ensure the vitality of our democracy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2001, as German-American Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize the contributions of our citizens of German descent to the liberty and prosperity of the United States, and to celebrate our close ties to the people of Germany.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., October 9, 2001]

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Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Partnership for Peace

October 5, 2001

Dear _____ :

Pursuant to section 514 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236), and section 205 of the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (title II of Public Law 103–447), I hereby transmit to you this report concerning Partnership for Peace (PFP) developments through July 15, 2001.

The PFP continues to build on the record of success it has compiled since its inception in 1994. Partners have continued to use the PFP actively and effectively to build stronger ties with the Alliance and develop closer cooperation with their neighbors. The PFP and its political component, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), have greatly facilitated the incorporation of Partners into NATO operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. The PFP support of the Membership Action Plan, initiated in 1999, continues to help those partners that want to join NATO to implement reforms. Continued enhancements to PFP have provided an improved mechanism for Partners to develop interoperability with NATO, which will be necessary for future NATO-led Alliance/Partner missions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 6, 2001

Good morning. Today I want to update Americans on our global campaign against terror. The United States is presenting a clear choice to every nation: Stand with the civilized world, or stand with the terrorists. And for those nations that stand with the terrorists, there will be a heavy price.

America is determined to oppose the state sponsors of terror. Yet we are equally determined to respect and help the men and women those regimes oppress. Our enemy is not the Arab world. Many friendly Arab governments are, themselves, the targets of extremist terror. Our enemy is not Islam, a good and peace-loving faith that brings direction and comfort to over one billion people, including millions of Americans. And our

enemy is not the people of any nation, even when their leaders harbor terrorists. Our enemy is the terrorists themselves and the regimes that shelter and sustain them.

Afghanistan is a case in point. Its Taliban regime has made that nation into a sanctuary and training ground for international terrorists, terrorists who have killed innocent citizens of many nations, including our own. The Taliban promotes terror abroad and practices terror against its people, oppressing women and persecuting all who dissent.

The Taliban has been given the opportunity to surrender all the terrorists in Afghanistan and to close down their camps and operations. Full warning has been given, and time is running out.

The Afghan people, however, are the victims of oppression, famine, and misrule. Many refugees from that unfortunate nation are on the move, and sadly, many Afghans are on the verge of starvation.

America respects the Afghan people, their long tradition, and their proud independence, and we will help them in this time of confusion and crisis in their country.

America has long been the largest source of food and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. This week I announced an additional $320 million in aid to the Afghan people, to those within Afghanistan and those who have fled across borders. Despite efforts by the Taliban to disrupt these critical aid shipments, we will deliver food and seeds, vaccines and medicine by truck and even by draft animals. Conditions permitting, we will bring help directly to the people of Afghanistan by airdrops.

This aid will help Afghans make it through the upcoming winter. For the longer term, I urge Congress to make funds available so that one day the United States can contribute, along with other friends of Afghanistan, to the reconstruction and development of that troubled nation.

Helping people in great need is a central part of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, as well as many other faiths. It is also a central part of the American tradition. Even as we fight evil regimes, we are generous to the people they oppress. Following World War II, America fed and rebuilt Japan and Germany, and their people became some of our closest friends in the world.

In the struggle ahead, we will act in accordance with American ideals. We're offering help and friendship to the Afghan people. It is their Taliban rulers and the terrorists they harbor who have much to fear.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:50 p.m. on October 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland

October 7, 2001

Thank you very much. Joe, thank you for those kind words, and thank you for your outstanding service in a difficult time for our great land.

I want to thank Hal Bruno and the directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for the outstanding leadership they have shown in recognizing America's heroes.

I want to say thanks to the members of the Maryland delegation who are here, Senator Sarbanes, Senator Mikulski, Congressman Hoyer, and Congressman Bartlett. I want to thank you all for being here. I want to thank the local officials who are here. I want to thank the firefighters from all around America who have come to comfort the families of the fallen.

I want to say hello to the moms and dads and husbands and wives and sons and daughters of the fallen. Laura and I are honored to be here with you today as we remember the lives and sacrifices of your brave relatives.

Two years ago this weekend, I attended a memorial ceremony in New York City honoring fallen firefighters, and standing nearby were Chief Peter Ganci and many others who are now gone. None of us on that day could have imagined what was to come, the scale

of the emergency, the enormity of the danger, the magnitude of the evil. Yet, each one of those firefighters felt a strong calling and knew its risks.

On September 11th, that calling led them into burning towers on a mission of rescue. Within a single hour, more than 300 firefighters were lost. And our Nation still mourns. They did not live to know who had caused the destruction or why. They only knew their duty, and that was to go in, to follow the faintest cry, to search for the trapped and helpless, and to save those who could be saved.

A few days ago, one New Yorker described firefighters as ''the kinds of guys you look up to.'' Every one of you here knew exactly what he meant. The courage and loss we saw in New York is found in every community that has laid a firefighter to rest. Hardly a week passes in America when a career or a volunteer firefighter does not fall in the line of duty.

Firefighting is a hard and demanding job, and it may at any moment send a person to the high heat or thick smoke. It's been said that a firefighter's first act of bravery is taking the oath to serve. And all of them serve knowing that one day they may not come home.

Today we honor 101 who did not come home. They were all people who accepted the dangers of firefighting and were last seen on duty. We add their names to this national monument. We do so with pride and with deep gratitude.

The Nation pays respect to them for their service and their sacrifice. And we respect you, their families, for your sacrifice, for the heavy burden you carry to this day. The McCormicks of Arkansas, the Hendricks of Kentucky, the Pescatores of Pennsylvania each lost a son who was not yet 20 years old. The families of Bo Rathbun of Wyoming, Jim Reavis of Missouri, Fred Brain and Pete Scannell of New York, Kenneth Jesse of Pennsylvania lost loved ones who were willing to serve even in the latter years of life.

Many were taken during the fullest days of life, that time when we are needed most by the people we love. Kimberly Smith of Texas was engaged to be married. Robert Crump of Colorado was home after honorable service in the Marine Corps. Marvin Bartholemew of Florida had paid his way through college and was working his way up the ranks of the department.

Roger Bookout was 34 years old when he died, and he was a loving dad. He had a great outlook, and it was summed up on a sign he kept on his locker: ''Love your wife; love your life.'' All these firefighters loved life. And Scripture teaches, there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another.

Sometimes a person cannot know for sure what mark he or she has left on the world. That will never be said of the people we remember today or of their kind. They were strong and caring people, brave and upright. You could always count on them. You could always look up to them.

This firefighters monument belongs to the Nation and represents a national loss. The firefighters belong to you, and I know that loss can never be recovered.

A fireman's widow recently said that her husband was her hero, ''and there's nothing I wouldn't do to have my hero here.'' That same feeling is shared by many here today, and time won't ever take it away. But the years can bring comfort, and they can bring hope. You'll always know that your hero died in the service of others. You can give one another the strength to go on. You can find the comfort of God, who is with us especially in sorrow. And you can know today that your loved ones are not forgotten. They hold an honored, cherished place in the memories of their comrades and an honored place in the memory of our country.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. at the memorial on the National Emergency Training Center campus. In his remarks, he referred to Joe M. Allbaugh, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Hal Bruno, chairman, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; and Peter Ganci, Jr., chief, Fire Department-City of New York, who was killed while responding to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Address to the Nation Announcing Strikes Against Al Qaida Training Camps and Taliban Military Installations in Afghanistan

October 7, 2001

Good afternoon. On my orders, the United States military has begun strikes against Al Qaida terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. These carefully targeted actions are designed to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations and to attack the military capability of the Taliban regime.

We are joined in this operation by our staunch friend, Great Britain. Other close friends, including Canada, Australia, Germany, and France, have pledged forces as the operation unfolds. More than 40 countries in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and across Asia have granted air transit or landing rights. Many more have shared intelligence. We are supported by the collective will of the world.

More than 2 weeks ago, I gave Taliban leaders a series of clear and specific demands: Close terrorist training camps; hand over leaders of the Al Qaida network; and return all foreign nationals, including American citizens, unjustly detained in your country. None of these demands were met. And now the Taliban will pay a price. By destroying camps and disrupting communications, we will make it more difficult for the terror network to train new recruits and coordinate their evil plans.

Initially, the terrorists may burrow deeper into caves and other entrenched hiding places. Our military action is also designed to clear the way for sustained, comprehensive, and relentless operations to drive them out and bring them to justice.

At the same time, the oppressed people of Afghanistan will know the generosity of America and our allies. As we strike military targets, we'll also drop food, medicine, and supplies to the starving and suffering men and women and children of Afghanistan.

The United States of America is a friend to the Afghan people, and we are the friends of almost a billion worldwide who practice the Islamic faith. The United States of America is an enemy of those who aid terrorists and of the barbaric criminals who profane a great religion by committing murder in its name.

This military action is a part of our campaign against terrorism, another front in a war that has already been joined through diplomacy, intelligence, the freezing of financial assets, and the arrests of known terrorists by law enforcement agents in 38 countries. Given the nature and reach of our enemies, we will win this conflict by the patient accumulation of successes, by meeting a series of challenges with determination and will and purpose.

Today we focus on Afghanistan, but the battle is broader. Every nation has a choice to make. In this conflict, there is no neutral ground. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers, themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril.

I'm speaking to you today from the Treaty Room of the White House, a place where American Presidents have worked for peace. We're a peaceful nation. Yet, as we have learned so suddenly and so tragically, there can be no peace in a world of sudden terror. In the face of today's new threat, the only way to pursue peace is to pursue those who threaten it.

We did not ask for this mission, but we will fulfill it. The name of today's military operation is Enduring Freedom. We defend not only our precious freedoms but also the freedom of people everywhere to live and raise their children free from fear.

I know many Americans feel fear today. And our Government is taking strong precautions. All law enforcement and intelligence agencies are working aggressively around America, around the world, and around the clock. At my request, many Governors have activated the National Guard to strengthen airport security. We have called up Reserves to reinforce our military capability and strengthen the protection of our homeland.

In the months ahead, our patience will be one of our strengths: patience with the long waits that will result from tighter security; patience and understanding that it will take

time to achieve our goals; patience in all the sacrifices that may come.

Today those sacrifices are being made by members of our Armed Forces who now defend us so far from home, and by their proud and worried families. A Commander in Chief sends America's sons and daughters into a battle in a foreign land only after the greatest care and a lot of prayer. We ask a lot of those who wear our uniform. We ask them to leave their loved ones, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. They are dedicated; they are honorable; they represent the best of our country. And we are grateful.

To all the men and women in our military, every sailor, every soldier, every airman, every coastguardsman, every marine, I say this: Your mission is defined; your objectives are clear; your goal is just; you have my full confidence; and you will have every tool you need to carry out your duty.

I recently received a touching letter that says a lot about the state of America in these difficult times, a letter from a fourth-grade girl with a father in the military: ''As much as I don't want my dad to fight,'' she wrote, ''I'm willing to give him to you.''

This is a precious gift, the greatest she could give. This young girl knows what America is all about. Since September 11, an entire generation of young Americans has gained new understanding of the value of freedom and its cost in duty and in sacrifice.

The battle is now joined on many fronts. We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail.

Thank you. May God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Treaty Room at the White House.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Tom Ridge as Director of the Office of Homeland Security

October 8, 2001

Please be seated. Thank you all. Welcome to the White House.

Today I signed an Executive order creating a new Homeland Security Office, charged with strengthening America's protections against terrorism. And I've picked a really good man to lead that office. In case you hadn't figured it out, it's Tom Ridge. [*Laughter*]

Together, we will confront the threat of terrorism. We will take strong precautions aimed at preventing terrorist attacks and prepare to respond effectively if they might come again. We will defend our country, and while we do so, we will not sacrifice the freedoms that make our land unique.

The best defense against terror is a global offensive against terror, wherever it might be found. Yesterday we opened another front on the war on terrorism as we began conventional military operations designed to destroy terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban Government.

Secretary Don Rumsfeld, who is leading a really fine team, will brief the country this afternoon. But he informed me this morning that the military mission of yesterday was executed as planned, and at the same time, that our good Nation dropped over 37,000 kits of food and medicine. This is an important part of a war already underway that is being conducted on many fronts.

The first shot of the war was fired several weeks ago, as we began freezing bank accounts and cutting off funding of known terrorist organizations and front groups that support them. And I appreciate so very much the Secretary of Treasury's work, Paul O'Neill.

We've worked aggressively on the diplomatic front, developing a broad and strong coalition of countries who are united with us and involved in our campaign. And Mr. Secretary Powell and his team have done a remarkable job of rallying the lovers of freedom to our side. Mr. Secretary, thank you.

Our intelligence and law enforcement agencies are working around the clock and around the world. Attorney General Ashcroft and George Tenet and Bob Mueller are all doing a fantastic job of making sure we've got the best intelligence and the best information, not only to protect ourselves but to bring the evildoers to justice.

On all efforts and all fronts, we're going to be ongoing and relentless as we tighten the net of justice. This will be a long war. It requires understanding and patience from the American people. Members of my Cabinet understand that, and I appreciate them all being here. These are fine Americans who understand the nature of the conflict and are prepared to join me in doing whatever it takes to win the war, not only for our country today but for generations to come tomorrow.

It's an honor for me to welcome the Ridge family here to the White House: the former first lady of Pennsylvania, Michele Ridge, and of course, Lesley and Tommy, thank you all for being here, and thank you for your sacrifice.

I want to thank all of Tom's friends for coming up from Pennsylvania. It looks like he's got a few who don't live in Pennsylvania, as well. Thank you all for being here. I'm so appreciative that Clarence Thomas is here to swear in Tom. I appreciate the Mayor of Washington, DC, being here. Mr. Mayor, thank you for your cooperation.

It's just the beginning of what we need to do together to make sure our Nation's Capital safe and secure. As we've learned, we face new threats, and therefore, we need new defenses for our country. And I've found the right man to coordinate that effort.

Tom Ridge has been a chief executive. He is a leader who has shown he can draw the best out of people and out of organizations. He's a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam war. He's a patriot who has heard the sound of battle.

He's seen the reach of terror in a field in his own State. He's a man of compassion who has seen what evil can do. I've given Tom and the Office of Homeland Security a mission: to design a comprehensive, coordinated national strategy to fight terror here at home.

We face a united, determined enemy. We must have a united and determined response. The Homeland Security Office has a series of specific goals and will have my authority to meet them: One, take the strongest possible precautions against terrorism by bringing together the best information and intelligence—in the war on terror, knowledge is power; strengthen and help protect our transportation systems, our food and water systems, and our critical infrastructure by making them less vulnerable to attack; respond effectively to terrorist actions if they come. The Office will coordinate Federal assistance with State and local efforts. America is going to be prepared.

The Office will work in conjunction with the new Homeland Security Council, chaired by me and made up of my Cabinet and other senior officials. The Office mission will have the full attention and complete support of the very highest levels of our Government.

I know that many Americans at this time have fears. We've learned that America is not immune from attack. We've seen that evil is real. It's hard for us to comprehend the mentality of people that will destroy innocent folks the way they have. Yet, America is equal to this challenge, make no mistake about it. They've roused a mighty giant. A compassionate land will rise united to not only protect ourselves, not only make our homeland as secure as possible but to bring the evildoers to justice so that our children might live in freedom.

It's now my honor to call Clarence Thomas up here to swear in Tom Ridge.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Ridge.

Executive Order 13228—Establishing the Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council

October 8, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* I hereby establish within the Executive Office of the President an Office of Homeland Security (the "Office") to be headed by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

Sec. 2. *Mission.* The mission of the Office shall be to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks. The Office shall perform the functions necessary to carry out this mission, including the functions specified in section 3 of this order.

Sec. 3. *Functions.* The functions of the Office shall be to coordinate the executive branch's efforts to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks within the United States.

(a) *National Strategy.* The Office shall work with executive departments and agencies, State and local governments, and private entities to ensure the adequacy of the national strategy for detecting, preparing for, preventing, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States and shall periodically review and coordinate revisions to that strategy as necessary.

(b) *Detection.* The Office shall identify priorities and coordinate efforts for collection and analysis of information within the United States regarding threats of terrorism against the United States and activities of terrorists or terrorist groups within the United States. The Office also shall identify, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, priorities for collection of intelligence outside the United States regarding threats of terrorism within the United States.

(i) In performing these functions, the Office shall work with Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate, to:

(A) facilitate collection from State and local governments and private entities of information pertaining to terrorist threats or activities within the United States;

(B) coordinate and prioritize the requirements for foreign intelligence relating to terrorism within the United States of executive departments and agencies responsible for homeland security and provide these requirements and priorities to the Director of Central Intelligence and other agencies responsible for collection of foreign intelligence;

(C) coordinate efforts to ensure that all executive departments and agencies that have intelligence collection responsibilities have sufficient technological capabilities and resources to collect intelligence and data relating to terrorist activities or possible terrorist acts within the United States, working with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, as appropriate;

(D) coordinate development of monitoring protocols and equipment for use in detecting the release of biological, chemical, and radiological hazards; and

(E) ensure that, to the extent permitted by law, all appropriate and necessary intelligence and law enforcement information relating to homeland security is disseminated to and exchanged among appropriate executive departments and agencies responsible for homeland security and, where appropriate for reasons of homeland security, promote exchange of such information with and among State and local governments and private entities.

(ii) Executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, make available to the Office all information relating to terrorist threats and activities within the United States.

(c) *Preparedness.* The Office of Homeland Security shall coordinate national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of terrorist threats or attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office shall work with Federal, State, and local agencies, and private entities, as appropriate, to:

(i) review and assess the adequacy of the portions of all Federal emergency response plans that pertain to terrorist threats or attacks within the United States;

(ii) coordinate domestic exercises and simulations designed to assess and practice systems that would be called upon to respond to a terrorist threat or attack within the United States and coordinate programs and activities for training Federal, State, and local employees who would be called upon to respond to such a threat or attack;

(iii) coordinate national efforts to ensure public health preparedness for a terrorist attack, including reviewing vaccination policies

and reviewing the adequacy of and, if necessary, increasing vaccine and pharmaceutical stockpiles and hospital capacity;

(iv) coordinate Federal assistance to State and local authorities and nongovernmental organizations to prepare for and respond to terrorist threats or attacks within the United States;

(v) ensure that national preparedness programs and activities for terrorist threats or attacks are developed and are regularly evaluated under appropriate standards and that resources are allocated to improving and sustaining preparedness based on such evaluations; and

(vi) ensure the readiness and coordinated deployment of Federal response teams to respond to terrorist threats or attacks, working with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, when appropriate.

(d) *Prevention.* The Office shall coordinate efforts to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office shall work with Federal, State, and local agencies, and private entities, as appropriate, to:

(i) facilitate the exchange of information among such agencies relating to immigration and visa matters and shipments of cargo; and, working with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, ensure coordination among such agencies to prevent the entry of terrorists and terrorist materials and supplies into the United States and facilitate removal of such terrorists from the United States, when appropriate;

(ii) coordinate efforts to investigate terrorist threats and attacks within the United States; and

(iii) coordinate efforts to improve the security of United States borders, territorial waters, and airspace in order to prevent acts of terrorism within the United States, working with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, when appropriate.

(e) *Protection.* The Office shall coordinate efforts to protect the United States and its critical infrastructure from the consequences of terrorist attacks. In performing this function, the Office shall work with Federal, State, and local agencies, and private entities, as appropriate, to:

(i) strengthen measures for protecting energy production, transmission, and distribution services and critical facilities; other utilities; telecommunications; facilities that produce, use, store, or dispose of nuclear material; and other critical infrastructure services and critical facilities within the United States from terrorist attack;

(ii) coordinate efforts to protect critical public and privately owned information systems within the United States from terrorist attack;

(iii) develop criteria for reviewing whether appropriate security measures are in place at major public and privately owned facilities within the United States;

(iv) coordinate domestic efforts to ensure that special events determined by appropriate senior officials to have national significance are protected from terrorist attack;

(v) coordinate efforts to protect transportation systems within the United States, including railways, highways, shipping, ports and waterways, and airports and civilian aircraft, from terrorist attack;

(vi) coordinate efforts to protect United States livestock, agriculture, and systems for the provision of water and food for human use and consumption from terrorist attack; and

(vii) coordinate efforts to prevent unauthorized access to, development of, and unlawful importation into the United States of, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive, or other related materials that have the potential to be used in terrorist attacks.

(f) *Response and Recovery.* The Office shall coordinate efforts to respond to and promote recovery from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office shall work with Federal, State, and local agencies, and private entities, as appropriate, to:

(i) coordinate efforts to ensure rapid restoration of transportation systems, energy production, transmission, and distribution systems; telecommunications; other utilities; and other critical infrastructure facilities after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;

(ii) coordinate efforts to ensure rapid restoration of public and private critical information systems after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;

(iii) work with the National Economic Council to coordinate efforts to stabilize United States financial markets after a terrorist threat or attack and manage the immediate economic and financial consequences of the incident;

(iv) coordinate Federal plans and programs to provide medical, financial, and other assistance to victims of terrorist attacks and their families; and

(v) coordinate containment and removal of biological, chemical, radiological, explosive, or other hazardous materials in the event of a terrorist threat or attack involving such hazards and coordinate efforts to mitigate the effects of such an attack.

(g) *Incident Management.* The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall be the individual primarily responsible for coordinating the domestic response efforts of all departments and agencies in the event of an imminent terrorist threat and during and in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack within the United States and shall be the principal point of contact for and to the President with respect to coordination of such efforts. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall coordinate with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, as appropriate.

(h) *Continuity of Government.* The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, shall review plans and preparations for ensuring the continuity of the Federal Government in the event of a terrorist attack that threatens the safety and security of the United States Government or its leadership.

(i) *Public Affairs.* The Office, subject to the direction of the White House Office of Communications, shall coordinate the strategy of the executive branch for communicating with the public in the event of a terrorist threat or attack within the United States. The Office also shall coordinate the development of programs for educating the public about the nature of terrorist threats and appropriate precautions and responses.

(j) *Cooperation with State and Local Governments and Private Entities.* The Office shall encourage and invite the participation of State and local governments and private entities, as appropriate, in carrying out the Office's functions.

(k) *Review of Legal Authorities and Development of Legislative Proposals.* The Office shall coordinate a periodic review and assessment of the legal authorities available to executive departments and agencies to permit them to perform the functions described in this order. When the Office determines that such legal authorities are inadequate, the Office shall develop, in consultation with executive departments and agencies, proposals for presidential action and legislative proposals for submission to the Office of Management and Budget to enhance the ability of executive departments and agencies to perform those functions. The Office shall work with State and local governments in assessing the adequacy of their legal authorities to permit them to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, and recover from terrorist threats and attacks.

(l) *Budget Review.* The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (the ''Director'') and the heads of executive departments and agencies, shall identify programs that contribute to the Administration's strategy for homeland security and, in the development of the President's annual budget submission, shall review and provide advice to the heads of departments and agencies for such programs. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall provide advice to the Director on the level and use of funding in departments and agencies for homeland security-related activities and, prior to the Director's forwarding of the proposed annual budget submission to the President for transmittal to the Congress, shall certify to the Director the funding levels that the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security believes are necessary and appropriate for the homeland security-related activities of the executive branch.

Sec. 4. *Administration.*

(a) The Office of Homeland Security shall be directed by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

(b) The Office of Administration within the Executive Office of the President shall provide the Office of Homeland Security

with such personnel, funding, and administrative support, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, as directed by the Chief of Staff to carry out the provisions of this order.

(c) Heads of executive departments and agencies are authorized, to the extent permitted by law, to detail or assign personnel of such departments and agencies to the Office of Homeland Security upon request of the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, subject to the approval of the Chief of Staff.

Sec. 5. *Establishment of Homeland Security Council.*

(a) I hereby establish a Homeland Security Council (the ''Council''), which shall be responsible for advising and assisting the President with respect to all aspects of homeland security. The Council shall serve as the mechanism for ensuring coordination of homeland security-related activities of executive departments and agencies and effective development and implementation of homeland security policies.

(b) The Council shall have as its members the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and such other officers of the executive branch as the President may from time to time designate. The Chief of Staff, the Chief of Staff to the Vice President, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Counsel to the President, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget also are invited to attend any Council meeting. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall be invited to attend meetings pertaining to their responsibilities. The heads of other executive departments and agencies and other senior officials shall be invited to attend Council meetings when appropriate.

(c) The Council shall meet at the President's direction. When the President is absent from a meeting of the Council, at the President's direction the Vice President may preside. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall be responsible, at the President's direction, for determining the agenda, ensuring that necessary papers are prepared, and recording Council actions and Presidential decisions.

Sec. 6. *Original Classification Authority.* I hereby delegate the authority to classify information originally as Top Secret, in accordance with Executive Order 12958 or any successor Executive Order, to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

Sec. 7. *Continuing Authorities.* This order does not alter the existing authorities of United States Government departments and agencies. All executive departments and agencies are directed to assist the Council and the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security in carrying out the purposes of this order.

Sec. 8. *General Provisions.*

(a) This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

(b) References in this order to State and local governments shall be construed to include tribal governments and United States territories and other possessions.

(c) References to the ''United States'' shall be construed to include United States territories and possessions.

Sec. 9. *Amendments to Executive Order 12656.* Executive Order 12656 of November 18, 1988, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

(a) Section 101(a) is amended by adding at the end of the fourth sentence: '', except that the Homeland Security Council shall be responsible for administering such policy with respect to terrorist threats and attacks within the United States.''

(b) Section 104(a) is amended by adding at the end: ", except that the Homeland Security Council is the principal forum for consideration of policy relating to terrorist threats and attacks within the United States."

(c) Section 104(b) is amended by inserting the words "and the Homeland Security Council" after the words "National Security Council."

(d) The first sentence of section 104(c) is amended by inserting the words "and the Homeland Security Council" after the words "National Security Council."

(e) The second sentence of section 104(c) is replaced with the following two sentences: "Pursuant to such procedures for the organization and management of the National Security Council and Homeland Security Council processes as the President may establish, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency also shall assist in the implementation of and management of those processes as the President may establish. The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency also shall assist in the implementation of national security emergency preparedness policy by coordinating with the other Federal departments and agencies and with State and local governments, and by providing periodic reports to the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council on implementation of national security emergency preparedness policy."

(f) Section 201(7) is amended by inserting the words "and the Homeland Security Council" after the words "National Security Council."

(g) Section 206 is amended by inserting the words "and the Homeland Security Council" after the words "National Security Council."

(h) Section 208 is amended by inserting the words "or the Homeland Security Council" after the words "National Security Council."

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 8, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:12 p.m., October 9, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 10.

Remarks on Signing the Columbus Day Proclamation

October 8, 2001

Thank you very much. I'm glad I invited you. [*Laughter*] Thank you all for coming. Laura and I are delighted to have you here to celebrate Columbus Day. Since 1934, when Franklin Roosevelt first proclaimed the national holiday, our entire Nation has observed Columbus Day to mark that moment when the Old World met the New. We honor the man from Genoa and the vision that carried him throughout his 10-week voyage. And we recognize—as well, we recognize the unique contributions that people of Italian descent have made here in our country for more than five centuries.

Italian-Americans were among the many public servants last month who gave extraordinary service in an hour of dire emergency. Some are with us today. The fire department of Arlington, Virginia, was first on the scene after the attack on the Pentagon. And we're so honored to have Battalion Chief Jim Bonzano with us today.

We have representatives of the New York Police and Fire Departments with us, representatives of people who showed incredible bravery and sacrifice and determination. Please welcome Joe Esposito and Chief Dan Nigro.

Chief Nigro is the successor of Peter Ganci, Jr., whom I had the privilege of meeting 2 years ago. Chief Ganci gave his life at the World Trade Center and was laid to rest on September the 15th. We're so delighted today to have heroes here representing the Ganci family, his wife, his two sons, and his daughters. Welcome, and thank you for being here.

I can't remember if it was Chris or Peter III who looked out at the South Lawn and said, "God, I wish Dad were here. He could hit a three wood right over the fence." [*Laughter*] I said, "It might make him nervous; he might shank it into the water." [*Laughter*] He said, "No, you don't know my dad."

I want to thank the Sons of Italy who have joined us today, as well as the leadership of the National Italian American Foundation and UNICO National who are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

Ambassador Salleo from Italy, we're so glad you're here, and thank you for bringing your wife with you, as well. I just got off the phone call with your Prime Minister, Prime Minister Berlusconi, who is a good friend of mine and a good friend of America's. He sends his best, by the way. Welcome.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. Thank you all for coming. And I also am so pleased that the first Italian-American to serve on our Supreme Court has agreed to join us, as well. Justice Scalia, thank you for being here, sir.

I'm proud to have a number of Italian-Americans in my administration. A member of my Cabinet unfortunately is not here, but I can assure you he's doing a great job, and that's Tony Principi—so proud of Tony's service to the veterans of our country. He's doing a really outstanding job.

As you know, that sometimes we have to do battle on Capitol Hill. I try to avoid those battles, but occasionally it has to happen. And therefore, I picked an Italian-American to lead that battle for the White House—[*laughter*]—Nick Calio. Where are you, Nick? There you are. I know Congresswoman Pelosi is saying, all you've got to do is do it the way she tells you to, and things will be fine. [*Laughter*] I'm also honored that Gian-Carlo Peressutti of my staff has put this event together. And I want to thank Gian-Carlo, as well, for his hard work.

Our White House has been—has welcomed many entertainers before. And today we have the honor of welcoming a lady who you all know well, whose mom had entertained at the White House years ago. She entertained the Kennedys. And today, after I sign the proclamation, Liza Minnelli has agreed to entertain us in this beautiful room in this beautiful house of the people.

I was in New York last week. Like all Americans, I am amazed at what a great job the New York City folks are doing, the spirit of New York, the willingness for people to pull together and to help a neighbor in need. And I'm most impressed by the character of the leadership there, two people of Italian heritage, I might add, the Governor—[*laughter*]—and Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The evil ones thought they were going to hurt us, and they did to a certain extent. But what they really did was, they enabled the world to see the true character and compassion and spirit of our country, and no finer example than that in New York City.

This Columbus Day should be one of deep pride for all Americans—all Americans—especially those for Italian descent. From the very beginning of our country, the sons and daughters of Italy have brought honor to themselves and have enriched our national life. In the beauty of this Capital City, we see the hand of Italian immigrants who spent more than 10 years carving the great seated figure in the Lincoln Memorial, who adorned the National Cathedral with statues, and who graced the dome and corridors of the Capitol building with magnificent art.

Our freedom itself was gained with the help of three Italian regiments that crossed the Atlantic to fight in the Revolutionary War. Our Declaration of Independence bears the signature of two Italian-Americans. In later struggle, dozens of Italian-Americans would receive the Medal of Honor. And today, when Americans pay tribute to ''The Greatest Generation,'' we have in mind people like Captain Don Gentile, the fighting ace who General Eisenhower described as a ''one-man air force.''

Take any field of endeavor, any achievement of this country, and Italian-Americans are part of it. For generation after generation, the success of our country has drawn heavily from the industry and resourcefulness of Italian immigrants and their families. The same can be said for the values that make us a great nation. The millions who came here brought with them a distinct strength of character, faith in God, devotion to family, and love of life.

This summer I visited Genoa, where 550 years ago Christopher Columbus was born. All around that vibrant, modern city are glimpses of the ancient civilization that still inspires the world's admiration and always will. In so many ways, that culture has added to our own, first on three small ships, then

on many more. It is our good fortune to be an immigrant nation, to be the keepers of traditions and gifts that have come to us from great nations like Italy. More than 15 million Americans claim Italian heritage. And all Americans have reason to be grateful, because we would be poorer without it.

I now have the singular honor of signing the official document proclaiming October 8th, 2001, as Columbus Day in the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:09 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to James Bonzano, battalion chief, Arlington County Fire Department; Joseph J. Esposito, chief, New York City Police Department; Daniel A. Nigro, chief, Fire Department-City of New York; Kathleen Ganci, widow of New York City Fire Department Chief Peter Ganci, Jr., and their children, Christopher, Peter III, and Danielle; Ambassador Fernando Salleo, Italian Ambassador to the United States, and his wife, Anna Maria; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City.

Proclamation 7482—Columbus Day, 2001

October 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain on his historic voyage to what would be called the ''New World.'' His celebrated journey inaugurated an age of exploration that changed the course of history and enormously expanded our understanding of the world. Columbus' willingness to brave the unknown led to his remarkable find, bringing about further explorations that enormously enhanced the intellectual, commercial, and demographic fabric of Europe and the Americas. The stories of Columbus' voyage became a symbol of the quest for knowledge and understanding of the world, and it laid the historical foundation upon which much of America's future progress was built.

Reflecting on Christopher Columbus' legacy, we remember his great courage in choosing to sail across uncharted waters, we recall the power of his adventurous spirit, and we are inspired by his willingness to assume considerable risks for the sake of knowledge and progress. These virtues have been echoed down through history by some of America's greatest pioneers, from Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's daring explorations of our western frontier to the Apollo astronauts planting the American flag on the moon. Our Nation continues to follow the example of Columbus' bold desire to push the horizon, pursuing new paths of research and using our discoveries to benefit all of mankind.

Columbus' voyage represented the first linking of the lands and cultures separated by the Atlantic Ocean, and it served as a precursor to the close ties that exist today between America and Europe. His discovery connected continents separated by substantial geographic, religious, and cultural barriers; and America has since formed partnerships with nations across the seas that have sought to overcome those and other barriers through agreements affecting such areas as trade, human rights, and military support.

In commemoration of Columbus' momentous journey 509 years ago, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), and an Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as ''Columbus Day.''

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2001, as Columbus Day. I urge the people of the United States to reflect on the contributions of Christopher Columbus with appropriate means of celebration. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:54 a.m., October 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 11.

Remarks Following Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and an Exchange With Reporters

October 9, 2001

The President. It's been my honor to welcome a great friend of America to the Oval Office again. Chancellor Schroeder came to talk about our war against terrorist activities. We had a great discussion.

First, I want to thank the Chancellor for his solidarity with the American people and his strong statement of support for the American people right after the evildoers struck on September the 11th. I also want to thank Chancellor Schroeder and the German people for their outpouring of support for the victims.

And I also want to thank him for being a steadfast friend in a broad coalition that is determined to rout terrorism out where it may exist, to not only bring the Al Qaida organization to justice but to declare a broad campaign against terrorists and terrorism all across the world. There is no more steadfast friend in this coalition than Germany, and I'm proud to have him here.

We also talked about the Middle East and the importance that both of us recognize for that process to get into Mitchell as quickly as possible. The German Government has been very strong about working with both parties in the Middle East to get into Mitchell. I assured him we're doing the same thing. There would be no better stabilizer for our coalition than for the Mitchell process to begin in the Middle East.

But Mr. Chancellor, we're so thrilled to have you here. Thank you for coming.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thank you very much, indeed, Mr. President. I obviously, very happily came here, and I'm pleased to be here, because it is important to us to show that very much in these difficult times, friendship must prevail and does prevail. And I'm also here to express the deepest solidarity from the German side, which is not just words being said, but it's a fact.

We very much are in agreement about the fact that this fight against terrorism, which we are all involved in by now, must be a very comprehensive approach, indeed. The action that is being taken right now must be added to through political measures, through diplomatic action, too.

We also find it very important to maintain the strong degree of cohesion that we see at this point in time within the antiterror alliance that has formed around the world. We went on to agree that it was crucially important to dry up the financing for the terrorists. And we also find it very important to highlight that the action that is presently being taken in Afghanistan is not at all directed against the people of Afghanistan; it is not at all directed against Islam; it is far rather directed against Usama bin Laden and the very ruthless regime behind him.

We have also very strongly emphasized how important we find it that we do provide relief for the refugees and cope with the refugee problem that will arise. And I can only yet again emphasize the high degree of respect that I feel vis-a-vis the United States of America and the American President, how he has gone about linking humanitarian aid and assistance up with the strike in this fantastic way he has done.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Military Action in Afghanistan/German Contribution

Q. Mr. President, how close are we to using U.S. ground troops in Afghanistan? And Mr. Chancellor, what extra commitments did you make of German military assets today to the United States cause?

The President. Well, first, I think the American people are beginning to realize that this is a unique type of war. The first shot we took in this war against terrorism was when we started cutting off their money. And I want to thank the German Chancellor and the German Government for cooperating and joining with us in not only sharing information but making it clear to Al Qaida and other terrorist groups, we're going to cut you off financially.

Secondly, as you know, we've started conventional operations. And I believe Secretary Rumsfeld summed it up pretty well today

when he made it clear that the skies were now free for U.S. planes to fly without being harassed in any way and that the missions have been successful.

And as to whether or not we will put troops on the ground, I'm not going to tell you. I think it's—you've got to understand, we will not share intelligence, nor will we talk about military plans that we may or may not have in the future.

Chancellor Schroeder. I have—and you might remember me saying that—never excluded military contributions coming from the Federal Republic of Germany. We most obviously addressed this topic today. But as you might easily understand, it would be entirely unhelpful to spread this type of information. It would only help the enemy that we're trying to bring down. It is obvious that at the given point in time, details will be discussed in all friendship, and we'll come to good decisions.

Intelligence Briefings/Anthrax Exposures

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what prompted you to write the memo to Congress about briefing on intelligence matters, why you think such restrictions are appropriate? And could you also address what threat you think these limited anthrax exposures pose more generally? Is it linked to terrorism at all?

The President. Well first, Mr. Chancellor, we had a—we had some security briefings take place up on Capitol Hill that were a discussion about classified information, and some of that information was shared with the press.

Chancellor Schroeder. Oh, we know that trouble. [*Laughter*]

The President. Oh, you know that trouble, too. [*Laughter*]

These are extraordinary times. Our Nation has put our troops at risk. And therefore, I felt it was important to send a clear signal to Congress that classified information must be held dear, that there's a responsibility, that if you receive a briefing of classified information you have a responsibility. And some Members did not accept that responsibility—somebody didn't. So I took it upon myself to notify the leadership of the Congress that I intend to protect our troops.

And that's why I sent the letter I sent. It's a serious matter, Dave [David Gregory, NBC News], it's very serious that people in positions of responsibility understand that they have a responsibility to people who are being put in harm's way.

I'm having breakfast tomorrow with Members of Congress. I will be glad to bring up this subject. I understand there may be some heartburn on Capitol Hill. But I suggest if they want to relieve that heartburn, that they take their positions very seriously and that they take any information they've been given by our Government very seriously, because this is serious business we're talking about.

And the second question about anthrax, that is serious, as well. I want to first tell the American people that an incident obviously came up, in the form of a sick male who unfortunately passed away. And the local authorities, along with the CDC, responded very quickly. There is a system in place to notify our Government and governments in the case of some kind of potential biological incident or chemical incident. And the system worked. And now the system is even working better, because we have, in essence, gone into the building, cleaned the building out, taken all samples as possible, and are following any trail, any possible trail.

So thus far, it looks like it's a very isolated incident. But any—any type of incident, any type of information that comes into our Government, we take very seriously, because we understand we're dealing with evil people.

And as you know, I've assured the American people that life should go on as normal. But they also should know, the American people should know, that our Government is doing everything we can to make our country as safe as possible.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Military Action in Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, the Pakistani President says he was told that the bombing campaign would be relatively short. How long do you think it will take? And what do you say to some of these people in the Islamic world who are protesting the campaign?

The President. Yes. Well, Steve, I don't know who told the Pakistani President that. Generally, you know, we don't talk about

military plans. And there is one way to shorten the campaign in Afghanistan, and that's for the—Usama bin Laden and his leadership to be turned over so they can be brought to justice.

We will have a sustained effort. But I want to remind you that this is a part of a larger effort, that our war, the war of freedom-loving people, such as the Germans and the Americans, is against terrorists as a whole. And this is one part of a large campaign. We—the coalition has arrested over 200 people that have been associated with the Al Qaida organization. All around the world, freedom-loving people are gathering information, sharing information, and bringing people to justice.

And what was the second part of your question?

Protests in Islamic Nations

Q. The Islamic protestors. What do you say to those people?

The President. I say that if they think that the—first of all, I think the message of the Al Qaida organization is one of evil and hate. I understand people's willingness to protest, but they should not protest the decisions our coalition is making, because it is in the best interests of freedom and humankind.

Al Qaida and Nations Supporting Terrorism

Q. Do you still want him dead or alive?

The President. Ours is a compassionate nation, as is Germany. We're both combining our resources to help people in need. There are thousands of starving Afghans, because there is a Taliban Government in place that has caused starvation and deprivation and discrimination. And they are now housing terrorists.

And make no mistake about it: The doctrine that says if you house a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist, will stand. We're making that very evident to the world as we speak.

Q. Do you still want Mr. bin Laden dead or alive, sir?

The President. I want there to be justice. I want there to be justice. And it's Al Qaida, but it's anybody who feeds Al Qaida, who houses Al Qaida, who encourages Al Qaida. Any other terrorist organization that is affiliated with Al Qaida is just as guilty, as far as I'm concerned.

We're very patient people. The American people understand, and I know that the Chancellor understands, that this is a different kind of war. There's a certain sense of fascination with previous wars in Kosovo and Desert Storm, where people could turn on their TV screens and see high-tech weaponry burrowing into bunkers and massive explosions.

This is a different type of war. There will be a conventional component to the conflict, but much of what takes place will never make it onto the TV screens. Much of the efforts that we talked about in the Oval Office will be efforts that you will never see until people are brought to justice. And therefore, there has to be a certain patience. I think the American people are beginning to understand that.

I will assure you that the people—the terrorists of the world will understand that I am determined and, having talked with the Chancellor, that he is determined to lend the resources of our Government to bring them to justice. If it takes one day, one month, one year, or one decade, we're patient enough, because we understand that the actions we take together are not only important for today but will say to future Chancellors or future Presidents, here is how we fight terrorism. We also understand the actions we take today will make it more likely that our children's children will be able to grow up in a free world.

The first shot of the new war of the 21st century was fired September the 11th. The first battle is being waged, but it's only one of a long series of battles.

Yes, Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Domestic Reaction

Q. Mr. President, as you noted on Sunday, there's a certain amount of nervous anxiety in the Nation—fear of new attacks, now that the military campaign has begun. Will the new Office of Homeland Security do anything concrete to recommend to average people that they can do to protect themselves?

The President. Well, Bill, I think the—you know, the people of America should go about their business, should go about their daily lives, knowing full well that our Government, at all levels, is doing everything we can to disrupt any potential action and/or to provide the security necessary for people to travel, for example. I'm briefed every single morning about what somebody may or may not have heard and what actions are taking place. And their Government is responding as forcefully and actively as humanly possible.

One of the reasons why this coalition is so important is because we share information. When Germany hears something about something that may take place here and vice versa, we share information. And so, we're on high alert at the governmental level.

But the American people should go about their business. And people ought to travel. And people ought to feel comfortable going to see the mighty Houston Astros play. People ought to feel comfortable going about their lives, knowing that their Government is doing everything humanly possible to disrupt any potential activity that the evil ones may try to inflict upon us.

Intelligence Briefings

Q. Mr. President, when you meet with the congressional leadership tomorrow, will you be specific about what they can and cannot relay back up to the Hill? Or do you just expect them not to relay anything?

The President. Well, I'm going to talk to the leaders about this. I have talked to them about it. I mean, when the classified information first seeped into the public, I called them on the phone and said, ''This can't stand. We can't have leaks of classified information. It's not in our Nation's interests.''

But we're now in extraordinary times. And I was in the—when those leaks occurred, by the way, it was right before we committed troops. And I knew full well what was about to happen. And yet, I see in the media that somebody, or somebodies, feel that they should be able to talk about classified information. And that's just wrong. The leadership understands that.

And if there's concerns, we'll work it out. I mean, obviously I understand there needs to be some briefings. I want Don Rumsfeld to feel comfortable briefing members of the Armed Services Committee. But I want Congress to hear loud and clear: It is unacceptable behavior to leak classified information when we have troops at risk.

I'm looking forward to reiterating that message. And we will work together. We've got a great relationship. Listen, the four leaders, with whom I have breakfast on a weekly basis, fully understand the stakes. They fully understand the decision I made. And they will have gotten feedback from their Members, and we will discuss it. But one thing is for certain, I have made clear what I expect from Capitol Hill when it comes to classified information.

Chancellor Schroeder. Let me add something. I hope that the German press corps did hear it. [*Laughter*]

President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. We did hear it, Mr. Chancellor. Mr. President, do you consider Russia's war in Chechnya to be, first, a war against terrorists? And has your view on that changed since September 11th?

The President. I've had very good conversations with Vladimir Putin about the war on terrorism. I know the Chancellor has, as well. I'm, as a matter of fact, going to be meeting with the President of Russia within 2 weeks, in Shanghai, and I'm looking forward to those meetings.

I have made it clear to him that I appreciate his strong statements about America's efforts and the coalition's efforts to fight terrorism where we find it. I also made it clear to him that he needs to respect minority rights within his country. And he listened very carefully, and I think he's appreciative that our message has been consistent. From the very first conversation I had with President Putin, I expressed concern about how his government was viewing the minority that exists and how they were being treated. So my position has been very consistent.

To the extent that there's Al Qaida organizations in his neighborhood, they need to be brought to justice, as well. And we look forward to sharing information with him, just like he's sharing information with us. He is—

he was one of the first—I will tell you an interesting story.

I was airborne on Air Force One and put our—on September the 11th—and put our troops to a high-alert status. And one of the first phone calls I got through my national security office was from Vladimir Putin, announcing that he has stood his troops down—which is significant. In the old days, if we'd have put our troops on heightened alert, they would have put their troops on more heightened alert—[*laughter*]—which would have caused our troops to go on higher alert. And all of a sudden we would have had a conflict, a potential conflict out of the realm of the incident that caused the troops to go on alert.

So he quickly called and said, ''We're standing our troops down.'' It's a new attitude toward relationship. He understands the cold war is over, and so do I, which provides great opportunity for not only America but Germany to work with Mr. Putin for our nations' interests and his nation's interests.

And I think we're going to find a lot of common ground, one of which will be to fight terrorism. But as I explained to him, it's going to be hard to have common ground if he represses the press and/or treats minorities within his own country in a way that the Western world simply doesn't understand.

Listen, thank you all for coming. Thank you, Chancellor, I appreciate you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to anthrax victim Robert Stevens; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. He also referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Proclamation 7483—Leif Erikson Day, 2001

October 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Leif Erikson Day, we join our friends in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden to celebrate and pay homage to our shared ideals and commemorate the contributions of Nordic Americans to our culture. We honor the explorers who led the first Viking explorations at the beginning of the last millennium, and we pay tribute to the many Nordic pioneers who helped to explore and settle America's 19th Century frontiers. The Nordic and American peoples share the virtues of courage, resourcefulness, and self-reliance, and they have built nations based on the principles of liberty, justice, and equality.

Leif Erikson and his men braved the unknown and risked their lives to become the first Europeans to set foot on North American soil. As we reflect upon Erikson's groundbreaking achievements and marvel at the adversity and dangers he and his explorers endured, we are thankful for their great endeavor and recognize that achieving difficult goals requires people who are courageous and willing to sacrifice, who take action and take risks.

Today, American researchers and entreprenuers, including many of Nordic descent, are making landmark discoveries in the fields of genetics, information technology, biotechnology, and renewable energy. Through our Northern European Initiative and the ''Northern Dimension'' program that Scandinavian countries have sponsored, we are deepening our cooperation and connections with the Baltic region, building regional links in Northwest Russia, and renewing historic trade relationships. And, we are working closely with our Nordic Allies in NATO by helping to provide for the region's common defense and stability. These and other efforts

to improve the world mark the citizens of the United States as a people possessing virtues that echo those of Leif Erikson and the first Vikings who landed on our northern shores.

To honor Leif Erikson, the brave son of Iceland and grandson of Norway, and our Nordic American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–66) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as Leif Erikson Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2001, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 12.

Executive Order 13229—Amendment to Executive Order 13045, Extending the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

October 9, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13045 of April 21, 1997, is amended by deleting in section 3–306 of that order ''for a period of 4 years from the first meeting'' and inserting in lieu thereof ''for 6 years from the date of this order''.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 9, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:54 a.m., October 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 11.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Combat Action in Afghanistan Against Al Qaida Terrorists and Their Taliban Supporters

October 9, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

At approximately 12:30 p.m. (EDT) on October 7, 2001, on my orders, U.S. Armed Forces began combat action in Afghanistan against Al Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters. This military action is a part of our campaign against terrorism and is designed to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations.

We are responding to the brutal September 11 attacks on our territory, our citizens, and our way of life, and to the continuing threat of terrorist acts against the United States and our friends and allies. This follows the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of locations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations, as I reported to the Congress on September 24, to prepare for the campaign to prevent and deter terrorism.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. It is not possible to know at this time either the duration of combat operations or the scope and duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States. As I have stated previously, it is likely that the American campaign against terrorism will be lengthy. I will direct such additional measures as necessary in exercise of

our right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Public Law 107–40. Officials of my Administration and I have been communicating regularly with the leadership and other members of Congress, and we will continue to do so. I appreciate the continuing support of the Congress, including its enactment of Public Law 107–40, in these actions to protect the security of the United States of America and its citizens, civilian and military, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Remarks Announcing the Most Wanted Terrorists List

October 10, 2001

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm pleased to be back at the FBI to unveil a new line of attack on our war against terrorism, the Most Wanted Terrorist list.

Terrorists try to operate in the shadows. They try to hide, but we're going to shine the light of justice on them. We list their names; we publicize their pictures; we rob them of their secrecy. Terrorism has a face, and today we expose it for the world to see.

Mr. General, thank you very much for your leadership, your strong resolve, the values you espouse. I want to thank all the Justice Department folks who are here today.

I'm so honored to be up here with the Secretary of State. He's doing a fabulous job of rallying the world to our cause. And I want to thank the State Department officials who are here today, as well.

And of course, Director Mueller, I want to thank you and the fine men and women of the FBI for your diligent efforts to disrupt and find anybody who tries to harm Americans.

I also want to introduce Tom Ridge, the Director of the Office of Homeland Security. Thank you for being here, Governor, as well as General Wayne Downing, the Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism. Thank you all for coming.

The men on the wall here have put themselves on the list because of great acts of evil. They plan, promote, and commit murder. They fill the minds of others with hate and lies. And by their cruelty and violence, they betray whatever faith they espouse.

These 22 individuals do not account for all the terrorist activity in the world, but they're among the most dangerous, the leaders and key supporters, the planners and strategists. They must be found. They will be stopped, and they will be punished.

This effort is part of a worldwide assault on terror. All our allies and friends will now be familiar with these evildoers and their associates. For those who join our coalition, we expect results. And a good place to start—help us bring these folks to justice.

Eventually, no corner of the world will be dark enough to hide in. I want to thank all the State Department employees for helping to build an unprecedented—I mean unprecedented—coalition to stand with us for freedom.

I want to thank the American people for understanding that we are engaged in a new war, a war that will require a new way of thinking. There is a fascination about the conventional aspects of the military operations that are taking place now, and I can understand that. But the American people must understand that we're making great progress in other fronts, that we're halting their money, that we've got allies around the world helping us close the net. And today, by shining the spotlight on the first 22, it's going to make it more likely they will be brought to justice.

I say ''the first 22'' because our war is not just against 22 individuals. Our war is against networks and groups, people who coddle them, people who try to hide them, people who fund them. This is our calling. This is the calling of the United States of America, the most free nation in the world, a nation built on fundamental values, that rejects hate, rejects violence, rejects murderers, rejects evil. And we will not tire. We will not

relent. It is not only important for the homeland security of America that we succeed; it is equally as important for generations of Americans who have yet be born.

Now is the time to draw the line in the sand against the evil ones. And this Government is committed to doing just that.

I also want to remind my fellow Americans as we round up the evildoers, as we look for those who might harm our fellow Americans, we must remember not to violate the rights of the innocent.

Our war is not against a religion. Our war is against evil. There are thousands of Muslim Americans who love America just as much as I do. And we will respect their rights. We will not let the terrorists cause decay of the fundamental rights that make our Nation unique. As a matter of fact, what they'll find out is that our Nation has responded in a way they never envisioned. We're united. People of all faiths, all religions, all areas of our country are united in the common effort to stamp out evil where we find it. It is the right thing to do. It is the right course of action for our Nation and the world, and I want to thank you all for helping.

It is now my honor to bring the Director of the FBI to the podium.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. in the Bonaparte Auditorium at the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John D. Ashcroft.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

October 10, 2001

The President. Lord Robertson, thank you very much for coming. I appreciate your friendship, and I appreciate the consultations we just had.

I want to welcome Nick Burns, our Ambassador to NATO, and of course, Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well.

Within 28 hours of the assault on September 11th, NATO, for the first time in its 52 years of existence, invoked the Collective Defense Clause. It didn't take long for our friends to respond. A lot of that had to do with the leadership of Lord Robertson. This was an act of great friendship in a time of great need, and our country will never forget.

Today, NATO nations are acting together in a broad campaign against terror. Britain is side by side with us in Afghanistan. The nations of NATO are sharing intelligence, coordinating law enforcement, and cracking down on the financing of terrorist organizations. Some NATO members will provide logistic support to military operations, and others have offered to fight if we deem necessary.

And right now, in a unprecedented display of friendship, NATO air surveillance aircraft are on their way to the United States to help keep our country safe. Lord Robertson, I want to thank you for that, as well, and so do the American people. This has never happened before, that NATO has come to help defend our country. But it happened in this time of need, and for that, we're grateful.

Together, we're building a very strong coalition against terror. And NATO is the cornerstone of that coalition. But I want to remind my fellow citizens, the coalition goes way beyond NATO.

Russia is sharing intelligence and offering strong diplomatic support. The Organization of American States invoked the collective defense clause of the Rio Treaty. Japan and Korea are offering logistical and other support. I had a great conversation with Jiang Zemin of China about his desire to join us in fighting terrorist activities.

Military forces from Australia and New Zealand are standing by to assist in combat roles if needed. In Africa, the Organization of African Unity has moved quickly and strongly to condemn the attacks, and many are offering basic services, such as overflight and the sharing of intelligence.

In the Middle East, many nations, including Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, are offering law enforcement, intelligence, and other cooperation. In short, many nations understand what NATO expressed, that an attack on us is really an attack on legitimate governments and on freedom.

I want to welcome again our friend to the Rose Garden. Lord Robertson has provided

extraordinary leadership for an incredibly important alliance. He's a good Scotsman, like many Americans are. He could have been a Texan, it seems like to me, because he is courageous, open, forthright, and not afraid to take a stand and to do what's right for freedom.

Lord Robertson, welcome to the Rose Garden.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. Mr. President, thank you for these kind and generous words. I'll take them back to the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, because that is the organization that you're part of, we're part of, and which has stood in solidarity over all of these years.

I want to pay a tribute to your leadership during this difficult time for your country, in this difficult time for the world, as well. We stand shoulder to shoulder in a new kind of struggle, and a struggle that we have to win.

The NATO Allies, in the wake of the terrible atrocities of the 11th of September, wanted to move beyond sadness and sympathy, and we moved to solidarity and support. And that is why we invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, conceived here in Washington in 1949 in very difficult circumstances and where the language is clear and simple: An attack on one is an attack on all of the nations of the Alliance.

NATO still represents the biggest permanent coalition on this planet: 19 nations in the Alliance, 27 nations in addition in the Partnership For Peace and part of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. And NATO is providing now, as you said, serious and strong practical support to the United States and the U.S.-led coalition operations that are going on in the world today: a unique contribution, political cohesion through Article 5; real capabilities, like the AWACS aircraft that will be flying over continental United States by Friday of this week; the tying-in of the partners and the partnership, military interoperability that worked so well for the coalition in the Gulf war; and a new look at the adaptation of forces so that we're ready to deal with the threats of the future, just as we were able to deal with the enemies of the past.

So the Alliance will continue to combine the best of America and Europe at this difficult and troubled time.

These terrorists are not 10 feet tall. They are not insuperable. They're not unvanquishable. But we are, and we can win, and we certainly will win. And I'm very, very proud that NATO and the 19 nations of the Alliance are at the heart of a global coalition against the most evil criminals of our age.

I'm very proud, Mr. President, that you thought fit to describe me as a candidate for being a Texan. [*Laughter*] Given my background, I know that you've been in Scotland before, and I haven't been in Texas. But I'll take it as a compliment, and I believe that you could be a Scotsman, as well—[*laughter*]—like the great Scotsmen who made this great country as well and who, at the moment, happen to be leading this Alliance. And this Scotsman, in particular, is proud to be doing it and is determined that we'll win.

Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you, sir. God bless you. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:51 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China.

Proclamation 7484—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2001

October 10, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

> *I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live and die for it.*
>
> —General Casimir Pulaski in a letter to General George Washington

Every year, on October 11, we honor the memory of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a courageous soldier of liberty who bravely gave his life 222 years ago fighting for America's independence. The stories of General Pulaski's heroism during the Revolutionary War have been a source of inspiration for many generations of Americans, and his

gallant sacrifice serves as a poignant reminder of the price patriots paid to obtain our liberty.

Pulaski, who was born in Poland in 1745, joined his first fight against tyranny and oppression at age 21, defending his beloved Poland against Prussian and Imperial Russian invaders. In numerous battles, Pulaski achieved fame as a calvary officer, earning promotion to commander of an army of Polish freedom fighters. But the aggressors ultimately overcame the Poles, and Pulaski was forced into exile. In 1777, Pulaski offered his services to America's fight for freedom and set sail from France to join the war for independence.

Far from his native land, Pulaski showed the same courageous combativeness on American soil that had gained him fame at home. Distinguishing himself in battle after battle, Pulaski earned a commission from the Continental Congress as a Brigadier General, and he was assigned by General Washington to command the Continental Army's calvary. In 1779, during the siege of Savannah, General Pulaski made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life in battle so that our Nation might win its freedom. General Pulaski's valiant leadership earned him recognition as the ''Father of the American cavalry''.

Ever since his heroic death, America has honored General Pulaski's memory in many ways, including the naming of counties, towns, and streets after him. Since 1910, a statue of General Pulaski has stood in Washington, D.C., permanently memorializing his patriotic contributions and noble sacrifice. Today, as we respond to the atrocities committed against the United States on September 11, we have been deeply moved by the tremendous outpouring of sympathy, support, and solidarity from our Polish friends, from the highest levels of the government to the thousands of Poles who placed flowers and candles at our Embassy gate. Our two nations, united by the virtues and ideals that General Pulaski embodied, will always remain friends and allies.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, October 11, 2001, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:57 a.m., October 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 12.

Remarks at the Department of Defense Service of Remembrance in Arlington, Virginia

October 11, 2001

President and Senator Clinton, thank you all for being here. We have come here to pay our respects to 125 men and women who died in the service of America. We also remember 64 passengers on a hijacked plane, those men and women, boys and girls who fell into the hands of evildoers and also died here exactly one month ago.

On September 11th, great sorrow came to our country. And from that sorrow has come great resolve. Today, we are a nation awakened to the evil of terrorism and determined to destroy it. That work began the moment we were attacked, and it will continue until justice is delivered.

Americans are returning, as we must, to the normal pursuits of life. But we know that if you lost a son or daughter here or a husband or wife or mom or dad, life will never again be as it was. The loss was sudden and hard and permanent, so difficult to explain, so difficult to accept: three schoolchildren traveling with their teacher; an Army general; a budget analyst who reported to work here for 30 years; a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve who left behind a wife, a 4-year-old son, and another child on the way.

One life touches so many others. One death can leave sorrow that seems almost unbearable. But to all of you who lost someone here, I want to say: You are not alone. The American people will never forget the cruelty that was done here and in New York and in the sky over Pennsylvania. We will never forget all the innocent people killed by the hatred of a few. We know the loneliness you feel in your loss. The entire Nation—the entire Nation shares in your sadness. And we pray for you and your loved ones, and we will always honor their memory.

The hijackers were instruments of evil who died in vain. Behind them is a cult of evil which seeks to harm the innocent and thrives on human suffering. Theirs is the worst kind of cruelty, the cruelty that is fed, not weakened, by tears. Theirs is the worst kind of violence, pure malice while daring to claim the authority of God. We cannot fully understand the designs and power of evil. It is enough to know that evil, like goodness, exists. And in the terrorists, evil has found a willing servant.

In New York, the terrorists chose as their target a symbol of America's freedom and confidence. Here, they struck a symbol of our strength in the world. And the attack on the Pentagon, on that day, was more symbolic than they knew. It was on another September 11th—September 11th, 1941—that construction on this building first began. America was just then awakening to another menace, the Nazi terror in Europe.

And on that very night, President Franklin Roosevelt spoke to the Nation. The danger, he warned, ''has long ceased to be a mere possibility. The danger is here now—not only from a military enemy but from an enemy of all law, all liberty, all morality, all religion.''

For us too, in the year 2001, an enemy has emerged that rejects every limit of law, morality, and religion. The terrorists have no true home in any country or culture or faith. They dwell in dark corners of Earth. And there, we will find them.

This week, I have called the Armed Forces into action. One by one, we are eliminating power centers of a regime that harbors Al Qaida terrorists. We gave that regime a choice: Turn over the terrorists, or face your ruin. They chose unwisely.

The Taliban regime has brought nothing but fear and misery to the people of Afghanistan. These rulers call themselves holy men, even with their record of drawing money from heroin trafficking. They consider themselves pious and devout, while subjecting women to fierce brutality.

The Taliban has allied itself with murderers and gave them shelter. But today, for Al Qaida and the Taliban, there is no shelter.

As Americans did 60 years ago, we have entered a struggle of uncertain duration. But now, as then, we can be certain of the outcome because we have a number of decisive assets. We have a unified country. We have the patience to fight and win on many fronts, blocking terrorist plans, seizing their funds, arresting their networks, disrupting their communications, opposing their sponsors. And we have one more great asset in this cause, the brave men and women of the United States military.

From my first days in this office, I have felt and seen the strong spirit of the Armed Forces. I saw it at Fort Stewart, Georgia, when I first reviewed our troops as Commander in Chief and looked into the faces of proud and determined soldiers. I saw it in Annapolis on a graduation day, at Camp Pendleton in California, Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. And I have seen this spirit at the Pentagon, before and after the attack on this building.

You've responded to a great emergency with calm and courage. And for that, your country honors you. A Commander in Chief must know—must know—that he can count on the skill and readiness of service men and women at every point in the chain of command. You have given me that confidence.

And I give you these commitments. The wound to this building will not be forgotten, but it will be repaired. Brick by brick, we will quickly rebuild the Pentagon. In the missions ahead for the military, you will have everything you need, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States and the cause of freedom.

And I pledge to you that America will never relent on this war against terror. There will be times of swift, dramatic action. There will be times of steady, quiet progress. Over

time, with patience and precision, the terrorists will be pursued. They will be isolated, surrounded, cornered, until there is no place to run or hide or rest.

As military and civilian personnel in the Pentagon, you are an important part of the struggle we have entered. You know the risks of your calling, and you have willingly accepted them. You believe in our country, and our country believes in you.

Within sight of this building is Arlington Cemetery, the final resting place of many thousands who died for our country over the generations. Enemies of America have now added to these graves, and they wish to add more. Unlike our enemies, we value every life, and we mourn every loss.

Yet we're not afraid. Our cause is just and worthy of sacrifice. Our Nation is strong of heart, firm of purpose. Inspired by all the courage that has come before, we will meet our moment, and we will prevail.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. outside the Pentagon.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting

October 11, 2001

I have asked my Cabinet to come in and give me a briefing on the progress that we're making on the war on terrorism. I can report to the American people we're making substantial progress.

First, our Secretary of State and our diplomats around the world have put together a broad coalition of nations to make a stand against terrorists, terrorism, and those who harbor terrorists. And I'm really pleased. This coalition includes not only our friends in Europe and South America, but as we saw at the OIC conference, the Organization of Islamic Conferences, many Muslim nations have taken a very firm stand against terrorist activities, as well.

Obviously, the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Department has been busy. As I said today, America is very proud of the men and women who wear the uniform; they're proud of your leadership too, sir. We'll leave the military briefing for the Pentagon.

I had a good visit with our Secretary of Treasury, who informed me that we've now frozen $40 million worth of assets—Taliban and Al Qaida assets all around the world, and we've just begun. We want the terrorists to know that we're after them in all kinds of ways, and one good way to make them ineffective is to cut off their money.

The Attorney General has reported that here at the homeland—in the homeland we've interrogated over 600 people that may have been involved with the bombings, as well as spending a great deal of time analyzing information that could lead to the disruption of any potential attack on America.

And then we discussed our legislative priorities before the Congress goes home. One of those, of course, is an economic stimulus package that must include tax relief that has got a positive effect on the economy in the short run.

But there are two other aspects to a good, strong economic stimulus package, one of which is trade promotion authority. And the other is an energy bill. Now, there was a good energy bill passed out of the House of Representatives. And the reason it passed is because members of both parties understand an energy bill is not only good for jobs, it's important for our national security to have a good energy policy.

And I urge the Senate to listen to the will of the Senators and move a bill—move a bill that will help Americans find work and also make it easier for all of us around this table to protect the security of the country. The less dependent we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the more secure we are at home.

We've spent a lot of time talking about homeland security. An integral piece of homeland security is energy independence. And I ask the Senate to respond to the call to get an energy bill moving.

We have got a lot of work to do, and everybody around this table understands that. We're a patient group of people; we're a disciplined group of people. But one thing we've got in mind as well is, we've got the best interests of the American people in mind. And I'm proud of the job everybody

is doing here. I want to thank you on behalf of America for your hard work.

I will see you all tonight.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on the Back to Work Relief Package

October 11, 2001

I commend Senators Allen and Warner and others for introducing my ''Back to Work Relief Package.'' I look forward to continuing to work with members of both parties to enact this important relief for dislocated workers across America as soon as possible. This proposal will help get workers who lost their jobs because of the September 11 attacks back to work again.

The President's News Conference

October 11, 2001

The President. Good evening. Thank you. Good evening. I would like to report to the American people on the state of our war against terror, and then I'll be happy to take questions from the White House press corps.

One month ago today, innocent citizens from more than 80 nations were attacked and killed, without warning or provocation, in an act that horrified not only every American but every person of every faith and every nation that values human life.

The attack took place on American soil, but it was an attack on the heart and soul of the civilized world. And the world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and we hope the only one, of the 21st century, a war against all those who seek to export terror and a war against those governments that support or shelter them.

We've accomplished a great deal in one month. Our staunch friends, Great Britain, our neighbors Canada and Mexico, our NATO Allies, our allies in Asia, Russia, and nations from every continent on the Earth have offered help of one kind or another, from military assistance to intelligence information, to crack down on terrorists' financial networks. This week 56 Islamic nations issued a statement strongly condemning the savage acts of terror and emphasizing that those acts contradict the peaceful teachings of Islam.

All is strong and united on the diplomatic front. The men and women of the United States military are doing their duty with skill and success. We have ruined terrorist training camps, disrupted their communications, weakened the Taliban military, and destroyed most of their air defenses.

We're mounting a sustained campaign to drive the terrorists out of their hidden caves and to bring them to justice. All missions are being executed according to plan on the military front. At the same time, we are showing the compassion of America by delivering food and medicine to the Afghan people, who are, themselves, the victims of a repressive regime.

On the law enforcement front, terrorists are being swept up in an international dragnet. Several hundred have been arrested. Thousands of FBI agents are on the trail of other suspects here and abroad. Working with countries around the world, we have frozen more than $24 million in Al Qaida or Taliban assets.

We are aggressively pursuing the agents of terror around the world, and we are aggressively strengthening our protections here at home. This week we established America's new Office of Homeland Security, directed by former Governor Tom Ridge. Americans tonight can know that while the threat is ongoing, we are taking every possible step to protect our country from danger.

Your Government is doing everything we can to recover from these attacks and to try to prevent others. We're acting to make planes and airports safer, rebuild New York and the Pentagon. We must act to stimulate a slow economy, to help laid-off workers, and we must fund our military.

This is a time of testing—this time of testing has revealed the true character of the American people. We're angry at the evil that was done to us, yet patient and just in our response.

Before September 11th, my administration was planning an initiative called Communities of Character. It was designed to help

parents develop good character in our children and to strengthen a spirit of citizenship and service in our communities. The acts of September 11th have prompted that initiative to occur on its own, in ways far greater than I could have ever imagined. We've shown great love for our country and great tolerance and respect for all our countrymen.

I was struck by this, that in many cities, when Christian and Jewish women learned that Muslim women, women of cover, were afraid of going out of their homes alone, that they went shopping with them, that they showed true friendship and support, an act that shows the world the true nature of America.

Our war on terrorism has nothing to do with differences in faith. It has everything to do with people of all faiths coming together to condemn hate and evil and murder and prejudice.

One month after great suffering and sorrow, America is strong and determined and generous. I'm honored to lead such a country, and I know we are ready for the challenges ahead.

And now I welcome your questions.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

FBI Warning/U.S. Domestic Response

Q. Thank you, sir. You said that the threat is ongoing, and, indeed, the deadly virus of anthrax was found in three Florida people this week. Usama bin Laden's spokesman says storms of planes are yet to be hijacked. Your FBI warned just today that terrorist attacks could be happening again in the next couple of days.

If the FBI knows of a credible threat, can you assure the public that you would take the precaution of locking down any system involved, whether it's buildings, airports, water systems, to prevent more deaths? And most importantly, is there anything you can say to Americans who feel helpless to protect themselves and their families from the next wave of attacks, if there are more to come? What can people do to protect themselves?

The President. Sure. Today the Justice Department did issue a blanket alert. It was in recognition of a general threat we received. This is not the first time the Justice Department have acted like this. I hope it's the last, but given the attitude of the evildoers, it may not be.

I have urged our fellow Americans to go about their lives, to fly on airplanes, to travel, to go to work. But I also want to encourage them by telling them that our Government is on full alert. And that—the alert put out today from the Justice Department was such an action.

Now, if we receive specific intelligence, where we—a credible threat that targets a specific building or city or facility, I can assure you our Government will do everything possible to protect the citizens around and in or near that facility.

And let me give you one example of a specific threat we received. You may remember recently there was a lot of discussion about crop dusters. We received knowledge that perhaps an Al Qaida operative was prepared to use a crop duster to spray a biological weapon or a chemical weapon on American people. And so we responded. We contacted every crop-dust location, airports from which crop dusters leave. We notified crop duster manufacturers to a potential threat. We knew full well that in order for a crop duster to become a weapon of mass destruction would require a retrofitting, and so we talked to machine shops around where crop dusters are located. We took strong and appropriate action. And we will do so any time we receive a credible threat.

Now, the American people have got to go about their business. We cannot let the terrorists achieve the objective of frightening our Nation to the point where we don't—where we don't conduct business, where people don't shop. That's their intention. Their intention was not only to kill and maim and destroy. Their intention was to frighten to the point where our Nation would not act. Their intention was to so frighten our Government that we wouldn't seek justice, that somehow we would cower in the face of their threats and not respond, abroad or at home.

We're both responding abroad and at home. The American people, obviously, if they see something that is suspicious, something out of the norm that looks suspicious, they ought to notify local law authorities. But in the meantime, they ought to take comfort

in knowing our Government is doing everything we possibly can.

We've got a Homeland Security Office now running, as I mentioned, headed by Tom Ridge. We're sharing intelligence with our friends in countries from overseas. We follow every lead. And information-sharing between the CIA and the FBI is seamless, so that the reaction to any threat is real-time. But the truth of the matter is, in order to fully defend America, we must defeat the evildoers where they hide. We must round them up, and we must bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're doing in Afghanistan, the first battle in the war of the 21st century.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Action Against Al Qaida and the Taliban

Q. Thank you. You've been careful to avoid saying how long the military strikes in Afghanistan might take place. But can you promise to say how long American—can you avoid being drawn into a Vietnam-like quagmire in Afghanistan?

The President. We learned some very important lessons in Vietnam. Perhaps the most important lesson that I learned is that you cannot fight a guerrilla war with conventional forces. That's why I've explained to the American people that we're engaged in a different type of war, one obviously that will use conventional forces but one in which we've got to fight on all fronts.

I remember saying to you all that the first shot in the war was when we started cutting off their money, because an Al Qaida organization can't function without money. And we're continuing our efforts to reach out to willing nations to disrupt and seize assets of the Al Qaida organization.

We are in the process of rounding up Al Qaida members around the world. There are Al Qaida organizations in, roughly, 68 countries. And over 200 have now been apprehended. And every time I talk to a world leader, I urge them to continue finding the Al Qaida representatives and bring them to justice.

As far as the use of conventional forces, we've got a clear plan, and it's to say to the host government that you have been given your chance—and by the way, I gave them ample opportunity to turn over Al Qaida. I made it very clear to them, in no uncertain terms, that in order to avoid punishment, they should turn over the parasites that hide in their country. They obviously refused to do so, and now they're paying a price. We are dismantling their military, disrupting their communications, severing their ability to defend themselves. And slowly but surely, we're smoking Al Qaida out of their caves so we can bring them to justice.

People often ask me, how long will this last? This particular battlefront will last as long as it takes to bring Al Qaida to justice. It may happen tomorrow; it may happen a month from now; it may take a year or 2. But we will prevail. And what the American people need to know is what our allies know: I am determined to stay the course. And we must do so. We must do so. We must rid the world of terrorists so our children and grandchildren can grow up in freedom. It is essential. It is now our time to act, and I'm proud to lead a country that understands that.

Nature of Action Against Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, today Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said that Usama bin Laden was probably still in Afghanistan. How can the U.S. get him, dead or alive, to use words that you've used recently, if we're not entirely sure whether he's in the country? And can we win the war on terrorism if bin Laden is not found?

The President. Ours is a war against terrorism in general. Mr. bin Laden is a—is one of the worst. But as you may remember, we published the 22 Most Wanted. He's one of 22 we're after. In terms of Mr. bin Laden himself, we'll get him running. We'll smoke him out of his cave, and we'll get him eventually.

But success or failure depends not on bin Laden; success or failure depends upon routing out terrorism where it may exist all around the world. He's just one person, a part of a network, and we're slowly, but surely, with determined fashion, routing that network out and bringing it to justice.

We've been active for a month. I intend to be giving you a briefing for as long as I'm

the President. I understand this is a unconventional war. It's a different kind of war. It's not the kind of war that we're used to in America. The greatest generation was used to storming beachheads; baby boomers, such as myself, were used to getting caught in a quagmire of Vietnam where politics made decisions more than the military sometimes; generation X was able to watch technology right in front of their TV screens—you know, burrow into concrete bunkers in Iraq and blow them up. This is a different kind of war that requires a different type of approach and a different type of mentality.

And so we're going to slowly but surely tighten the net on terrorists, wherever they live. And it's essential to do so now. It's essential to do so now. The actions my Government takes, in concert with other countries, the actions we take at home to defend ourselves will serve as a go-by for future Presidents, or future Prime Ministers in Britain, for example, or future FBI Directors. It is important that we stay the course, bring these people to justice, to show—and show others how to fight the new wars of the 21st century.

Helen [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers].

Scope of Antiterrorist Action

Q. Mr. President, on that note, we understand you have advisers who are urging you to go after Iraq, take out Iraq, Syria, and so forth. Do you really think that the American people will tolerate you widening the war beyond Afghanistan? And I have a followup. [*Laughter*]

The President. Thank you for warning me. [*Laughter*]

Our focus is on Afghanistan and the terrorist network hiding in Afghanistan, right now. But as well, we're looking for Al Qaida cells around the world. If we find an Al Qaida cell operating, we will urge the host country to bring them to justice, and we're having some progress—we're making progress.

As I mentioned, Helen, this is a long war against terrorist activity. And the doctrine I spelled out to the American people in front of Congress said not only will we seek out and bring to justice individual terrorists who cause harm to people, to murder people; we will also bring to justice the host governments that sponsor them, that house them and feed them.

You mentioned Iraq. There's no question that the leader of Iraq is an evil man. After all, he gassed his own people. We know he's been developing weapons of mass destruction. And I think it's in his advantage to allow inspectors back in his country to make sure that he's conforming to the agreement he made, after he was soundly trounced in the Gulf war. And so we're watching him very carefully. We're watching him carefully.

Your followup, please.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. It's a little offbeat, but—[*laughter*]—

The President. Okay. Well, I expect an offbeat question, frankly.

Q. — you've met twice in the White House, since you've been in office, with Prime Minister Sharon. But you have refused to meet with Yasser Arafat. Now that you envision a Palestinian state, will you meet with Arafat and, if so, when?

The President. I want to assure the American people, in particular our allies who are interested in our position in the Middle East, that we're spending a lot of time dealing with the Middle East. I know there was some concern amongst our allies when the September 11th—right after the September 11th attack, that we would forgo any responsibility we have in the Middle East. Secretary of State Powell is doing a great job of staying in contact with both Mr. Arafat and Prime Minister Sharon.

I have met with Prime Minister Sharon, and I've assured him every time we've met that he has no better friend than the United States of America. I also stated the other day that if we ever get into the Mitchell process where we can start discussing a political solution in the Middle East, that I believe there ought to be a Palestinian state, the boundaries of which will be negotiated by the parties, so long as the Palestinian state recognizes the right of Israel to exist and will treat Israel with respect.

Obviously, the events of September 11th have prevented overt diplomacy in the Middle East—not prevented it, it just made it—my calendar is a little crowded. On the other

hand, I am very much engaged. I have spoken to Prime Minister Sharon again. And if I am convinced that a meeting with a particular party at this point in time will further the process, I will do so. If it turns out to be an empty photo opportunity that creates expectations that will become dashed, I won't meet.

I hope progress is being made. I was pleased to see that Mr. Arafat is trying to control the radical elements within the Palestinian Authority. And I think the world ought to applaud him for that. I hope he's taking measures necessary to reduce the violence in the Middle East, so that we can get into the Mitchell process.

We're working hard on the topic, Helen. It's a very important part of our foreign policy.

David [David Gregory, NBC News].

Usama bin Laden and Al Qaida

Q. Mr. President, good evening. I'd like to ask you for a more complete portrait of your progress so far. Can you tell the American people, specifically, what is the state of Usama bin Laden? What is the state of the Al Qaida network? Are they on the run? To what extent have you been able to disrupt their activities? Do you believe there are members of those cells still in the United States capable of carrying out terrorist acts? And, again, do you know whether Usama bin Laden is dead or alive?

The President. Yes. Let me start backwards. I don't know if he's dead or alive. I want him brought to justice, however. We are following every possible lead to make sure that any Al Qaida member that could be in the United States is brought to justice. The FBI has got thousands of agents who are following every hint of a possibility of an Al Qaida member in our country. We're chasing down the leads of—that have been given to us as a result of the bombing, and we're following other leads.

Let me say one thing about the FBI that I think people find interesting. All of us in Government are having to adjust our way of thinking about the new war. The military is going to have to adjust. They recognize—and Secretary Rumsfeld clearly understands this—that we need to have a—that we need to rethink how we configure our military—there's been some stories to that effect—so that we can more effectively respond to asymmetrical responses from terrorist organizations. The FBI must think differently, and Director Mueller is causing them to do so.

The FBI, as you know, spent a lot of manpower and time chasing—spies in a post-cold-war era. They were still chasing spies—nothing wrong with that, except we have a new enemy. And now the FBI is rightly directing resources toward homeland security. It's been an adjustment. And I'm proud to report that Director Mueller has adjusted quickly.

I am confident that the Al Qaida organization is moving around Afghanistan. They think they might find safe haven? Not if we think they're there. And we've got them on the run.

The other day we brought to justice a person that killed an American citizen in 1986. He was charged with murder. And I made a point of talking about that in a press conference because I wanted not only terrorists to understand but the American people to understand that we'll be patient, if need be, to bring them to justice. We'll find them.

And he thought his—this is an interesting case in Afghanistan because it's—he thought he had hijacked a country. He actually did for a while. He forced a country to accept his radical thoughts. And it became a safe haven for bin Laden and the Al Qaida organization. It's no longer a safe haven, that's for sure, because of our military activity, David.

Yes, Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times].

Ensuring Continuity of Government

Q. Mr. President, you've tried very hard to assure Americans that the country is safe, and yet your own Vice President has spent most of this week in a secure location. Can you explain why that is and also how long that will last?

The President. Sure. I shook hands with the Vice President today in the Oval Office. I welcomed him out of his secure location. [*Laughter*] There are some times when the Vice President and I will be together, and

sometimes we won't be. We take very seriously the notion of the continuity of Government. It's a responsibility we share, to make sure that under situations such as this, when there are possible threats facing our Government, that we separate ourselves, for the sake of continuity of our Government. And I was pleased to see him. He's looking swell. [*Laughter*]

Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, some critics have expressed doubts about trying to get nations that once sponsored terrorism to now cooperate in the effort against terrorism. Would you share your thinking with us, sir, and is it your view that every sinner should get a chance to redeem himself—that there is, in effect, an amnesty for nations that once sponsored terrorism if they will now stop and cooperate with us?

The President. Of course. But our ability to affect host nations harboring terrorists will depend upon our determination, our will, our patience. We are sending a signal to the world as we speak that if you harbor a terrorist, there will be a price to pay.

And there are nations in the world that have expressed a desire to help. Helen mentioned Syria. The Syrians have talked to us about how they can help in the war against terrorism. We take that—we take that seriously, and we'll give them an opportunity to do so.

I'm a performance-oriented person. I believe in results. And if you want to join the coalition against terror, we'll welcome you in. I have recognized some countries will do things that others won't do. All I ask is for results. If you say you want to join us to cut off money, show us the money. If you say you want to join us militarily, like Great Britain does, do so—and they have done so in a fashion that should make the people of Great Britain proud. If you're interested in sharing intelligence, share intelligence—all ways.

I appreciate diplomatic talk, but I'm more interested in action and results. I am absolutely determined—absolutely determined—to rout terrorism out where it exists and bring them to justice. We learned a good lesson on September the 11th, that there is evil in this world. I know there's a lot of children in America wondering what took place. I think it's essential that all moms and dads and citizens tell their children we love them and there is love in the world, but also remind them there are evil people.

And it's my duty as the President of the United States to use the resources of this great Nation, a freedom-loving nation, a compassionate nation, a nation that understands values of life, and rout terrorism out where it exists. And we're going to give plenty of nations a chance to do so.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

FBI Warning

Q. Back to the FBI warning of today, which was based, it said, on certain information that there would be retaliatory attacks over the next several days. Given the complete generality of that warning, what does it really accomplish, aside from scaring people into not doing what you've urged them to do—getting back to their normal lives—what should they do with it, and did you personally approve the issuance of that warning?

The President. I'm aware of the intelligence that caused the warning to be issued, and it was a general threat on America. And as I mentioned earlier, had it been a specific threat, we would have contacted those to whom the threat was directed.

But Terry, I think it is important for the American people to know their Government is on full alert, and that's what that warning showed. We take every threat seriously, and the American people shouldn't be surprised that we're issuing alerts. After all, on our TV screens the other day, we saw the evil one threatening—calling for more destruction and death in America. And so we should take these threats seriously. And we had another threat, a general threat. Had it been specific, we would have dealt with the specifics of the threat.

I think the American people should take comfort in the fact that their Government is doing everything we possibly can do to run down every possible lead and take threats—and we take threats seriously.

I think the American people do understand that after September 11th, that we're

facing a different world. And they accept that responsibility. They accept that responsibility.

There is, I think, some positive news about the American people reacting to what we're doing. The load factors on airplanes are increasing. Now, I recognize certain routes have been reduced, but nevertheless, people are getting back on airplanes. That's important that that be the case. Hotels are getting more customers. That's important for the working people of the country.

We are getting back to normal. We're doing so with a new sense of awareness. And the warning that went out today helped heighten that sense of awareness.

John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, you've said on repeated occasions that you're not into nationbuilding. Yet, it appears in this case, given the politics of the region, it may play a crucial role in resolving this crisis. Prime Minister Blair of Britain has said that the coalition, if the Taliban falls, will work to create a broadly based government. I'm wondering, sir, has that become a priority of your administration now, to devise a plan for a new government in Afghanistan? And what part might King Zahir Shah play in that?

The President. Well, I think it's—John, it's a—first let me reiterate, my focus is bringing Al Qaida to justice and saying to the host Government, you had your chance to deliver. Actually, I will say it again—if you cough him up, and his people, today, that we'll reconsider what we're doing to your country. You still have a second chance. Just bring him in, and bring his leaders and lieutenants and other thugs and criminals with him.

I think we did learn a lesson, however, from—and should learn a lesson from the previous engagement in the Afghan area, that we should not just simply leave after a military objective has been achieved. That's why—and I sent that signal by announcing that we're going to spend $320 million of aid to the Afghan people. That's up from roughly $170 million this year.

I personally think that a—and I appreciate Tony Blair's—and I've discussed this with him—his vision about Afghan after we're successful—Afghanistan after we're successful. One of the things we've got to make sure of is that all parties, all interested parties have an opportunity to be a part of a new government, that we shouldn't play favorites between one group or another within Afghanistan. Secondly, we've got to work for a stable Afghanistan so that her neighbors don't fear terrorist activity again coming out of that country. Third, it would be helpful, of course, to eradicate narcotrafficking out of Afghanistan, as well.

I believe that the United Nations would—could provide the framework necessary to help meet those conditions. It would be a useful function for the United Nations to take over the so-called nationbuilding—I would call it the stabilization of a future government—after our military mission is complete. We'll participate; other countries will participate. I've talked to many countries that are interested in making sure that the post-operations Afghanistan is one that is stable and one that doesn't become yet again a haven for terrorist criminals.

Ken [Ken Walsh, U.S. News & World Report].

Domestic Reaction

Q. Mr. President, I'm sure many Americans are wondering where all this will lead. And you've called upon the country to go back to business and to go back to normal. But you haven't called for any sacrifices from the American people. And I wonder, do you feel that any will be needed? Are you planning to call for any? And do you think that American life will really go back to the way it was on September 10th?

The President. Well, you know, I think the American people are sacrificing now. I think they're waiting in airport lines longer than they've ever had before. I think that—I think there's a certain sacrifice when you lose a piece of your soul. And Americans—listen, I was standing up there at the Pentagon today, and I saw the tears of the families whose lives were lost in the Pentagon. And I said in my talk there that America prays with you. I think there's a sacrifice, there's a certain sense of giving themselves

to share their grief with people they'll never, maybe, ever see in their lives.

So America is sacrificing. America—I think the interesting thing that has happened, and this is so sad an incident, but there are some positive things developed—that are developing. One is, I believe that many people are reassessing what's important in life. Moms and dads are not only reassessing their marriage and the importance of their marriage but of the necessity of loving their children like never before. I think that's one of the positives that have come from the evildoers.

The evil ones have sparked an interesting change in America, I think—a compassion in our country that is overflowing. I know their intended act was to destroy us and make us cowards and make us not want to respond. But quite the opposite has happened. Our nation is united. We are strong. We're compassionate; neighbors care about neighbors.

The story I talked about earlier was one that really touched my heart, about women of cover fearing to leave their homes. And there was such an outpouring of compassion for people within our own country, a recognition that the Islamic faith should stand side by side, hand to hand with the Jewish faith and the Christian faith in our great land. It is such a wonderful example.

You know, I'm asked all the time—I'll ask myself a question. [*Laughter*] How do I respond to—it's an old trick—[*laughter*]—how do I respond when I see that in some Islamic countries there is vitriolic hatred for America? I'll tell you how I respond: I'm amazed. I'm amazed that there is such misunderstanding of what our country is about, that people would hate us. I am, I am—like most Americans, I just can't believe it, because I know how good we are, and we've got to do a better job of making our case. We've got to do a better job of explaining to the people in the Middle East, for example, that we don't fight a war against Islam or Muslims. We don't hold any religion accountable. We're fighting evil. And these murderers have hijacked a great religion in order to justify their evil deeds. And we cannot let it stand.

John [John King, Cable News Network].

Nature of the Coalition/ABM Treaty

Q. Mr. President, you have spoken with great pride of this international coalition. I want to ask you, before the events of September 11th, one of the big questions you faced this fall was, would you violate the Antiballistic Missile Treaty and go ahead with the missile defense plan if Russia did not strike a deal? Will you do that now because Russia's cooperation is so important? And separately but related, are you disappointed that while there have been some statements of support from the Muslim world and the Arab world, that there have not been more vocal and repeated statements agreeing with you that this is a war against terrorism, not Islam?

The President. John, let me start with the latter part. I was heartened by the Organization of Islamic Conference's statement of support for our war against terror. I think that that statement spoke volumes about the attitude of Muslim nations, and I was pleased to see that support.

Some coalition members will feel more comfortable doing certain things than other coalition members will. And my attitude is, and the attitude of my administration is, we'll accept any help that a government is comfortable in giving. And we should not try to force governments to do something that they can't do. Any help is better than no help.

And so, I am so appreciative of the help we're getting in the Middle East. Somebody asked me the other day, was I pleased with the actions of Saudi Arabia. I am. I appreciate the actions of that Government.

In terms of missile defense, I can't wait to visit with my friend Vladimir Putin, in Shanghai, to reiterate once again that the cold war is over, it's done with, and that there are new threats that we face, and no better example of that new threat than the attack on America on September 11th.

And I'm going to ask my friend to envision a world in which a terrorist thug and/or a host nation might have the ability to develop—to deliver a weapon of mass destruction via a—via rocket. And wouldn't it be in our nations' advantage to be able to shoot it down? At the very least, it should be in our nations' advantage to determine whether we can shoot it down. And we're restricted

from doing that because of an ABM Treaty that was signed during a totally different era.

The case cannot be even—the case is more strong today than it was on September the 10th that the ABM is outmoded, outdated, reflects a different time. And I'm more than—I am more than anxious to continue making my case to them. And we will do what's right in regards to—

Q. [*Inaudible*]—not agree, would you withdraw this year?

The President. Excuse me, I'm having trouble hearing John.

Q. If he does not agree with you, would you withdraw from the ABM Treaty this year?

The President. I have told Mr. Putin that the ABM Treaty is outdated, antiquated, and useless. And I hope that he will join us in a new strategic relationship.

One more question, please. Thank you

Domestic Reaction

Q. You talk about the general threat toward Americans. You know, the Internet is crowded with all sorts of rumor and gossip and, kind of, urban myths. And people ask us, what is it they're supposed to be on the lookout for? Other than the 22 most wanted terrorists, what are Americans supposed to look for and report to the police or to the FBI?

The President. Well, Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News], you know, if you find a person that you've never seen before getting in a crop duster that doesn't belong to you—[*laughter*]—report it. [*Laughter*] If you see suspicious people lurking around petrochemical plants, report it to law enforcement.

I mean, people need to be logical. Now, listen, I want to urge my fellow Americans not to use this as an opportunity to pick on somebody that doesn't look like you or doesn't share your religion. The thing that makes our Nation so strong and that will ultimately defeat terrorist activity is our willingness to tolerate people of different faiths, different opinions, different colors within the fabric of our society.

And so I would urge my fellow Americans, obviously, if they see something suspicious, abnormal, something that looks threatening, report it to local law enforcement.

America's Fund for Afghan Children

Let me conclude by one final statement. Thank you all for coming. Before we leave, I want to make a special request to the children of America. I ask you to join in a special effort to help the children of Afghanistan. Their country has been through a great deal of war and suffering. Many children there are starving and are severely malnourished. One in three Afghan children is an orphan. Almost half suffer chronic malnutrition. And we can, and must, help them.

We've created a special relief effort that will be supervised by the Red Cross. We are asking every child in America to earn or give a dollar that will be used to provide food and medical help for the children of Afghanistan. You can send your dollar in an envelope, marked America's Fund for Afghan Children, right here to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

This is an opportunity to help others, while teaching our own children a valuable lesson about service and character. I hope school classes or Boys and Girl Scout troops, other youth organizations will participate in any way to raise the money to send to the children. Wash your car. Do a yard for a neighbor. And I hope the adults will help them, as well.

Ultimately, one of the best weapons, one of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character and kindness of the American people. Americans are united in this fight against terrorism. We're also united in our concern for the innocent people of Afghanistan. Winter is coming, and by acting today we can help the children survive.

Thank you for your questions. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 8 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Al Qaida spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Muhammad Zahir Shah, former King of Afghanistan; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

October 11, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks to the March of Dimes Volunteer Leadership Conference

October 12, 2001

Thank you very much. Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Okay. Thank you all very much for your warm welcome. I'm honored to be here. I understand that for more than six decades, the volunteers and supporters of the March of Dimes have given help and hope to those in need, and I'm here to say thanks on behalf of the American people.

I'm also here to ask Americans for a good deed, something the children of America can do to help the children of Afghanistan.

Before I begin, I want to thank Tommy Thompson for his leadership. He left a great State—almost as good as Texas—[*laughter*]—to come and serve his country. And he's doing a fabulous job. As you know, there was a recent incident with anthrax in Florida. And Tommy handled that incident with such calm and such purpose and got the facts on the table early so that the American people were able to react in a way that did not disrupt their lives and, at the same time, felt comfortable that our Government was doing everything we could possibly do to protect the lives of citizens. Tommy is doing a great job. I'm glad I picked him, and I'm glad he came.

I, too, want to thank Gary and Jennifer for their leadership; thank the members of the trustees who are here. I want to thank the sponsors of the March of Dimes in this convention who are here. And I particularly want to thank the volunteers from all across America who have come today.

I not only appreciate your hard work on behalf of children in America; I appreciate you setting a good example by getting on the airplanes and trains and buses and going about the business of America. We will not let the terrorists hold us hostage in our country.

I'm especially proud to be here with an organization that's one of the most successful voluntary health organizations in the history of our Nation. For more than 60 years, 60 long years, the March of Dimes has coupled compassion and persistence. Your resolve in combating disease has changed the world in which we live.

Today, you're advocating better access to prenatal care, expanded health care coverage, and a greater awareness of proper nutrition and immunization. You're supporting genetic testing, screening, and research. These efforts are saving the lives of women and children and advancing the frontiers of medicine. You're working to reduce birth rates by 10 percent, reduce infant mortality to 7 per 1,000 live births, limit low birth rate to no more than 5 percent of all live births, and increase the number of women who get prenatal care in the first trimester to 90 percent—such important goals for our country, such an admirable cause. And I'm here to thank you for it.

Advancing these frontiers is also a priority of my administration, as Tommy pointed out. We're working with Congress to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health by $2.8 billion next year. And that's part of an effort to double NIH's funding to develop treatments and cures for some of the most deadly and debilitating diseases, diseases that affect Americans of all ages.

The March of Dimes is a great influence. And it's important for America to understand its history, as well. In the 1930's, America lived in fear of contracting a disease simply known as ''the crippler.'' Parents were afraid to send their children to public swimming pools or movie theaters. Countless children were in leg braces, transported in wheelchairs, or confined to what was called iron lungs.

In 1938, in the course of 4 months, America sent 2.6 million dimes to the White House in 4 short months, beginning a campaign that eventually resulted in the end of polio. This effort was even more extraordinary because it took place during the Great Depression, when a dime meant a heck of a lot more then than it means today. [*Laughter*]

At the height of the Depression, one-third of Americans were unemployed. Nearly 40 percent of banks had failed, and there was great anxiety and uncertainty in our country. Yet, hard times drew people together. The Great Depression tested America's character and revealed America at its best.

Americans have shown a similar strength since September the 11th. Terrorists hoped our Nation would come apart. That's what they hoped for. But instead, we've come together. Our country is more resolved, more united, and guided by a greater sense of purpose than any time during our lifetimes.

And some important things about our culture seem to be shifting. After the attacks, moms and dads held their children closer, and maybe for a moment longer. Millions have gone to synagogues and churches and mosques to renew their faith, to find perspective, to be reminded of the true values of life.

As Americans, we've mourned together, felt the same outrage and resolve, and we've helped our neighbors even when they're strangers. People are looking to things that are precious and permanent, things like family and faith, community, love of country, and love of one another.

In America, it seems like we're putting first things first. In my Inaugural Address, I said that some Americans feel like they share a continent but not a country. Today, that feeling is gone. We know we are a single nation, each a part of one another. The terrorists did not intend this unity and resolve, but they're powerless to stop them.

Our Nation has suffered a great loss. Yet, we are told that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope. And hope does not disappoint.

Late in life, Eleanor Roosevelt was asked what her husband had learned from the experience of polio. She said that Franklin had gained strength and courage he had not had before. ''He had to think out the fundamentals of living,'' she said, ''and learn the greatest of all lessons, infinite patience and neverending persistence.''

We all need to have a bit of Franklin Roosevelt in us today. We are engaged in a struggle that calls for patience and persistence. We face an enemy that plans in secret and acts without morality and without remorse.

We must fight this enemy wherever he plans or hides or runs, abroad and here at home. That will take time and determination. Yet, they're going to learn that we will not rest, and we will not fail.

Ours is a war against terrorism and evil, not against Islam. Americans respect and admire that religion of peace. And I'm proud our country is home to many followers of the Islamic faith. Those who hijacked four airliners on September the 11th are also trying to hijack Islam. But the mass killing of innocent people clearly violates Islam, and countries and clerics throughout the Islamic world have rejected these acts.

Nor is our war against global terrorism a war against the people of Afghanistan. The Afghan people are victims of oppression and misrule of the Taliban regime. There are few places on Earth that face greater misery. One out of every four children dies before the age of five, in Afghanistan. It is estimated that one in every three children in Afghanistan is an orphan; almost half suffer from chronic malnutrition; millions face the threat of starvation. The situation is so bad, so bad, that we read about 3-year-old children in Afghanistan who weigh less than the average newborn in America.

We're trying to get food to starving Afghans. In contrast, the Taliban regime, those who house the evildoers, has harnessed international aid—harassed international aid

workers and chased them out of their country. The people of Afghanistan have suffered too long under Taliban rule.

That suffering provides us with a task. I'm asking every child in America to give not a dime but a dollar to a specific cause, a relief effort for the children of Afghanistan. And I want to report to the Nation that after I laid out this initiative last night and confirming it here at your convention, that I've received the first dollar. [*Laughter*] It came from Justin Washington.

I know Justin pretty well. [*Laughter*] I got to see him in the Oval Office, and he made it clear, his boots were better than mine. [*Laughter*] But Justin, I want to thank you. Justin knows what I know: A dollar today is roughly equivalent to what a dime was in the late 1930's. It's an appropriate place to announce this initiative of compassion.

I hope American children in their classrooms and families in their homes put a dollar in an envelope and send it to America's Fund for Afghan Children, to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—[*laughter*]—Washington, DC 20509. [*Laughter*]

Schools, community and youth organizations can organize events to raise money for this cause. And they can, at the same time, demonstrate compassion and mercy in this hour of need. This effort is an opportunity to help others while teaching our children a valuable lesson about service and character. We will work with the Red Cross to make sure the money is used for food and medicine, to make sure the money provides hope and help to the children of Afghanistan.

We'll also coordinate with the Administrator of USAID to ensure that our efforts build on the important humanitarian work already being done.

During the last month, Americans have been extraordinarily generous in their giving of time and money. We still face many needs and challenges at home. And that's why Americans should continue supporting community-based organizations like the March of Dimes, which is doing so much good all across the country.

And Americans are the most generous people on Earth. And because the suffering is so great, I know we need to lend a hand to the children who live a world a halfway around the—a place a halfway around the world from here.

By embracing Afghan children, we assert the American ideal. Our Nation is the greatest force for good in the world history. We value the lives and rights of all people. Our compassion and concern do not stop at our border. They reach across the world. Americans are determined to fight for our security, no question about it. And we're all equally determined to live up to our principles. And I hope, I hope all Americans will help us show those principles to the entire world.

Thank you for what you do, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Forsee, chairman, Jennifer L. Howse, president, and Justin Washington, national ambassador, March of Dimes.

Remarks at a Reception Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

October 12, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Please be seated. *Bienvenidos.* Here's the way I like to put it: *Mi casa blanca es su casa blanca.* [*Laughter*]

We're gathered here to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic-Americans to our life. In a few moments, I will sign an Executive order creating a commission on educational excellence for Hispanic-Americans, to open new doors of opportunity for Hispanic boys and girls all across America.

Before I do, I have some thanks. First, I want to thank *mi abogado y tambien mi amigo.* I want to thank Judge Gonzales for his sound advice. I love him dearly.

I want to thank the boys and girls for leading us in the pledge. Thank you all for being here. I don't know whether you know this or not, but 52 million other children joined us at 2 o'clock today, saying the Pledge of Allegiance, all across America. The past weeks have given new meaning to those old words and have only deepened our allegiance to our Nation and to our flag.

I want to thank Jaci and Arturo for lending their voice and horn to this room. We've had

some great music here throughout the years, and it's going to be hard to top what we heard today. I want to thank them both for coming. I want to thank all *los voces Americanos* that sang today. I am honored that you all are here. I love your music. I love your passion. I love your love for America. And we're glad you're here.

And I'm glad America got to see some of our country's finest artists perform here in the East Room on a song that talks about the solidarity and love for our country, a love that knows no bounds, a love that knows no culture, a love that everybody can share who's lucky enough to live in America. And you all are welcome. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Emilio, especially, for lending your talents. The last time you were here was Cinco de Mayo. I said, ''The next time you come, make sure you bring Gloria.'' [*Laughter*] It just goes to show the power of the Presidency. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Luis Palau, as well, for your prayer. And I want to thank Don Francisco, as well. It's good to see you again, sir. Thank you for coming.

I'm proud that there's *dos Embajadores aqui, uno de Mexico*—good to see you, Ambassador Juan Jose Bremer from Mexico, *y tambien—y tambien el Embajador de España esta aqui,* Javier—*bienvenidos,* Javier. I should have said there was three Ambassadors. I meant, two Ambassadors to America, but one of—a friend of mine, I named the Ambassador to the Dominican Republic has joined us, Hans Hertell. Hans, good to see you, Hans.

I named a person who participated in Operation Pedro Pan. For those of you who don't know Operation Pedro Pan, years ago, Cuban moms and dads put their sons or daughters on a boat to America in order that they could live freely. They were uncertain about their own fate, but they knew they wanted their children to grow up in America, one of whom is now here. He's in my Cabinet, Mel Martinez.

I named a good man to be on the U.S. Court of Appeals, the DC Circuit, a man named Miguel Estrada. Miguel, where are you? Thank you for coming, Miguel.

You know, there's a lot of talk in Washington about making sure we have diversity on our courts, and there should be. I ask the Senate to move this man's nomination through. He's smart. He's capable. He needs that job. America needs to have him on the bench. Get him moving, before it's too late.

Ambassador to the OAS representing America, Roger Noriega. There he is—Roger. How are you? The next time, we'll try to get you a better seat. [*Laughter*] Either that, or show up on time. [*Laughter*]

Al Rascon, who is the National Director of the U.S. Selective Service and, more importantly, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, is with us today. Thank you, Al, for being here.

A man whose service has been called upon a lot, particularly for the businesses that were severely affected during the attack, Hector Barreto, the SBA Director. Leslie Sanchez, who is the Executive Director to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Where are you, Leslie? Leslie, right in front of me. The Treasurer of the United States, Rosario Marin—Rosario. Cristina Saralegui—where is she? Cristina.

As you know, I used to be associated with the baseball world. And we're honored to have some Major Leaguers here with us today. And we've got a great White Sox outfielder. *Donde esta Senor* Ordonez from the White Sox? There he is. *Como esta,* Magglio? Welcome. Glad you're here.

Another Ordonez, Rey Ordonez. Good to see you, Rey. Thank you for coming. Maybe next year. [*Laughter*]

Nelson Figueroa *de la Phillies.* Good to see you, Nelson. Thank you for coming. I'll get you afterwards. And from the San Francisco Giants, Russ Ortiz. Russ, thank you for coming. I'm honored you all are here. Thanks for coming. Thanks for setting a good example. Thanks for understanding that people look at you off the field of play as well as on the field of play. It's important that there be—young boys and girls look up to our baseball players and see a good example, and you're setting that. We're honored that you're here with us.

We also have three with us today who represent the thousands of Hispanic-Americans who serve in law enforcement and public safety. It's been a particularly trying time in

New York City for the firefighters and police officers. Fortunately, we have three gentlemen today who represent those fine men and women—Anthony Miranda of the New York City Latino Officers Association. Anthony, thank you for coming. Let me try this a different way. [*Laughter*] We have two others to introduce. [*Laughter*] From the Hispanic Society of the New York City Police Department, we've got Louis Hernandez and—[*laughter*]—from the Hispanic Society of the New York City Fire Department, Miguel Ramos. Now, thank you all for coming. Good job. Thanks for coming.

It is clear America is pulling for you all. And please pass on the word to the men and women who wear the uniform how proud we are and how much we mourn with you and how heroic you have been. The Nation appreciates it very much.

You know, obviously this is a time of great national unity. The evil ones struck, but they forgot who they were striking, evidently. They thought they were going to weaken us, but they didn't. We're strong and united. I've been amazed by the incredible acts of kindness that I've heard about. And obviously, we've all been impressed by the acts of heroism. This is the good news that has come during this tragedy. We've all come to realize how much we need each other.

Today there's been another reported case of anthrax in New York City at NBC News. And it has got to cause concern for our Nation. But I want everybody in the country to know we're responding rapidly. First of all, the person is feeling fine. She's doing well. She obviously didn't ingest enough to cause death, thank God. But we've got teams on the ground—the CDC, Center for Disease Control, the FBI, working closely with local agencies to respond quickly.

Our Nation is still in danger. But the Government is doing everything in our power to protect our citizenry. We need each other more than ever, and we're responding as quickly and as forcefully as we can.

The American people need to go about their lives. We cannot let the terrorists lock our country down. We can't let terrorists, a few evildoers, hold us hostage. Our Government will fight terrorism across the seas, and we'll fight it here at home. And the American people need to fight terrorism, as well, by going to work, going to ball games, getting on airplanes, singing with joy and strength, like you all did today. They will not take this country down.

We will not be cowed, and we're certainly not going to be divided. The evil ones, as well as the rest of the world, are learning that we're a nation made up of many cultures, many races, and many religions, but we are one strong nation.

We've suffered loss together; we have entered a mighty struggle together; and we will prevail together. The diversity of America has always been—always been—a great strength of this country. Here, you can be proud of your cultural heritage, proud of your ancestry, proud of your native language, and still be a proud American.

We see the spirit of pride today, most vividly in the ties between our country and *los que viven en Latin America—y tambien el sur de America.* A lifetime in Texas has given me many things to be thankful for; one of them, for certain, is my appreciation for the Hispanic culture. I realize how much the Hispanic culture has enriched my State. And I realize how much the Hispanic culture enriches my Nation, as well.

This month, our country recognizes just how much we owe to the Hispanic culture and, more important, to the Hispanic-Americans we're proud to call our fellow citizens. And we do so—as we do so, we recognize as well our obligation to ensure that every American has an equal place in our society from the earliest years in life.

This Nation of immigrant heritage believes that all children, whatever their circumstances, deserve a chance to learn and rise and succeed. This principle has guided my education reforms as we work to raise the standards of public schools across America and bring hope to every classroom for every child—I mean every child, not just a few, not just those whose parents may speak English. We want educational excellence *para todos que viven en este pais.*

So today I am creating a commission to help chart the path to greater achievement amongst Hispanic-American students in every part of our country. I am pleased to sign this order in front of such distinguished

company. And I'm proud—I'm proud—to be the President of such a great nation.

Thank you for coming. And God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Albert R. Gonzales, White House Counsel; Jaci Vasquez, who sang the National Anthem; trumpet player Arturo Sandoval; entertainer Gloria Estefan and her husband, Emilio Estefan, Jr.; Dr. Luis Palau, president, Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, who gave the invocation; Don Francisco, host of Sabado Gigante; Spanish Ambassador to the U.S. Francisco Javier Ruperez; Christina Saralegui, host of *El Show de Christina*; Rey Ordonez, shortstop, New York Mets; Anthony Miranda, president, Latino Officers Association—City of New York; Louis Hernandez, president, NYPD Hispanic Society; and Miguel Ramos, president, NYFD Hispanic Society.

Executive Order 13230—President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

October 12, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to advance the development of human potential, strengthen the Nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and increase opportunities for Hispanic Americans to participate in and benefit from Federal education programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is established, in the Department of Education, the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (Commission). The Commission shall consist of not more than 25 members. Twenty-one of the members shall be appointed by the President. Those members shall be representatives of educational, business, professional, and community organizations who are committed to improving educational attainment within the Hispanic community, as well as other persons deemed appropriate by the President. The President shall designate two of the appointed members to serve as Co-Chairs of the Commission. The other four members of the Commission shall be ex officio members, one each from the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Treasury, and the Small Business Administration. The ex officio members shall be the respective Secretaries of those agencies and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or their designees.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall provide advice to the Secretary of Education (''Secretary'') and shall issue reports to the President, as described in section 7 below, concerning:

(a) the progress of Hispanic Americans in closing the academic achievement gap and attaining the goals established by the President's ''No Child Left Behind'' educational blueprint;

(b) the development, monitoring, and coordination of Federal efforts to promote high-quality education for Hispanic Americans;

(c) ways to increase parental, State and local, private sector, and community involvement in improving education; and

(d) ways to maximize the effectiveness of Federal education initiatives within the Hispanic community.

Sec. 3. There is established, in the Department of Education, an office called the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (Initiative). The Initiative shall be located at, staffed, and supported by the Department of Education, and headed by a Director, who shall be a senior level executive branch official who reports to the Secretary. The Initiative shall provide the necessary staff, resources, and assistance to the Commission and shall assist and advise the Secretary in carrying out his responsibilities under this order. The staff of the Initiative shall gather and disseminate information relating to the educational achievement gap of Hispanic Americans, using a variety of means, including conducting surveys, conferences, field hearings, and meetings, and other appropriate vehicles designed to encourage the participation of organizations and individuals interested in such issues, including parents, community leaders, academicians, business leaders, teachers, employers, employees and public officials at the local, State, and Federal levels. To the extent permitted by law, executive

branch departments and agencies shall cooperate in providing resources, including personnel detailed to the Initiative, to meet the objectives of this order. The Initiative shall include both career civil service and appointed staff with expertise in the area of education.

Sec. 4. Executive branch departments and agencies, to the extent permitted by law and practicable, shall provide any appropriate information requested by the Commission or the staff of the Initiative, including data relating to the eligibility for and participation by Hispanic Americans in Federal education programs and the progress of Hispanic Americans in closing the academic achievement gap and in achieving the goals of the President's ''No Child Left Behind'' education blueprint. Where adequate data are not available, the Commission shall suggest the means for collecting the data. In accordance with the accountability goals established by the President, executive branch departments and agencies involved in relevant programs shall report to the President through the Initiative by September 30, 2002, on:

(a) efforts to increase participation of Hispanic Americans in Federal education programs and services;

(b) efforts to include Hispanic-serving school districts, Hispanic-serving institutions, and other educational institutions for Hispanic Americans in Federal education programs and services;

(c) levels of participation attained by Hispanic Americans in Federal education programs and services; and

(d) the measurable impact resulting from these efforts and levels of participation. The Department of Education's report also shall describe the overall condition of Hispanic American education and such other aspects of the educational status of Hispanic Americans, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

Sec. 5. Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App), may apply to the Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Department of Education in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 6. (a) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(b) To the extent permitted by law, the Department of Education shall provide funding and administrative support for the Commission and the Initiative.

Sec. 7. The Commission shall prepare and submit an interim and final report to the President outlining its findings and recommendations as follows:

(a) The Commission shall submit an Interim Report no later than September 30, 2002. The Interim Report shall describe the Commission's examination of:

(i) available research and information on the effectiveness of current practices at the local, State, and Federal levels in closing the educational achievement gap for Hispanic Americans and attaining the goals established by the President's ''No Child Left Behind'' educational blueprint;

(ii) available research and information on the effectiveness of current practices involving Hispanic parents in the education of their children; and

(iii) the appropriate role of Federal agencies' education programs in helping Hispanic parents successfully prepare their children to graduate from high school and attend post secondary institutions.

(b) The Commission shall issue a Final Report no later than March 31, 2003. The Final Report shall set forth the Commission's recommendations regarding:

(i) a multi-year plan, based on the data collected concerning identification of barriers to and successful models for closing the educational achievement gap for Hispanic Americans, that provides for a coordinated effort among parents, community leaders, business leaders, educators, and public officials at the local, State, and Federal levels to close the educational achievement gap for Hispanic Americans and ensure attainment of the goals established by the President's ''No Child Left Behind'' educational blueprint.

(ii) the development of a monitoring system that measures and holds executive

branch departments and agencies accountable for the coordination of Federal efforts among the designated executive departments and agencies to ensure the participation of Hispanic Americans in Federal education programs and promote high-quality education for Hispanic Americans;

(iii) the identification of successful methods employed throughout the Nation in increasing parental, State and local, private sector, and community involvement in improving education for Hispanic Americans;

(iv) ways to improve on and measure the effectiveness of Federal agencies' education programs in ensuring that Hispanic Americans close the educational achievement gap and attain the goals established by the President's ''No Child Left Behind'' educational blueprint; and

(v) how Federal Government education programs can best be applied to ensure Hispanic parents successfully prepare their children to attend post secondary institutions.

Sec. 8. The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, unless extended by the President.

Sec. 9. Executive Order 12900 of February 22, 1994, as amended, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 12, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 17.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Combat Terrorism and Terrorist Attacks

October 12, 2001

I commend the Senate for acting quickly and in a bipartisan way to give law enforcement these essential, additional tools to combat terrorism and safeguard America against future terrorist attacks. This important legislation respects our Constitution while allowing us to treat terrorist acts the same as serious drug crimes and organized crime, and strengthens our ability to share information to disrupt, weaken, and eliminate global terrorist networks. We need these tools now. I am hopeful that I will be able to sign this legislation into law soon.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Combat Terrorism and Terrorist Attacks

October 12, 2001

I commend the House for passing antiterrorism legislation just one day after the Senate took action. The House and Senate bills are virtually identical. I urge the Congress to quickly get the bill to my desk. We must strengthen the hand of law enforcement to help safeguard America and prevent future attacks—and we must do it now.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 6

In the evening, the President had telephone conversations from Camp David, MD, with congressional leaders.

October 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Emmitsburg, MD, and then to Washington, DC.

October 8

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand, President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea, and President Jiang Zemin of China. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy for a working visit on October 15.

October 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal concerning cooperation against terrorism. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

During the day, the President met with Members of Congress concerning peace efforts in Macedonia and the Middle East and the U.S. response to terrorism.

The White House announced that the President will welcome NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson for a meeting on October 10.

The President announced his intention to nominate Don Q. Washington to be Ambassador to the Fiji Islands, Nauru, and Tonga and Tuvalu.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jeannemarie Arajona Devolites to be a director of the Board of Directors for the Student Loan Marketing Association.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mary Jane Fate to be the Indigenous Representative to the Arctic Research Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Louis Mead Treadwell to be the Academic Representative to the Arctic Research Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Manuel J. Justiz to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association.

The President announced his intention to appoint Edward G. Lewis to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

October 10

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders, and later, he met with his National Security Council.

In an afternoon ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Christian Blikenstorfer of Switzerland, Nguyen Tam Chien of Vietnam, Shaikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, Jules Ogouebandja of Gabon, Shaikh Khalifa Ali Al-Khalifa of Bahrain, Osman Faruk Logoglu of Turkey, Martin Palous of the Czech Republic, Jukka Robert Valtasaari of Finland, and Henry Lothar Illes of Suriname.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Gloria Macapago-Arroyo of the Philippines to Washington on November 20.

The President announced his intention to nominate Naneen H. Neubohn to be U.S. Executive Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

October 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

October 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to congratulate him on winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher Bancroft Burnham to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of State.

The President announced the designation of Thomas E. White as Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and a tornado on August 17–18.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand to Washington on November 30.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 9

Rene Acosta,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the remainder of the term expiring August 27, 2003, vice John C. Truesdale, resigned.

Julia Smith Gibbons,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Gilbert S. Merritt, retired.

William J. Hybl,
of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the 56th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Ernest L. Johnson,
of Louisiana, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 56th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

John Thomas Korsmo,
of North Dakota, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2002, vice Lawrence U. Costiglio, term expired.

John Thomas Korsmo,
of North Dakota, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2009 (reappointment).

Nancy Cain Marcus,
of Texas, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 56th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Philip R. Martinez,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas (new position).

C. Ashley Royal,
of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, vice Duross Fitzpatrick, retired.

Charles S. Shapiro,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

William H. Steele,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, vice Emmett Ripley Cox, retired.

Submitted October 10

William D. Montgomery,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Sandra L. Pack,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Helen Thomas McCoy.

Jeffrey Shane,
of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Stephen D. Van Beek, resigned.

Jay C. Zainey,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice A.J. McNamara, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a statement by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer on the President's upcoming address to the Nation

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S.-Japan Economic Sub-Cabinet Discussions

Released October 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Counselor to the President Karen Hughes on the President's decision to act against Al Qaida training camps and Taliban military installations in Afghanistan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi

Released October 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by German Chancellor Schroeder

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Director of Homeland Security Thomas Ridge on creation of the President's Special Adviser for Cyberspace Security and the Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism

Fact sheet: The National Director for Combating Terrorism and the Special Adviser to the President for Cyberspace Security

Released October 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Arroyo of the Philippines

Fact sheet: The List of Most Wanted Terrorists—Overview

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Released October 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action to impose tough Federal oversight of airline security

Excerpt from the President's news conference on America's Fund for Afghan Children

Released October 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nebraska

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Thaksin of Thailand

Fact sheet: America's Fund for Afghan Children

Acts Approved by the President

***Approved October 5* ***

H.R. 2510 / Public Law 107–47
Defense Production Act Amendments of 2001

Approved October 12

H.J. Res. 68 / Public Law 107–48
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

* This public law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Week Ending Friday, October 19, 2001

The President's Radio Address

October 13, 2001

Good morning. This week we opened some important new fronts in the war on terror. We're taking the war to the enemy, and we are strengthening our defenses here at home.

In last week's radio address, I warned that time was running out for the Taliban to turn over the terrorists they shelter. They did not listen, and they are paying a price.

On Sunday American and British forces launched strikes at terrorist camps and Taliban military targets in Afghanistan. Our men and women in uniform are performing as they always do, with skill and courage, and they have achieved the goals of the first phase of our campaign. We have disrupted the terrorist network inside Afghanistan. We have weakened the Taliban's military, and we have crippled the Taliban's air defenses.

American forces dominate the skies over Afghanistan, and we will use that dominance to make sure terrorists can no longer freely use Afghanistan as a base of operations.

This campaign will not be completed in one attack. Our enemy prefers to attack the helpless. He hides from our soldiers. But we're making a determined effort to take away his hiding places. The best defense against terrorism is a strong offensive against terrorists. That work continues.

At the same time, we are taking further action to strengthen our protections against terrorism here at home. This week I signed an Executive order creating a new Office of Homeland Security. The Office is headed by a skilled and tested leader, former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge.

Governor Ridge is a decorated Vietnam combat veteran. He's an effective executive, and he knows what we're up against because his own State was one of the three where Americans died on September the 11th.

Governor Ridge is charged with coordinating a comprehensive national effort to protect our country against terrorism, to frustrate terrorists' plans, to help protect vulnerable points, and to prepare our response to potential threats. Tom Ridge will report directly to me, and he will have the full support of our entire Government.

I understand that many Americans are feeling uneasy. But all Americans should be assured: We are taking strong precautions; we are vigilant; we are determined; the country is alert; and the great power of the American Nation will be felt.

Our Nation is grateful to so many Americans who are rallying to our cause and preparing for the struggle ahead: FBI agents; intelligence officers; emergency response workers; public health authorities; State and local officials; our diplomats abroad; law enforcement teams who safeguard our security at home; and soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who defend us so far away.

Many others are asking, "What can I do?" Americans already contribute to the war on terror by their patience and patriotism, by their resolve and generosity.

Yet, I have one more task, one especially for America's children. I urge you to show the best of America by directly helping the children of Afghanistan who are suffering from the oppression and misrule of their own Government. Many are malnourished; many are starving.

Put a dollar in an envelope. Mark it, "America's Fund for Afghan Children," and send it here to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20509–1600. Working with the American Red Cross, we will get that money to Afghan children in need.

This is something the children of America can do for the children of Afghanistan, even as we oppose the brutal Taliban regime. We will oppose their evil with firm justice, and

we will answer their hatred with compassion for the Afghan people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:20 a.m. on October 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Videotaped Remarks to the American Society of Anesthesiologists

October 14, 2001

Thank you very much. I'm honored to have this opportunity to speak to the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

During the past few days, our Nation has experienced one of the darkest moments in our history. Yet, even in the midst of this tragedy, the eternal lights of America's goodness and greatness have shown through. We've seen it in the countless Americans who gave blood or donated money. We've seen it in the tales of heroic police officers and firemen who went into the World Trade Centers to save lives. And we've seen it in the simple yet profound gestures of love and patriotism from every part of the American family.

It's been said that public service is not limited to public office. And the events of the past few days have shown how true that is. I want to thank all of you in the American Society of Anesthesiologists for doing your part during the difficult past few days. Whether it was the doctors who worked overtime to help victims in New York and Washington or those who gave money and offered prayers, our Nation is blessed by so many dedicated health care professionals.

But the business of our Nation goes forward. America faces many challenges, including those in health care. Let me be clear about this: We will win the war on terrorism, and we will also continue to fight important battles at home. And that means my administration remains committed to improving the quality of health care for all Americans and improving Medicare for all seniors.

My administration remains committed to passing a real Patients' Bill of Rights. With your help, we'll pass a bill that puts the care of patients in the hands of doctors, not trial lawyers. I will continue to support commonsense reforms that enhance the rights of the patient without unnecessarily raising the cost of health care and increasing the number of uninsured. And I believe this can be done.

The compromise Congressman Norwood and I forged this summer—and passed by the House of Representatives—represents the best and most real solution. Simply put, it achieves both the goals of improving the quality of health without unnecessarily raising health care costs.

And for our seniors, we're committed to reforming Medicare. For too long, too many doctors and too many Medicare patients have had to fight not only illness but also bureaucracy. My goal in reforming Medicare is to make it less bureaucratic and more efficient.

Here are the main principles for strengthening and improving Medicare: Nobody on Medicare will see any change in Medicare unless he or she wants it. There will be new Medicare choices, and all of these new choices will offer prescription drugs. Medicare plans will compete by offering better service and lower premiums. Medicare will respond better to the needs of seniors, especially low-income seniors and seniors with high medical bills. And Medicare modernization will strengthen the program's long-term financial security.

These are principles which will strengthen one of our Nation's most sacred obligations, the health of our senior citizens. We will protect seniors now, offering exciting new services and more choices to seniors in the future and guarantee prescription drug coverage. And we will do it without overtaxing our children and our grandchildren.

Medicine is constantly improving. Medicare must keep pace. That's my administration's commitment today and its exciting new vision for health care in America.

Again, thank you all for allowing me to join you. And thanks for all you are doing to make America great. God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped on September 24 at approximately 3 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later transmission to a meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in New Orleans, LA. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 14. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters on Returning From Camp David, Maryland

October 14, 2001

Taliban

Q. Mr. President, there's a new offer from the Taliban to turn over bin Laden. What's your response to that, sir?

The President. Turn him over. Turn him over; turn his cohorts over; turn any hostages they hold over; destroy all the terrorist camps. There's no need to negotiate. There's no discussions. I told them exactly what they need to do. And there's no need to discuss innocence or guilt. We know he's guilty. Turn him over. If they want us to stop our military operations, they've just got to meet my conditions. Now, when I said no negotiation, I meant no negotiation.

Q. You reject his offer?

The President. I don't know what the offer is. All they've got to do is turn him over, and his colleagues and the stocks he hides, as well as destroy his camps, and the innocent people being held hostage in Afghanistan.

Q. They want you to stop the bombing and see evidence.

The President. There's no negotiation—they must have not heard—there's no negotiation. This is non-negotiable. These people, if they're interested in us stopping our military operations, we will do so if they meet the conditions that I outlined in my speech to the United States Congress. It's as simple as that. There's nothing to negotiate about. They're harboring a terrorist, and they need to turn him over—and not only turn him over, turn the Al Qaida organization over, destroy all the terrorist camps—actually, we're doing a pretty good job of that right now—and release the hostages they hold. That's all they've got to do, but there is no negotiation, period.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately noon on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy and an Exchange With Reporters

October 15, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the leader of one of our Nation's best friends, the Prime Minister of a country that has had so much to do with our Nation and its development. I'm also pleased to be able to give him a lunch. After all, I had one of the best lunches I've had at his—since I've been the President because of the Prime Minister.

We had a long discussion about our mutual desire to rout out terrorism where it might exist. He understands as well as I understand that the war on terrorism will be waged on many fronts, and I'm so pleased with the efforts of his Government to join with us in disrupting the financial networks of terrorist organizations. I'm pleased that we're sharing intelligence. I'm pleased that the Prime Minister understands that Al Qaida has cells all around the world, and he's more than willing to work with us to disrupt those cells, to bring people to justice. We're making progress. One reason we're making progress is because we've got good, strong friends such as the Italians and the Italian Government.

So Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. It's my honor to have you here.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you, Mr. President, I am here, first of all, to express our great pain and sadness for the attack on September the 11th and to say to you that if the same attack had been—had occurred on an Italian city, we would have felt the same pain as you are.

And also I'm here to express to you our desire to be as close as possible and to provide both moral and material support. As I mentioned earlier this morning, this attack was an attack not only against citizens but also against freedom and liberty. The U.S.

is the defensor of liberty all over the world, and that's what this attack was about.

President Bush. We'll answer a couple of questions.

Anthrax

Q. These anthrax attacks, sir, do you believe that there is any connection to bin Laden's organization? Your Vice President, on Friday, seemed to indicate there may be some possible link.

President Bush. There may be some possible link. We have no hard data yet, but it's clear that Mr. bin Laden is a man who is an evil man. He and his spokesmen are openly bragging about how they hope to inflict more pain on our country. So we're watching every piece of evidence. We're making sure that we connect any dots that we have to find out who's doing this. I wouldn't put it past him, but we don't have hard evidence, yet.

Yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Do you have anything that points towards bin Laden, besides your gut? And has there been any other reports of anthrax tainted mail being received by U.S. businesses or Government offices today?

President Bush. There has been today. I just talked to Leader Daschle. His office received a letter, and it had anthrax in it. The letter was field tested. The staffers that have been exposed are being treated. The powder that had been field tested is now, obviously, going to the CDC lab.

Beyond that, I don't know more about it. I spoke to the leader. He is, obviously, concerned, as am I. The key thing for the American people is to be cautious about letters that come from somebody you may not know, unmarked letters, letters that have got—that look suspicious. And give those letters and packages to local law authorities.

Again, the process is working, but today the Senate majority leader—his office did receive a letter.

Q. Was it definitely anthrax, or just a preliminary test, do you know?

President Bush. The field test shows it to be anthrax. Ron, there's more tests being conducted as we speak. The leader believes it is anthrax, but we'll find out more as time goes on.

They've got the letter. As he said, it was a letter that had been wrapped a lot and that the powder was within the confines of the—within the envelope. It wasn't on the outside of the envelope; it was within the envelope. And a staffer opened the letter. They obviously became suspicious of the material within the letter and immediately called in for a field test. The field test was done, shows it to be anthrax, and then all people are being treated.

India and Pakistan

Q. India says it opened fire on Pakistani positions in the Kashmir region today, this just an hour or 2 after Secretary Powell landed in Pakistan. How helpful is something like that?

President Bush. I haven't see a report yet, John [John King, Cable News Network]. And I think it is very important that India and Pakistan stand down during our activities in Afghanistan—down, for that matter, forever.

But I am—I need to find out more about the report; I will find out more about the report. As you noted, our Secretary of State is in the region. One reason he's there is to talk to both sides about making sure that there is no—that if there are tensions—and obviously, there are—that they be reduced, that we are mindful that activities around Kashmir could create issues in that part of the region, particularly as we're conducting our operations in Afghanistan.

Yes, sir.

National Economy/Italian Cooperation

Q. Mr. President, you have mentioned that you would—the other evening in your press conference, that you would like to see more action from the allies, and you mentioned what the U.K. is doing. What would you say about what Italy has done? And what was the subject of your conversation? Would you like to see something more done by Italy? And also, from Europe, would you like to see more economic action from the European side to help the U.S. economy? Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you. First of all, we're taking measures here at home to get

our economy started. There is some optimism, as some numbers recently have shown that consumer confidence is getting stronger, that people are beginning to get on the airways more, that people are traveling. So there are some positive signs.

I hope to work with—I am working with Congress and hope to get a stimulus package that will dovetail nicely with the tax cuts we had this summer, coupled with some of the spending measures we've taken since September the 11th.

First of all, I'm very pleased with the cooperation and support of Italy. They have been very strong from the beginning. The Prime Minister has been very—not only supportive but has asked how to help in significant ways to fight terrorism.

Again, I repeat to you, this is a war that's going to be fought on a variety of fronts. One such front will be to disrupt financial—the finances of the terrorist organizations. And he was discussing with me some Executive orders that had been taken recently that showed Italy's desire to be very firm about disrupting finances. There is a sharing of information that goes on.

I'm confident that if we put out the word that we needed more help from Italy, they would be more than willing to help. Each of us has a role to play. And the Italian Government, under this good man's leadership, is playing a very significant role.

We're going to go eat lunch. Thank you.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. *Grazie.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:11 p.m. on the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to Members of the Senior Executive Service

October 15, 2001

Thank you all. I order you to stop. [*Laughter*] Thanks for the kind introduction, and thanks for such a warm welcome. These are extraordinary times, times of testing for our Government and for our Nation. Yet, all of us can be proud of the response of our Government and the exceptional character of the Nation we serve. I've never felt more certain about America's goodness or more confident about America's future.

I have come to Constitution Hall today to express my appreciation for your dedication and integrity, your commitment to excellence, and your love of our country. The work of both career and political employees during the last 9 months has been outstanding. We've accomplished a great deal together. And since September 11th, Federal employees have acted with remarkable professionalism and purpose. And on behalf of the American people, I thank you.

I want to thank my old college roommate and friend Clay Johnson for thinking of this idea of coming to Constitution Hall to speak to you. I want to thank Ruth Sanchez-Way for her warm introduction and her work on behalf of the American people. I want to thank my friend Kay James for being here, as well. I want to thank the Navy Band. Every time you play, I step a little lighter. [*Laughter*] I'm really proud of my Cabinet. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here, and I'm proud of you all, as well.

I want to start by recognizing the 65 winners of the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive who are seated behind me. Congratulations. And I want to congratulate the Meritorious Executives who are here in the audience with us, as well. All career members of the Senior Executive Service, and today we honor their exceptional performance. Their work covers a tremendous range of issues, yet they share some things in common: an outstanding work ethic, commitment to public service, and pride in a job well done.

One person who was chosen to receive a Presidential Rank Award is not with us today. Bryan Jack headed the Defense Department's Programming and Fiscal Economics Division. He was a brilliant mathematician and top budget analyst. A native Texan, a graduate of Stanford Business School, and newly married, Bryan was a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77 when it crashed on September 11th. Bryan's wife, Barbara Rachko, is with us today. I know how proud you are, Barbara, of your husband. And in this hour of grief—in your hour of grief, the

Nation is on bended knee with you. Where is Barbara?

Since September 11th, we've seen America more united and resolute than at any point in our lifetimes. We've seen a nation that is generous and patriotic and a nation that is determined to see justice be done. We've also seen acts of great sacrifice and heroism. And many of those acts were performed by people who serve in government at the local, State, and Federal level—the police and firefighters, medics, FEMA employees, members of the military, and civilian employees of Government. They've worked past exhaustion. They have risked their lives. And some gave their lives, as well. Our Nation is grateful for all these men and women who have shown the meaning of duty and public sacrifice.

In times of war, the American people look to the Government more than they do in times of peace. They count on Government to help protect them, and we will. They count on the Government to defeat those who are trying to destroy us, and we will. Yet, while our Government is focused on the war against terrorism, it continues to have vital responsibilities in other areas. We will give our best to America in war effort, in all other areas of responsibility, as well.

In doing so, we must resist pressure to unwisely expand Government. We need to affirm a few important principles, that Government should be limited but effective, should do a few things and do them well. It should welcome market-based competition wherever possible. It should respect the role and authority of State and local governments, which are closest to the people. And Government should do everything it can to strengthen families, which are the cornerstone of our society.

Today, we're seeing one of the highest levels of trust in Government since the mid-sixties, which is due partly to the surge of national pride that has swept our country since the terrorist attacks. But it's also because of how you've performed your jobs, particularly during the last month. The American people have placed their trust in us, and we will honor that trust.

Let me say a few words about important values we must demonstrate while all of us serve in Government. First, we must always maintain the highest ethical standards. We must always ask ourself not only what is legal but what is right. There is no goal of Government worth accomplishing if it cannot be accomplished with integrity.

Second, I want us to set an example of humility. As you work for the Federal Government, there is no excuse for arrogance, and there's never a reason to show disrespect for others. A new tone in Washington must begin with decency and fairness. I want everyone who represents our Government to be known for these values.

Third, we must confront the tough problems, not avoid them and leave them for others. This is never easy, but it's what conscience demands and what leadership requires. We must keep the long view and remind ourselves that we're here to serve the public's long-term interests.

Fourth, I hope you'll never take the honor of public service for granted. Some of us will serve in Government for a season; others will spend an entire career here. But all of us should dedicate ourselves to great goals: We are not here to mark time but to make progress, to achieve results, and to leave a record of excellence.

Fifth, we should never forget that we're part of the same team. The American people do not distinguish between political and career employees. They don't hold us to separate standards. The public has high expectations for the entire Government, and together we will meet those expectations.

And sixth, we should always remember, every dollar we spend is the taxpayers' money. People worked hard to earn it, and so we should spend it wisely and reluctantly. That will take discipline and creative leadership, and I urge all of us to show that kind of leadership.

I know that you face barriers in trying to lead creatively. Some of them are imposed by Congress, including barriers to hiring people you need, rewarding men and women of merit, and contracting services which would save the taxpayers money. And that's why, last August, my administration released a strategy for improving the performance of the Federal Government. And that is why, shortly, we will be sending to Congress the

"Freedom to Manage Act," and the "Managerial Flexibility Act," which will allow you to manage more efficiently and serve the public in better fashion.

Those of you in high places of Government are more than administrators and experts. You hold the ideals and hopes of the Nation in trust. And I want to thank you for your willingness to serve our great Nation.

It is an incredible honor for me to be the leader of such a strong team on behalf of the American people, a team of men and women who could be doing something else but have decided, "I want to serve the greatest land on the face of the Earth."

Let's do our duty. Let's hold ourselves to the highest of standards. And we'll leave this city and this Government better than we found it.

Thank you for having me. May God bless your work, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Remarks in a Welcoming Ceremony for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Arlington, Virginia

October 15, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, thanks for those kind remarks, and congratulations once again. I know your family is proud, and I want to congratulate Mary Jo, Rich, and your daughters, Nicole and Erin.

I also want to congratulate Pete Pace, who succeeds General Myers as the Vice Chairman. Pete, I want to congratulate Lynne, as well; Tiffany, Lieutenant Pete Pace, and of course, I've got to congratulate your mom, Doris. Moms are pretty important, as I learned firsthand. And so did you.

Mr. Secretary, we did a fine job in picking these two men. There's no question we made the right choice. And there's no question I made the right choice when I named you Secretary of Defense.

The country is coming to know Don like I know him. He's a no-nonsense kind of guy. He speaks his mind. He's results-oriented. He's the right man at the right time to defeat the evil ones. I appreciate your service. I appreciate the service of Paul Wolfowitz, your Deputy, and all the folks you've assembled at the Defense Department. I also want to welcome the Members of Congress who are here; I know Congressman Ike Skelton is here, and others are, as well.

General Myers and I have spent a lot of quality time together recently. He has my complete confidence. Richard B. Myers is the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, taking his place in a line that began with another general who was born in Missouri, Omar Bradley. And like Omar Bradley, General Myers is known for his calm manner, sound judgment, and his clear strategic thinking. Now, at any time those qualities would be important; but today, they're indispensable.

When General Myers and General Pace stood at my side in Crawford, Texas, this summer, I spoke of our duty to protect and defend America's values and interests in the world. Since that time, those values and interests have come under direct attack.

America has awakened to a great danger. We have entered a different kind of war. And the enemy is finding out we are ready. We are fighting this war, and we will win this war on many fronts—by diplomacy, law enforcement, financial sanctions, and intelligence. And our military is playing an essential role. Eight days ago, I sent the Armed Forces into action. They have performed with skill and precision. They know their work, and they know the American people are behind them.

I made a commitment to every service man and woman: For the mission that lies ahead, you will have everything you need, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States, our allies, our friends, and the cause of freedom.

In the war against terror, there will be times of swift and visible action. There will be times of steady and quiet progress. We will be patient, and we will be persistent. The terrorists are beginning to understand: There is no place to run; there is no place to hide; there is no place to rest.

During last week's memorial service at the Pentagon, Secretary Rumsfeld observed that the terrorists reserve special contempt for the United States military. And it's easy to see why. In the values and traditions of our military, you represent everything they hate. You defend human freedom. You value life. Here and around the world, you keep the peace that they seek to destroy. You live by a code of honor and a tradition of loyalty and decency.

The new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs represents the best in this tradition. Since the day he was commissioned as second lieutenant in 1965, Dick Myers has brought great credit to his uniform and to his country. He and his outstanding Vice Chairman have assumed crucial positions at a crucial hour, and our country is thankful for your service.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in Conmy Hall at Fort Myer. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Jo Myers, wife of Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, and their son, Rich, and their daughters, Nicole and Erin; and Lynne Pace, wife of Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, their son, Lt. Pete Pace, USMC, their daughter, Tiffany, and Gen. Pace's mother, Doris Pace.

Proclamation 7485—National School Lunch Week, 2001

October 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's future depends on fulfilling the promise in our children. As parents, teachers, community activists, governmental leaders, and concerned citizens, we must strongly commit ourselves to ensuring that our young people receive the care, education, and resources they need to realize their potential.

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has played an important part in pursuing that goal, by serving schoolchildren nutritious, well-balanced meals. Currently, the National School Lunch Program daily provides more than 27 million lunches in more than 97,700 schools. Of the children who participate in this program, 57 percent receive their meals for free or at a reduced price. For many of them, lunch is their only meal of the day that meets recommended nutritional guidelines.

The National School Lunch Program contributes to the development of healthy eating habits among our children. The Program's Team Nutrition Initiative focuses on teaching and motivating children to make food choices that enhance their energy, growth, and potential.

The Program is vitally important to achieving our educational goals. Poorly fed children have more difficulty learning, are less attentive in class, and suffer more chronic problems, such as absenteeism and tardiness, than children who are properly nourished. By making nutritious meals available to all schoolchildren, the National School Lunch Program will help us ensure that we leave no child behind.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87–780), has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 14 through October 20, 2001, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who lead child nutrition programs at the State and local levels in appropriate activities and celebrations that promote these programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17.

Proclamation 7486—White Cane Safety Day, 2001

October 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National White Cane Safety Day, observed annually on October 15, is a day of special significance for blind and visually impaired Americans because it represents a declaration of freedom. It also signifies a commitment by the sighted community to improve access to basic services for blind and visually impaired persons.

The familiar "white cane" is recognized as a tool of independence that enables the blind and visually impaired to participate in the facets of daily life. The core principles of our country promise freedom, justice, and hope; and these principles should guarantee the opportunity for every disabled American to live full and productive lives. The new millennium brings with it a renewed pledge to ensure that no citizen is prevented from realizing the American dream because of a disability.

Eleven years ago, when the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted into law, America opened its doors to a new age of access for people with disabilities. To build on this landmark civil rights law, I have launched the "New Freedom Initiative," which is intended to ensure that all Americans with disabilities can participate more fully in the life of their communities and of our country. As part of this initiative, my Administration has asked the Congress to increase significantly Federal funding for State low-interest loan programs, so Americans with disabilities can purchase new assistive technologies. To help researchers continue to develop these types of helpful technologies, we have asked the Congress to increase Federal investment in assistive technology research and development. All Americans must work together to break down barriers and obstacles that may impede the progress of individuals with disabilities; and we must provide them with ever greater access to the workplace and public transportation.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved on October 6, 1964, has designated October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon every American to observe this day by joining with me in working to open the doors of opportunity further and making the American dream a reality for all blind and visually impaired citizens of our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2001, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17.

Remarks on America's Fund for Afghan Children

October 16, 2001

Thank you all very much. Last week I asked America's children to send a dollar to the White House to help provide food and medicine to the children of Afghanistan. Today I'm pleased to report that in just a few short days, children all across our country have responded with remarkable generosity and deep compassion.

I want to thank Dr. Healy for doing such a fine job as the president of the American Red Cross. I'm proud to be your chairman. And I want to thank Kristen. In my speech to the country the other night, I said, "Why don't you go out and mow a lawn or do somebody a favor to earn a dollar." Never did I think feeding chickens would be part—[*laughter*]—but she fed so many chickens, she told me, she raised $45 for the children of Afghanistan. Good job.

I want to thank Marty Evans, the national executive director of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for being here. And I want to thank all the Girl Scouts who are here. I want to thank Robbie Callaway, senior vice president of government relations of the Boys and Girls Clubs. And I want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs. Steve Culbertson, the president of the Youth Service of America—I want to thank Steve for being here. I want to thank my friend, Mike Farris, for being here. He's the chairman and general counsel of the Home School and Legal Defense Association. Mike, on behalf of the home schoolers, thank you for being here.

And I saw a pretty familiar face, Congressman Chris Shays. Congressman, thank you. I'm so glad you're here. Thank you for coming. I appreciate you coming, Chris. I know you wouldn't be here if you didn't join all the children around the country for doing what's right.

Let me tell you, since Friday, we've had 90,000 pieces of mail—90,000—have arrived at the White House. Dr. Healy, the American Red Cross, working with the U.S. Agency for International Development, are making sure that every dollar, every single dollar that's been raised by the boys and girls of America will be spent on the needs of the boys and girls in Afghanistan.

For the people that work hard either feeding chickens or going door to door or having bake drives, you can rest assured that Dr. Healy is going to make sure the money goes where we want the money to go.

Winter arrives early in Afghanistan. It's cold, really cold, and the children need warm clothing. And they need food, and they need medicines. And thanks to the American children, fewer children in Afghanistan will suffer this winter.

The children have donated the dollars because they understand a couple of things. They understand how fortunate we all are to live in America. We're really lucky people to live in this country. They also understand that some people their own age can suffer, and we don't want them suffering.

There has been some amazing stories—I want to share some of them with you. It's just the beginning, by the way, of the stories that we'll all be able to share, all across America.

A guy works for me named Mitch Daniels, from Indianapolis, Indiana. He helped start a place called The Oaks Academy. It's an inner-city school. They've got 163 students that go to that little school. He came back from visiting his family the other day with $163. Every child gave a dollar in that school. Jordan Fisher, a sixth grader at The Oaks Academy, wrote this in a letter; she said, "We feel sorrow for the children that the Taliban has hurt, and we're willing to do anything we can to help them have food to eat."

That's such a beautiful spirit, and it's so important that our boys and girls of America understand that when you share with somebody else, it not only enriches your life, it enriches the life of our entire Nation. Everybody can make a contribution in the war against evildoers. And by helping a child in Afghanistan—is a very important contribution.

Some students right here in Washington were among the first to respond. The student council at Amidon Elementary School in Washington organized their fellow students to donate dollars. They heard the call, and there was organization right off the bat. That means people were getting other people to go raise dollars on behalf of the Afghan children.

Students at Crestwood Elementary—and I see some of their representatives right here on the front row—in Springfield, Virginia, donated—now, catch this—$2,000 from their annual fundraiser to the America's Fund for Afghan Children. I want to thank you all for coming, and thank you for your generosity.

The other day, Laura, my wife, spoke at Birney Elementary School in Washington, and the students there presented her with $172 in donations. Home schooled students are sending in dollars. Youth Service America, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and other youth groups are all raising money.

I see the Scouts who are here. I can't think—we've got to have a merit badge—[*laughter*]—made especially for this occasion, to make sure that Scouts all across America, Boys and Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies, raise money.

You know, there's a lot of focus on our soldiers, and we're so proud of our soldiers. But there are other ways to be in the army, and one way is to show the goodness of America. One way to fight evil is to fight it with kindness and love and compassion.

And what an amazing contrast it is for our children to help children in need in Afghanistan. It points up how ugly and repressive the Taliban Government is of Afghanistan. And the message stands in stark contrast to the message of hate that our boys and girls have seen on TV, a message, frankly, that's hard for a lot of our kids in America to understand. Why would somebody hate so badly that they would fly airplanes to take a life? Why? Why is it that people send ugly things through the mail?

And my answer is: There's evil in the world, but we can overcome evil. We're good. We're good-hearted people, and the boys and girls of America are showing the world just that. We don't fight a religion. No, we fight evil. We respect the Muslim culture. We know Islam is a religion that teaches love and peace and compassion. No, our struggle is against evil people—evil people that claim they're religious but are not.

And I also want the boys and girls to know that while you're helping, our Government is doing everything we can to make America safe. We're doing everything we can to find anybody who wants to hurt you, to bring them to justice. We're doing everything we can to respond to any act that may take place in our country. I know some boys and girls worry, but by going out to raise money to help others, it'll help ease the worry and set such a good example for everybody else to see.

So I want to thank not only the boys and girls here, who have worked so hard in the DC area, but the boys and girls from all across the country who have heard the call to love a neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself.

Thank you very much for coming. May God bless your works, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in the main lobby of the American Red Cross headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Dr. Bernadine Healy, president and chief executive officer, American Red Cross, and Kristen Strickland, an 11-year-old home schooled student from Virginia.

Executive Order 13231—Critical Infrastructure Protection in the Information Age

October 16, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to ensure protection of information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems, in the information age, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy.*

(a) The information technology revolution has changed the way business is transacted, government operates, and national defense is conducted. Those three functions now depend on an interdependent network of critical information infrastructures. The protection program authorized by this order shall consist of continuous efforts to secure information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems. Protection of these systems is essential to the telecommunications, energy, financial services, manufacturing, water, transportation, health care, and emergency services sectors.

(b) It is the policy of the United States to protect against disruption of the operation of information systems for critical infrastructure and thereby help to protect the people, economy, essential human and government services, and national security of the United States, and to ensure that any disruptions that occur are infrequent, of minimal duration, and manageable, and cause the least damage possible. The implementation of this policy shall include a voluntary public-private partnership, involving corporate and nongovernmental organizations.

Sec. 2. *Scope.* To achieve this policy, there shall be a senior executive branch board to coordinate and have cognizance of Federal

efforts and programs that relate to protection of information systems and involve:

(a) cooperation with and protection of private sector critical infrastructure, State and local governments' critical infrastructure, and supporting programs in corporate and academic organizations;

(b) protection of Federal departments' and agencies' critical infrastructure; and

(c) related national security programs.

Sec. 3. *Establishment.* I hereby establish the "President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board" (the "Board").

Sec. 4. *Continuing Authorities.* This order does not alter the existing authorities or roles of United States Government departments and agencies. Authorities set forth in 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, and other applicable law, provide senior officials with responsibility for the security of Federal Government information systems.

(a) *Executive Branch Information Systems Security.* The Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has the responsibility to develop and oversee the implementation of government-wide policies, principles, standards, and guidelines for the security of information systems that support the executive branch departments and agencies, except those noted in section 4(b) of this order. The Director of OMB shall advise the President and the appropriate department or agency head when there is a critical deficiency in the security practices within the purview of this section in an executive branch department or agency. The Board shall assist and support the Director of OMB in this function and shall be reasonably cognizant of programs related to security of department and agency information systems.

(b) *National Security Information Systems.* The Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) shall have responsibility to oversee, develop, and ensure implementation of policies, principles, standards, and guidelines for the security of information systems that support the operations under their respective control. In consultation with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the affected departments and agencies, the Secretary of Defense and the DCI shall develop policies, principles, standards, and guidelines for the security of national security information systems that support the operations of other executive branch departments and agencies with national security information.

(i) Policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed under this subsection may require more stringent protection than those developed in accordance with subsection 4(a) of this order.

(ii) The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall advise the President and the appropriate department or agency head when there is a critical deficiency in the security practices of a department or agency within the purview of this section. The Board, or one of its standing or ad hoc committees, shall be reasonably cognizant of programs to provide security and continuity to national security information systems.

(c) *Additional Responsibilities: The Heads of Executive Branch Departments and Agencies.* The heads of executive branch departments and agencies are responsible and accountable for providing and maintaining adequate levels of security for information systems, including emergency preparedness communications systems, for programs under their control. Heads of such departments and agencies shall ensure the development and, within available appropriations, funding of programs that adequately address these mission areas. Cost-effective security shall be built into and made an integral part of government information systems, especially those critical systems that support the national security and other essential government programs. Additionally, security should enable, and not unnecessarily impede, department and agency business operations.

Sec. 5. *Board Responsibilities.* Consistent with the responsibilities noted in section 4 of this order, the Board shall recommend policies and coordinate programs for protecting information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems. Among its activities to implement these responsibilities, the Board shall:

(a) *Outreach to the Private Sector and State and Local Governments*. In consultation with affected executive branch departments and agencies, coordinate outreach to and consultation with the private sector, including corporations that own, operate, develop, and equip information, telecommunications, transportation, energy, water, health care, and financial services, on protection of information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems; and coordinate outreach to State and local governments, as well as communities and representatives from academia and other relevant elements of society.

(i) When requested to do so, assist in the development of voluntary standards and best practices in a manner consistent with 15 U.S.C. Chapter 7;

(ii) Consult with potentially affected communities, including the legal, auditing, financial, and insurance communities, to the extent permitted by law, to determine areas of mutual concern; and

(iii) Coordinate the activities of senior liaison officers appointed by the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Energy, Commerce, Transportation, the Treasury, and Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for outreach on critical infrastructure protection issues with private sector organizations within the areas of concern to these departments and agencies. In these and other related functions, the Board shall work in coordination with the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (CIAO) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce, the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), and the National Communications System (NCS).

(b) *Information Sharing*. Work with industry, State and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations to ensure that systems are created and well managed to share threat warning, analysis, and recovery information among government network operation centers, information sharing and analysis centers established on a voluntary basis by industry, and other related operations centers. In this and other related functions, the Board shall work in coordination with the NCS, the Federal Computer Incident Response Center, the NIPC, and other departments and agencies, as appropriate.

(c) *Incident Coordination and Crisis Response.* Coordinate programs and policies for responding to information systems security incidents that threaten information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems. In this function, the Department of Justice, through the NIPC and the Manager of the NCS and other departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall work in coordination with the Board.

(d) *Recruitment, Retention, and Training Executive Branch Security Professionals*. In consultation with executive branch departments and agencies, coordinate programs to ensure that government employees with responsibilities for protecting information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems, are adequately trained and evaluated. In this function, the Office of Personnel Management shall work in coordination with the Board, as appropriate.

(e) *Research and Development*. Coordinate with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on a program of Federal Government research and development for protection of information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems, and ensure coordination of government activities in this field with corporations, universities, Federally funded research centers, and national laboratories. In this function, the Board shall work in coordination with the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and with other departments and agencies, as appropriate.

(f) *Law Enforcement Coordination with National Security Components*. Promote programs against cyber crime and assist Federal law enforcement agencies in gaining necessary cooperation from executive branch departments and agencies. Support Federal law enforcement agencies' investigation of illegal

activities involving information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems, and support coordination by these agencies with other departments and agencies with responsibilities to defend the Nation's security. In this function, the Board shall work in coordination with the Department of Justice, through the NIPC, and the Department of the Treasury, through the Secret Service, and with other departments and agencies, as appropriate.

(g) *International Information Infrastructure Protection*. Support the Department of State's coordination of United States Government programs for international cooperation covering international information infrastructure protection issues.

(h) *Legislation*. In accordance with OMB circular A–19, advise departments and agencies, the Director of OMB, and the Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs on legislation relating to protection of information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems.

(i) *Coordination with Office of Homeland Security*. Carry out those functions relating to protection of and recovery from attacks against information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, that were assigned to the Office of Homeland Security by Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, shall be responsible for defining the responsibilities of the Board in coordinating efforts to protect physical assets that support information systems.

Sec. 6. *Membership*. (a) Members of the Board shall be drawn from the executive branch departments, agencies, and offices listed below; in addition, concerned Federal departments and agencies may participate in the activities of appropriate committees of the Board. The Board shall be led by a Chair and Vice Chair, designated by the President. Its other members shall be the following senior officials or their designees:

(i) Secretary of State;

(ii) Secretary of the Treasury;

(iii) Secretary of Defense;

(iv) Attorney General;

(v) Secretary of Commerce;

(vi) Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(vii) Secretary of Transportation;

(viii) Secretary of Energy;

(ix) Director of Central Intelligence;

(x) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;

(xi) Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(xii) Administrator of General Services;

(xiii) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(xiv) Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(xv) Chief of Staff to the Vice President;

(xvi) Director of the National Economic Council;

(xvii) Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;

(xviii) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security;

(xix) Chief of Staff to the President; and

(xx) Such other executive branch officials as the President may designate.

Members of the Board and their designees shall be full-time or permanent part-time officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(b) In addition, the following officials shall serve as members of the Board and shall form the Board's Coordination Committee:

(i) Director, Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, Department of Commerce;

(ii) Manager, National Communications System;

(iii) Vice Chair, Chief Information Officers' (CIO) Council;

(iv) Information Assurance Director, National Security Agency;

(v) Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Community Management; and

(vi) Director, National Infrastructure Protection Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

(c) The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission may appoint a representative to the Board.

Sec. 7. *Chair*. (a) The Chair also shall be the Special Advisor to the President for

Cyberspace Security. Executive branch departments and agencies shall make all reasonable efforts to keep the Chair fully informed in a timely manner, and to the greatest extent permitted by law, of all programs and issues within the purview of the Board. The Chair, in consultation with the Board, shall call and preside at meetings of the Board and set the agenda for the Board. The Chair, in consultation with the Board, may propose policies and programs to appropriate officials to ensure the protection of the Nation's information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems. To ensure full coordination between the responsibilities of the National Security Council (NSC) and the Office of Homeland Security, the Chair shall report to both the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. The Chair shall coordinate with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy on issues relating to private sector systems and economic effects and with the Director of OMB on issues relating to budgets and the security of computer networks addressed in subsection 4(a) of this order.

(b) The Chair shall be assisted by an appropriately sized staff within the White House Office. In addition, heads of executive branch departments and agencies are authorized, to the extent permitted by law, to detail or assign personnel of such departments and agencies to the Board's staff upon request of the Chair, subject to the approval of the Chief of Staff to the President. Members of the Board's staff with responsibilities relating to national security information systems, communications, and information warfare may, with respect to those responsibilities, also work at the direction of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Sec. 8. *Standing Committees.* (a) The Board may establish standing and ad hoc committees as appropriate. Representation on standing committees shall not be limited to those departments and agencies on the Board, but may include representatives of other concerned executive branch departments and agencies.

(b) Chairs of standing and ad hoc committees shall report fully and regularly on the activities of the committees to the Board, which shall ensure that the committees are well coordinated with each other.

(c) There are established the following standing committees:

(i) *Private Sector and State and Local Government Outreach*, chaired by the designee of the Secretary of Commerce, to work in coordination with the designee of the Chairman of the National Economic Council.

(ii) *Executive Branch Information Systems Security*, chaired by the designee of the Director of OMB. The committee shall assist OMB in fulfilling its responsibilities under 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and other applicable law.

(iii) *National Security Systems.* The National Security Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Committee, as established by and consistent with NSD–42 and chaired by the Department of Defense, shall serve as a Board standing committee, and be redesignated the Committee on National Security Systems.

(iv) *Incident Response Coordination*, co-chaired by the designees of the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense.

(v) *Research and Development*, chaired by a designee of the Director of OSTP.

(vi) *National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications.* The NCS Committee of Principals is renamed the Board's Committee for National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications. The reporting functions established above for standing committees are in addition to the functions set forth in Executive Order 12472 of April 3, 1984, and do not alter any function or role set forth therein.

(vii) *Physical Security*, co-chaired by the designees of the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General, to coordinate programs to ensure the physical security of information systems for critical infrastructure, including emergency preparedness communications, and the physical assets that support such systems. The standing committee shall coordinate its work with the Office of Homeland Security and shall work closely with the Physical Security Working Group of the Records Access and Information Security

Policy Coordinating Committee to ensure coordination of efforts.

(viii) *Infrastructure Interdependencies*, cochaired by the designees of the Secretaries of Transportation and Energy, to coordinate programs to assess the unique risks, threats, and vulnerabilities associated with the interdependency of information systems for critical infrastructures, including the development of effective models, simulations, and other analytic tools and cost-effective technologies in this area.

(ix) *International Affairs*, chaired by a designee of the Secretary of State, to support Department of State coordination of United States Government programs for international cooperation covering international information infrastructure issues.

(x) *Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure*, chaired by a designee of the Secretary of the Treasury and including representatives of the banking and financial institution regulatory agencies.

(xi) *Other Committees.* Such other standing committees as may be established by the Board.

(d) *Subcommittees*. The chair of each standing committee may form necessary subcommittees with organizational representation as determined by the Chair.

(e) *Streamlining*. The Board shall develop procedures that specify the manner in which it or a subordinate committee will perform the responsibilities previously assigned to the Policy Coordinating Committee. The Board, in coordination with the Director of OSTP, shall review the functions of the Joint Telecommunications Resources Board, established under Executive Order 12472, and make recommendations about its future role.

Sec. 9. *Planning and Budget*. (a) The Board, on a periodic basis, shall propose a National Plan or plans for subjects within its purview. The Board, in coordination with the Office of Homeland Security, also shall make recommendations to OMB on those portions of executive branch department and agency budgets that fall within the Board's purview, after review of relevant program requirements and resources.

(b) The Office of Administration within the Executive Office of the President shall provide the Board with such personnel, funding, and administrative support, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, as directed by the Chief of Staff to carry out the provisions of this order. Only those funds that are available for the Office of Homeland Security, established by Executive Order 13228, shall be available for such purposes. To the extent permitted by law and as appropriate, agencies represented on the Board also may provide administrative support for the Board. The National Security Agency shall ensure that the Board's information and communications systems are appropriately secured.

(c) The Board may annually request the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, and the Intelligence Community, as that term is defined in Executive Order 12333 of December 4, 1981, to include in their budget requests to OMB funding for demonstration projects and research to support the Board's activities.

Sec. 10. *Presidential Advisory Panels*. The Chair shall work closely with panels of senior experts from outside of the government that advise the President, in particular: the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) created by Executive Order 12382 of September 13, 1982, as amended, and the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC or Council) created by this Executive Order. The Chair and Vice Chair of these two panels also may meet with the Board, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, to provide a private sector perspective.

(a) *NSTAC*. The NSTAC provides the President advice on the security and continuity of communications systems essential for national security and emergency preparedness.

(b) *NIAC*. There is hereby established the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, which shall provide the President advice on the security of information systems for critical infrastructure supporting other sectors of the economy: banking and finance, transportation, energy, manufacturing, and emergency government services. The NIAC shall be composed of not more than 30 members

appointed by the President. The members of the NIAC shall be selected from the private sector, academia, and State and local government. Members of the NIAC shall have expertise relevant to the functions of the NIAC and generally shall be selected from industry Chief Executive Officers (and equivalently ranked leaders in other organizations) with responsibilities for the security of information infrastructure supporting the critical sectors of the economy, including banking and finance, transportation, energy, communications, and emergency government services. Members shall not be full-time officials or employees of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(i) The President shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair from among the members of the NIAC.

(ii) The Chair of the Board established by this order will serve as the Executive Director of the NIAC.

(c) *NIAC Functions*. The NIAC will meet periodically to:

(i) enhance the partnership of the public and private sectors in protecting information systems for critical infrastructures and provide reports on this issue to the President, as appropriate;

(ii) propose and develop ways to encourage private industry to perform periodic risk assessments of critical information and telecommunications systems;

(iii) monitor the development of private sector Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) and provide recommendations to the Board on how these organizations can best foster improved cooperation among the ISACs, the NIPC, and other Federal Government entities;

(iv) report to the President through the Board, which shall ensure appropriate coordination with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy under the terms of this order; and

(v) advise lead agencies with critical infrastructure responsibilities, sector coordinators, the NIPC, the ISACs, and the Board.

(d) *Administration of the NIAC*.

(i) The NIAC may hold hearings, conduct inquiries, and establish subcommittees, as appropriate.

(ii) Upon the request of the Chair, and to the extent permitted by law, the heads of the executive branch departments and agencies shall provide the Council with information and advice relating to its functions.

(iii) Senior Federal Government officials may participate in the meetings of the NIAC, as appropriate.

(iv) Members shall serve without compensation for their work on the Council. However, members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Federal Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(v) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Commerce, through the CIAO, shall provide the NIAC with administrative services, staff, and other support services and such funds as may be necessary for the performance of the NIAC's functions.

(e) *General Provisions*.

(i) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), may apply to the NIAC, the functions of the President under that Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Department of Commerce in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(ii) The Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President prior to that date.

(iii) Executive Order 13130 of July 14, 1999, is hereby revoked.

Sec. 11. *National Communications System*. Changes in technology are causing the convergence of much of telephony, data relay, and internet communications networks into an interconnected network of networks. The NCS and its National Coordinating Center shall support use of telephony, converged information, voice networks, and next generation networks for emergency preparedness and national security communications functions assigned to them in Executive Order 12472. All authorities and assignments of responsibilities to departments and agencies in that order, including the role of the Manager of NCS, remain unchanged except as explicitly modified by this order.

Sec. 12. *Counter-intelligence.* The Board shall coordinate its activities with those of the Office of the Counter-intelligence Executive to address the threat to programs within the Board's purview from hostile foreign intelligence services.

Sec. 13. *Classification Authority.* I hereby delegate to the Chair the authority to classify information originally as Top Secret, in accordance with Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995, as amended, or any successor Executive Order.

Sec. 14. *General Provisions.* (a) Nothing in this order shall supersede any requirement made by or under law.

(b) This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, agencies or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:32 a.m., October 17, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

Interview With Asian Editors

October 16, 2001

The President. Well, thank you for coming. First, let me give some introductory remarks.

First, I'm looking forward to my trip. I leave tomorrow morning. I leave with great anticipation of a very positive trip. First, I'm looking forward to going to Shanghai. I went there in 1975, when I visited my dad. And I understand it's a city transformed; it's a changed city. I look forward to seeing the changed city. It's going to be a very interesting experience.

Secondly, I'm looking forward to meeting with world leaders, leaders from China, my first experience.

I'm looking forward to seeing my friend the Prime Minister Koizumi again. I've had two or three meetings—three meetings with him, and we've got a very good relationship.

Finally, I'm looking forward to meeting with your leader, as well, Kim Dae-jung. He was right here in the Oval Office the last time I saw him. I'm looking forward to a second meeting. We've got a lot to discuss.

So on the one hand, we'll have our joint meetings, and then we'll have the bilateral meetings. The joint meetings are important; the bilateral meetings are very important. And I'm really looking forward to it.

Obviously, I leave at a very difficult time in my country, because of these terrorist attacks, the recent anthrax that has made it in the news. On the other hand, I think it is very important for me to go, to not only discuss our economic interests and our bilateral interests but to continue to talk about the war on terrorists, terrorism. And it's also important for my Nation to see that I leave because of—that international affairs are still a very important part of making the world more safe.

I'll be glad to answer questions.

APEC Summit

Q. Mr. President, you are going to Shanghai for the APEC Summit. Could you tell me your opinion about the summit, and what's your expectation?

The President. Sure. I expect to have a very frank dialog with Jiang Zemin about—and I will tell him how important it is for the United States and China to have good relations. And I look forward to having an honest discussion with other world leaders about a variety of issues.

Obviously, the Korean Peninsula, we'll talk about the relationship between South and North Korea. As far as Japan goes, we'll talk about our national defense relations, as well as the Japanese economy, and Koizumi will want to know about our economy, as well. And also, with all three leaders we'll be talking about trade and the need to fight against international terrorism.

So my expectations are very solid, that this will be a very good and a very important meeting.

Q. Second question?

The President. We'll go around; everybody will get to ask.

Upcoming Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China

Q. Mr. President, you are going to meet our President, Mr. Jiang Zemin. What's the priority topic you're going to discuss?

The President. I think the first priority is, of course, for Jiang Zemin to look me in the eye, take the measure of the American President. We've only spoken over the phone. We haven't had a chance to meet. So it's to establish a personal relationship.

I will have met most of the leaders at APEC. I will have not met Jiang Zemin. I look forward to meeting him, so he can see that I'm a sincere person when I say that I want to have good relations, that I understand there will be moments where we agree and moments where we disagree, but we'll work to have good relations.

As you recall, we had a start that tested our relationship, and that was over the EP–3 incident. Yet, we were very calm. Both sides were calm; both sides gathered the facts; and both sides worked to resolve an incident which could have been a difficult incident. But it wasn't. It turned out to be a much more peaceful resolution than a lot of people in the world thought was possible.

It was very interesting to get reactions from other world leaders during that incident, because they didn't know me. They weren't sure how we'd react, and they weren't sure how the chemistry would be between our two governments. And I think we showed the world that we can work things together. And that's going to be very important.

Trade is going to be very important for us to discuss, too. I think it's going to be very important for us to talk about proliferation. I think it's going to be very important for us to talk about human rights. There's a wide range of issues that we can discuss. But I know we'll discuss them in the spirit of a desire to have good, close relations. China is a very important country, and I understand how important it is.

Q. Mr. President, I have three questions.

The President. Okay. Each person gets three questions, so you can think of another one.

Japan's Role in the War on Terrorism

Q. Beyond the economic and financial contribution, what kind of role do you think Japan can play in fighting the war against terrorists?

The President. Well, first of all, as you know, the Prime Minister has talked about possibly participating with some defense forces, not combat forces but defense forces. We're more than open-minded to talk about a way for Japan to contribute.

But I want to remind you that you should not discount the importance of disrupting the financial networks of the terrorists. If we starve them of money, that's just as effective as conventional armament. And also we need to share intelligence; all three countries need to share intelligence back and forth. If we hear or see there is a threat on Japan or China or South Korea, we will share that information so that each of us can protect our own homeland. It's a different kind of war we're fighting.

So the contributions can be varied and different. And each nation represented here will contribute in different ways. And I recognize that, and we're not going to ask nations to contribute in ways that their people won't understand or accept. So there are going to be some nations that will contribute in this area and won't be able to help here. But that's okay, just so long as we're all focused on the goal of ridding the world of terrorism. And we must make that decision now.

And that's what I look forward to telling all the three world leaders. I want them to see how determined I am to succeed, and that I'm patient and resolved and will not yield until we send a clear signal to terrorists: There will be a consequence, and if you harbor a terrorist as a nation, you will be held accountable. And that's just as important, and I think all three leaders understand that. I know the Prime Minister of Japan does.

Japan and the International Economy

Q. The second question, Mr. President, what would you like Japan to do for revitalizing the world economy after the terrorist attacks?

The President. Well, I think what Japan needs to do is what Prime Minister Koizumi

campaigned on, and that is to push for significant economic reform, significant restructuring to work on bad loans and bad assets, to get them off the books, so to speak.

I felt like the Prime Minister and I, in our discussions about the internal situation in Japan, understood each other well. And I have always urged him at every conversation to be as bold and as strong as he can, because it's very important for the world that the Japanese economy be strong and recover.

Now, we have to do some things in our own country. We have been severely affected by the economic—by the attacks, and therefore, we need an economic revitalization plan. And we've taken some steps. We've spent money to help New York recover. We've spent money, obviously, to help our defenses. We've spent money to help our airline industry, which has been badly affected. I think we need to cut taxes again. We cut taxes in the summer. I want to cut taxes again to offset the spending to create a stimulus.

Finally, however—and this is going to be an important part of the meeting—we must confirm our mutual desire to have the world trade more freely. It is important for all our economies that we trade freely, that markets be open. Listen, I understand there are some issues involved with opening markets, but we've got to work toward an ideal of more open markets.

Last question.

Japan and the Future of Afghanistan

Q. The third question, Mr. President, what kind of a contribution do you expect Japan to make to stabilizing future government problem in Afghanistan?

The President. Well, let me say that the last time the Prime Minister was here, he told me that the Japanese had dedicated $40 million to relief in Afghanistan. And I praised him here, in front of the American press corps, for that generous contribution.

I think that goes to show that Prime Minister Koizumi understands there is an international role for a stable Afghanistan. I understand that we need to worry about what Afghanistan looks like and that we must restore a sense of stability in that country and take care of the poor people that have been victimized by the Taliban regime.

On the other hand, I want to assure everybody my focus is on achieving the objective, which is bringing the Al Qaida organization hiding in Afghanistan to justice and holding the Government that harbors them accountable, as well.

But I appreciate Japan's role. I appreciate the Prime Minister's understanding of the need not only to provide short-term relief—like we are, as well—but also to be a part of a longer term solution in Afghanistan. He understands that, and for that, I'm grateful.

Last question for here, and then you get three. You were probably wondering whether I knew you were even sitting there, but I knew.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. My last question. The Chinese readers of my paper most want to know, what's your idea for the development in the bilateral relationship between China and the USA?

The President. Well, first, the most important thing about a relationship between our two nations is for the two leaders to get to know each other as people, as individuals. I want to be able to hear from your leader, the leader of China, what's on his mind. I'll be able to tell more about this leader when I see him and hear him, and he'll be able to tell more from me, about me, by listening to me.

Secondly, I think it's very important for us to continue to foster good trading relations. Trade is mutually beneficial to our nations. I argued strongly during the campaign and since I've been President that China should ascend to WTO——

Q. Thank you.

The President. ——because that is a very important part of encouraging China to have market-oriented growth. But at the same time, it's in our nations' interests.

I was most pleased with the progress we've made about China accepting U.S. farm products as part of the WTO process. It was a very important breakthrough. I think it's going to be very important for us to discuss areas not only where we agree but areas where we don't agree.

But one place where we do agree—and it's important for your readers to know—is I support a "one China" policy. And I also

expect there to be a peaceful reconciliation of the differences. And I look forward to reaffirming that with Jiang Zemin.

We need to talk about a variety of issues, which we will. And I'm confident we can have a very constructive relationship. It starts with the desire to have a constructive relationship, and my desire is to have a constructive relationship.

Korean Peninsula Security

Q. As the war on the terrorism goes on, one of the utmost important issue for the Korean people should be the security of Korean Peninsula.

The President. Yes.

Q. If the war prolongs, as you have expected, 1 or 2 years, and North Korea sometime in the future change their reconciliatory stance and become hostile again and if there occurs some kind of conflict in the Korean Peninsula, how would you respond to that?

The President. We will fulfill our obligations to the South Korean people and to our pact with South Korea. North Korea should not in any way, shape, or form think that because we happen to be engaged in Afghanistan, we will not be prepared and ready to fulfill our end of our agreement with the South Korean Government. They should not use this as an opportunity to threaten our close friend and ally South Korea.

Not only will we have troops there and have them there, we will be prepared to defend and stand side by side with our longtime friend the South Korean people.

Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea

Q. Thank you. And the second question is, South Korea-North Korea talks have been stalled after the inauguration of your administration, virtually. And North Korean leader Kim Chong-il has not returned his visit, which he has agreed last year. And earlier this month, North Korea has canceled the plan, agreed plan to exchange to separate families. And things are a little bit changing right now. About all these, there are some Korean people blame it, in part, to your administration North Korean policy. Do you have any comment on that? And I wonder if you have any message concerning about Kim Chong-il?

The President. I've got a message to Kim Chong-il: Fulfill your end of the bargain. You said you would meet. Meet.

No one in the United States is stopping him from doing this. This is a decision he made. He can blame it on who he wants, but he ought to fulfill his end of the agreement.

And secondly, I want to remind your readers that we offered to meet with Kim Chong-il. In June of this year we said, "At a time of your choosing, we'll be glad to send a representative to meet with you to discuss a variety of issues." And yet, he chooses not to meet with us, either. He won't meet with you; he won't meet with us, which kind of leads me to believe that perhaps he doesn't want to meet. So he can blame it on who he wants, but it's up to him to make that decision.

Secondly, I think that he needs to earn the trust of the world. I think he needs to take pressure off of South Korea and off of DMZ. I think he needs to say—send a signal, clearest message, that he's for peace, not for war. And he can do that very easily by removing conventional forces back. That's very simple to do. I know he needs to stop spreading weapons of mass destruction around the world. And I look forward to—my Government looks forward to explaining that to him, in no uncertain terms.

In the meantime, we have great sympathy for the North Korean people. Anywhere there is starvation, Americans, like other nations, worry about what causes the starvation. How can people starve in a world where there is food? So my heart breaks when I hear the stories of North Korean families not being able to feed their children—children are children, regardless of who their leaders are—and I'm sad about that.

I want to applaud Kim Dae-jung for his leadership in instituting the Sunshine Policy. As I said right here in the Oval Office, I support the Sunshine Policy. I think it makes sense. I think the more interchange there is, the more likely it is there will be peace. And after all, we're for peace.

By the way, I fully understand how this issue affects the other nations of the Far East, as well. And so we want to have discussions with Kim Chong-il. We've made the

offer to have discussions with Kim Chong-il. But he refuses to talk. And I'm always—which makes me wonder, why? Why would he not want to talk? What is it about this man who refuses to—not only to talk with us but to fulfill an agreement he made with your Government?

U.S. Military Presence on the Korean Peninsula/Reunification

Q. Actually, I'd like to have two questions, if you allow me, Mr. President.

The President. Okay.

Q. I'd like to hear your opinion on the reunification of Korean Peninsula. And what kind of role the United States can do after the reunification? And the status of the American military forces?

The President. Sure. Let me start with that. The last one's easy. We'll have a military presence on the Peninsula. We think it's important for providing stability, not only on the Korean Peninsula but throughout that part of the Far East, and I think most governments recognize that. And so we'll keep a presence there, and I don't have any intention of diminishing our presence. As a matter of fact, I think the United States plays a very unique role of providing assurance and providing stability, and we'll continue that role.

Secondly, our role—what do I think about the chances for reunification? You know, it's hard for me to tell. I would say that I am—I believe that anything is possible. However, if a leader refuses to meet to discuss reunification, it's going to be hard to achieve. It takes two parties, two willing parties, who make the commitment to proceed forward.

I know the leader of South Korea has made that commitment. It's easy to see when you talk to him. He's got this firm, fervent belief that better relations with North Korea leading to talks about different types of reunifications, starting with families, is very important. I mean, you can—there's no question in his mind and no question in my mind, having talked to him, about his strong belief. But I fully recognize it takes two leaders to share the same vision and the same hopes. And it's apparent that Kim Chong-il doesn't share the same vision, otherwise talks would be ongoing.

You see, I believe in the art of the possible. I believe if leaders want something to happen and they're willing to work to make it happen, it can happen. But it requires will and drive and perseverance and persistence. And I don't see that from one part of the—one side of the equation. I do see it from Kim Dae-jung, however.

Thirdly, about our role. Well, first of all, we believe that any kind of discussions and talks between South Korea and North Korea will make the Peninsula more peaceful. Dialog is important, particularly the human-to-human exchange, that sometimes people are ahead of their governments—you know, the will of the people gets out ahead of a government, and that in itself—and I think most people are peaceful people. I think most people want there to be peace.

The timetable of such a reunification is obviously up in air, since there's no discussions. But we'd be willing to help. We want to help our friend. If this is what our friend and ally South Korea thinks is important, we will help. We will help do so.

Listen, I am interested in—again, I repeat something I said before: I want our Government to help starving people. On the other hand, I don't want to send aid to a government that doesn't help its people. It's one thing to help the people; it's another thing to send the aid and then the government doesn't help the people.

And so I must tell you that I've been disappointed in Kim Chong-il not rising to the occasion, being so suspicious, so secretive. I believe he must lead his nation into the modern era, starting with making sure his people are fed and well treated, and working with his neighbor. He ought to assume the responsibility of a good leader and do that.

But there's time, and we'll see. I look forward to talking to Kim Dae-jung this issue. I know he'll bring it up. It's on his mind. He's a believer, as we say. He's passionate about the subject. And I appreciate that passion very much. I think—I like passionate people. I like people who believe in a cause and are willing to lead.

And I'm looking—as you can tell, this is a part of the world that I've thought a lot about. It's a very important part of the world.

It's significant because not only of the histories and traditions, but the future is so strong in all three countries present here. We've got great futures. And we want to be friends, and we want to be a part of the futures, working together. And I'm confident we can.

Q. Because of the belief President Kim Dae-jung has, a politically difficult time right now.

The President. Let me tell you, in life, you've just got to do what you think is right. That's what a leader does. Leaders take a position not because of some poll or focus group; they should take a position on what they think is right and suffer the consequences. That's what a good leader does.

Abraham Lincoln is on the wall here. He took a position in what he thought was right and stuck by it. He was severely criticized. They made fun of him, the press did. They treated him—they accused him of not being able to put sentences together sometimes. Sounds familiar. [*Laughter*] But he turned out to be a great President, because he did what he thought was right.

Winston Churchill, he did what he thought was right. George Washington—you notice I don't have people in this office who tried to figure out what was right. You either know what you think is right or not what you think is right. And so I admire a person for taking a stand. Sometimes the people like it, and sometimes they don't. But at least by taking a stand you believe in, you'll be able to live with yourself, which ultimately, to me, that's what's most important for a leader, to be able to be comfortable about who you see in the mirror when you wake up in the morning.

Look, I understand the political consequences of making tough decisions. You mark my words, people are going to get tired of the war on terrorism. And by the way, it may take more than 2 years. There's a variety of theaters. So long as anybody's terrorizing established governments, there needs to be a war. And so I've asked—you said 1 or 2 years. I envision something taking longer than that.

Now, maybe the Afghan theater will be shorter than that or that length. Who knows? But we're patient. But some people are going to start to say, "We're tired, but President Bush keeps going on." And when that happens, I want you to know, I will be doing it because I think it's the right thing to do. That's what I'm supposed to do.

So that's a long answer to a very important question, the most fundamental question of all.

Thank you all for coming. I'm looking forward to my trip.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:47 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea. The following journalists participated: Junichi Hayakawa, Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan; Yujun Ren, People's Daily, China; and Kisop Shin, Yonhap, South Korea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Memorandum on Assistance for Pakistan

October 16, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2002–02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assistance for Pakistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to $50 million for Pakistan without regard to any provision of law within the scope of section 614(a)(1) of the Act. I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 22, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17. It will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 23.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

October 16, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2002–03

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 538(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–429, as provided for in the Joint Resolution Making Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2002, and for other Purposes (Public Law 107–44), I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 22, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17. It will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 23.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

October 16, 2001

On October 21, 1995, by Executive Order 12978, the President declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm such actions cause in the United States and abroad. The order blocks all property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons or foreign persons listed in an annex to the order, as well as of foreign persons determined to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia. The order similarly blocks all property and interests in property of foreign persons determined to materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the order, or persons determined to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the order. The order also prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in such property or interests in property. Because the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad, the national emergency declared on October 21, 1995, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 21, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency for 1 year with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 18, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Notice on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

October 16, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond October 21, 2001.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressures on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property or interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the United States market and financial system.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

October 16, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17.

Remarks at the California Business Association Breakfast in Sacramento, California

October 17, 2001

Thank you all so much for that warm welcome. And I also want to thank the hundreds of our fellow Americans who lined the road coming in from the helicopter pad. It's really good to be here in California to report on our progress in the struggle against terror.

Now, there's the long version, and there's a short version. So I'm going to start with the short version: Our people are united; our Government is determined; our cause is right; and justice will be done.

I want to thank Gerry Parsky. I want to thank all the folks who put on this—organized this event. I appreciate so much the Governor, Gray Davis, coming, and all the elected officials.

I particularly want to say hello to the members of the Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Seven. They may not remember, but I do—I got to meet them in New York City. [*Laughter*] They were part

of an incredible outpouring of compassion and support from all across the country. I've got to tell you, I was amazed when I went into the building, and they said they were from California. I said, "This country is fabulous, when we've got people from California, from Sacramento, going all the way over to help their brothers and sisters at the World Trade Center." And I know you're just as proud of them as I am, and thank you all for being here.

This great State is known for its diversity—people of all races, all religions, and all nationalities. They've come here to live a better life, to find freedom, to live in peace and security, with tolerance and with justice. When the terrorists attacked America, this is what they attacked. And when we defend America, this is what we defend.

We are fighting for the security of our people, for the success of our ideals, and for stability in large parts of the world. We fight evil people who are distorting and betraying a great religion to justify their murder. Our cause is just. We will not tire. We will not falter, and my fellow Americans, we will not fail.

New York City and Washington, DC, are 2,500 miles from here. Yet, for all of us, an American is an American, no matter where we live, no matter what our race, no matter how we pray. The people of New York and Washington are our neighbors, and when terrorists attack them, they attack us all. And the terrorists are hearing from us all.

They are hearing from a compassionate nation, a nation that sends food and medicine to starving people of Afghanistan, a nation whose children—and I know we've got some here who have raised money at the elementary school—whose children are sending their dollars to save the children of Afghanistan.

They are hearing from a tolerant nation, a nation that respects Islam and values our many Muslim citizens. They are hearing from a prayerful nation, a nation that prays to an almighty God for protection and for peace. And they are hearing from a patient and determined nation, a nation that will continue this war for as long as it takes to win.

Ours will be a broad campaign fought on many fronts. It's a campaign that will be waged by day and by night, in the light and in the shadow, in battles you will see and battles you won't see. It's a campaign waged by soldiers and sailors, marines and airmen, and also by FBI agents and law enforcement officials and diplomats and intelligence officers. It's a campaign that is being waged in distant lands and a campaign being waged by our new Office of Homeland Security.

To keep us safe, we're working around the clock. We're on the lookout. We have questioned and detained more than 750 terror suspects and material witnesses in our country. And the broad coalition we put together has detained hundreds of suspected members of the Al Qaida organization. Our world coalition is working. We are taking apart the terrorist network, piece by piece. We're taking away their money by freezing their assets and choking off their incomes.

Our campaign will be difficult, and it's going to take time. But I can promise you this: It will be waged with determination, and it will be waged until we win. We will do whatever it takes to protect our country, protect the good American families. And we will do whatever it takes to punish those who have attacked us.

We'll do whatever it takes to defeat terror abroad, wherever it grows or wherever it hides. In Afghanistan, our Armed Forces are performing their duty with skill and success. We've destroyed many terrorist camps. We've damaged the Taliban's air defenses. We've seriously weakened all those in Afghanistan who wish to inflict harm on people anywhere in the world.

We're paving the way for friendly troops to defeat the Taliban and root out the Al Qaida parasites that the Taliban hosts and protects. We're enforcing the doctrine that says this: If you harbor the terrorists, you are guilty of terror, and like the terrorists, you will be held responsible.

We are not alone in this struggle. The war against terrorism is an international war, and we're fighting with a broad, broad coalition. Many nations around the world have joined with us in this cause, including nations from the Islamic world. Some countries contribute intelligence. Some help with law enforcement. Some join with military power, like our friends Great Britain. We are supported by

the conscience of the world. And we are surrounding terrorists and their sponsors in a tightening net of justice.

Later today I fly to Shanghai to meet with leaders from all round the Far East and leaders whose nations touch the Pacific, including Russia and China. We'll be strengthening our cooperation in the war on terror. We'll strengthen the economic ties that bring growth and hope to the entire world.

The terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, and we will defeat them by expanding and encouraging world trade. In order to help me expand world trade, I've asked the Congress to give me what's called trade promotion authority, the ability to seek America's interests around the world.

America will do whatever it takes to strengthen our security here at home. I've named former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to head the new Office of Homeland Security, to help expose and to frustrate the plans of terrorists. We've adopted new measures to protect our airlines, so Americans can fly with greater confidence.

We're responding rapidly to investigate anthrax reports and to quickly give preventative treatment to any who are exposed. Thousands of FBI agents are aggressively following every lead in our anti-terror campaign. And I urge Congress to act quickly to update our laws and procedures so we can better protect our country and punish those who threaten us.

The terrorists want us to stop our lives—that's what they want. They want us to stop flying, and they want us to stop buying. But this great Nation will not be intimidated by the evildoers.

America will do whatever it takes to get our economy moving again. These are difficult times. Too many Americans are hurting. Too many are worried about their jobs and their businesses. And I know that California has been hit especially hard. America has got great resources, though. We've got the most skilled workers in the world, the best workforce. Taxpayers have just received their rebates. Interest rates have been cut to the lowest level in years. Energy prices are declining. The entrepreneurial spirit has never been stronger in America. The basics of our economy are ripe for growth.

Yet, recent events have been a shock—no question about it—have shocked our economy. And people need help. And the Government in Washington is actively responding. We've already announced additional spending to rebuild New York and the Pentagon, to stabilize our airline industry, and to make sure we have enough money to defend our country. And I'll work with Congress to help workers who have lost their jobs because of the sudden economic slowdown.

I've outlined additional economic stimulus package. I've listened carefully to members from both political parties. It's a package that will provide a needed lift for our economy. I urge Congress to act now to accelerate the tax relief we've already planned for the years ahead, so consumers will have more money to spend. I urge Congress to have more tax relief for lower- and moderate-income families in America who are especially hard hit. And I urge Congress to reform the corporate income tax, and as well, allow businesses to deduct more of the costs of new investments immediately, so as to create jobs for American people.

And I ask Congress to now act on an energy bill that the House of Representatives passed back in August. This is an issue of special importance to California. Too much of our energy comes from the Middle East. The plan I sent up to Congress promotes conservation, expands energy supplies, and improves the efficiency of our energy network. Our country needs greater energy independence. This issue is a matter of national security, and I hope the Senate acts quickly.

On all these great issues, there's a spirit of respect and cooperation in Washington, I'm pleased to report. [*Laughter*] This morning I had breakfast with the four leaders of the Congress. And while we have our differences, I do want you to know, there is a strong determination to do what's right for the American people.

I have butted heads in the past—[*laughter*]—with the leadership. But I want you to know, I applaud their love for America and their determination—their determination—to get the people's business done in a way that will make you proud. We're making good

progress about changing the tone. The terrorists thought they affected us, but they've only made this Nation stronger.

Not only do I applaud the leadership; I applaud the American people for your courage in a time of trial. We're living through a unique moment in American history. This is a time of rediscovery, of heroism and sacrifice and duty and patriotism. These are core values of our country, and they're being renewed. We found them waiting for us just when we needed them.

Our forefathers would be proud, really proud of what they see in America today. They would be proud of the selfless duty of the firefighters and police officers of New York, firefighters and police officers all around our country, and the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America.

Our forefathers would salute the modern-day sacrifice of the brave passengers on Flight 93, who, after reciting the Lord's Prayer, said, "Let's roll" and stormed the hijackers, taking the plane down and probably saving thousands of lives on the ground.

Our forefathers would know and recognize the spirit of unity and patriotism everywhere in our country, and they would say, "Well done, America."

No, the true character of this great land has been revealed in adversity. Americans are generous to our neighbors in need. Americans are tolerant toward our fellow citizens of every background. Americans are alert to danger but calm and determined in the work ahead. And Americans are reaching out across the world to say: We wage a war on the guilty, not the innocent; we're friends to people of all faiths and enemies only to those who choose to make enemies of us.

And Americans know we must act now. We must be strong, and we must be decisive. We must stop the evil ones, so our children and grandchildren can know peace and security and freedom in the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Our Nation has felt great sorrow. Yet, this can be a time of great achievement. A great evil can be turned to greater good. The terrorists did not intend to create a new American spirit of unity and resolve, but they are powerless to stop it.

At my Inaugural, I said that some Americans feel as if they share a continent but not a country. We don't feel that any longer. We know we're one people. We know we're one country. We're united from coast to coast by a determination and a firm resolve to see that right prevails.

I will take that determination with me to meet leaders of the world in Shanghai. And America will take that determination all the way to victory.

Thank you for having me. God bless. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gerald L. Parsky, chief executive officer, Aurora Capital Group, who introduced the President; and Gov. Gray Davis of California.

Remarks to the Community at Travis Air Force Base, California

October 17, 2001

Thank you all very much. I appreciate such a warm welcome. I'm about to cross the Pacific on my favorite Air Force airplane. And there's really only one place to leave from—that's called the Gateway to the Pacific. Thank you for your hospitality. I can't tell you how proud I am to be with the men and women who wear the uniform of the great United States of America.

I want to thank the Air Force and the Army and the Navy troops who are here. I'm also proud to be with the husbands and wives and sons and daughters, and to the families of those of you whose mom or dad or husband or wife have been deployed, I want you to know that they're on a noble mission. The cause is just, and we will win.

I want to thank "Lone Star" Lefforge for the introduction—my fellow Texan. There may be a few other Texans here, as well. I want to thank General Becker and Colonel Rubeor, as well, for your hospitality. Thank you, Colonel. Thank you, General, very much.

And I want to thank the Air Force Band of the Golden West. Thank you all for your entertainment. I want to thank the State and

local officials who have come today. I'm honored that you took time out of your day.

The planes to the left and right of where we stand here represent the unmatched air power of the United States. But that's not our real strength. Our real strength are the people who fly them and who maintain them, the people who make the military go. The real strength of this proud Nation are the men and women who wear the uniform. That's the real strength of this country.

You're among the first to be deployed in America's new war against terror and against evil, and I want you to know, America is proud, proud of your deeds, proud of your talents, proud of your service to our country.

I'm told that one of the pilots here, a fellow named Randy, was asked if anyone at Travis had personal connections to any of the victims of the attacks on September the 11th. And here's what he said: "I think we all do. They're all Americans. When you strike one American, you strike us all."

The victims of September 11th were innocent, and this Nation will never forget them. The men and women who murdered them were instruments of evil, and they have died in vain. This Nation is strong. This Nation is united. This Nation is resolved. This Nation will defeat terror wherever we find it across the globe.

And not only will we find the terrorists; we will enforce the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you feed a terrorist, if you fund a terrorist, you're a terrorist. And this great, proud Nation of free men and women will hold you just as responsible for the actions that take place on American soil.

And that's what's happening in Afghanistan. I gave the people in Afghanistan a choice. I said to the Taliban, "Turn them over. Destroy the camps. Free people you're unjustly holding." I said, "You've got time to do it." But they didn't listen. They didn't respond, and now they're paying a price. They are learning that anyone who strikes America will hear from our military, and they're not going to like what they hear. In choosing their enemy, the evildoers and those who harbor them have chosen their fate.

We don't quarrel with the innocent folks of Afghanistan; they're not our enemy. Nor is any religion the enemy of the United States of America. The evil ones have tried to hijack a religion to justify their murder. But I want to assure the people of the world that our military fights not against Muslims or fights not against the Islam religion. We fight against evil people. We fight against people who believe that they can harm the United States of America. We fight against people who have no country, no ideology; they're motivated by hate.

And make no mistake about it, this great Nation will do what it takes to win. We are determined. We are patient. We are steadfast. We are resolved. We will not tire, and we will not fail.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. The terrorist camps are being destroyed. The enemy's air force and air defenses are being demolished. We're paving the way for friendly troops on the ground to slowly but surely tighten the net to bring them to justice.

I can't tell you how proud as Commander in Chief I am to know that we've got a great United States military backing our Nation. A Commander in Chief must know he can count on the skill and resolve of our military. And from Secretary Rumsfeld to General Myers to the good troops of this base, I have all the confidence in the world that our military will fulfill its mission.

And you must have confidence in this, my commitment that for the mission that lies ahead, our military, the men and women who wear our uniform, will have everything you need to win, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States and our allies and our friends in the cause of freedom.

There is no question that we're inflicting pain upon the Taliban Government. There is also no question that we're a compassionate nation; at the same time we do so, we're dropping airlifts of food and medicine so the innocent citizens of that country can survive the brutal winter.

As I walked up, I saw some of the schoolchildren here holding dollar bills. We've got

schoolchildren all across the country out raising a dollar to send to the children of Afghanistan. We've got boys and girls from all religions and all walks of life who have heard the call to love a neighbor just as they'd like to be loved themselves.

The evildoers have struck our Nation, but out of evil comes good. We are a good, kindhearted, decent people, and we're showing the world just that in our compassion and our resolve.

And one thing I fully understand is that when American forces answer the call of duty, they count on their families for support and encouragement. Every deployment brings uncertainty, and I know every deployment brings worry and concern. Our military is made up of brave men and women, and brave families, as well.

Recently, a 4-year-old son of a cargo specialist said goodbye to his dad here at Travis. And according to his mom, the boy has been telling the neighbors that "Daddy is saving the world."

The boy is right. The boy is right. The future of the world is at stake. Freedom is at stake. But I want to tell that boy his daddy has got plenty of help. There are a lot of people like his daddy fighting this war. We fight it overseas, and we fight it at home, as well.

We must be steadfast. We must be resolved. We must not let the terrorists cause our Nation to stop traveling, to stop buying, to stop living ordinary lives. We can be alert, and we will be alert, but we must show them that they cannot terrorize the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. And we won't. We will not be terrorized. We will not be cowed.

We've got a homeland security that's strong. I want to tell the moms and dads here that we're doing everything we can to find them and disrupt them and stop them, if they happen to try to strike on American soil. We're strong at home. We're active at home. But make no mistake about it; the best homeland defense is to find them and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what our Nation will do.

Now that they got the plane fueled up, I'm heading over to China. Of course, we'll talk about economics and trade. But the main thing that will be on my mind is to continue to rally the world against terrorists; is to remind people that it happened to us, sure, but it could happen to them, as well; is to remind them that evil knows no borders, no boundaries, and to remind them that we must take a stand; that those of us who have been given the responsibility of high office must not shirk from our duty; that now is the time to claim freedom for future generations.

The people have struck us. They've tested our mettle and tested our character. But they are going to find that this Nation understands we've reached a pivotal moment in history, where we will plant our flag on the ground, a flag that stands for freedom, and say to anybody who wants to harm us or our friends or allies, "You will pay a serious price, because we're a nation that is strong and resolved and united."

You all are here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You have confidence in America. But make no mistake about it; America has confidence in you.

Thank you all for such a warm greeting. May God bless. May God bless the men and women who wear our uniform. May God protect this great land. And may God bless America. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. on the ramp of the base's flight line. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. (s) David Lefforge, USAF, commander, 60th Air Mobility Wing; Maj. Gen. John Becker, USAF, commander, 15th Air Force; and Col. James Rubeor, USAF, commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing.

Statement on Russia's Decision To Close a Military Intelligence Facility in Lourdes, Cuba

October 17, 2001

I welcome President Putin's announcement today that Russia will close its military intelligence-gathering facility in Lourdes, Cuba. This decision is another indication that the cold war is over. President Putin understands that Russia and America are no longer adversaries; we do not judge our successes by how much it complicates life for the other country. Instead, both nations are taking down relics of the cold war and building a

new, cooperative, and transparent relationship for the 21st century.

I look forward to meeting with President Putin in Shanghai on Sunday, where we will work to deepen the Russian-American partnership.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Further Assistance to the Victims of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

October 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed proposals, totaling $20 billion, to enable the Government to continue to provide assistance to the victims of the September 11th attacks and to deal with the consequences of the attacks.

Public Law 107–38—legislation crafted and enacted with strong bipartisan cooperation—provided a total of $40 billion in emergency funding to the Emergency Response Fund. The $40 billion in emergency expenses enacted in Public Law 107–38 was provided to assist victims of the attacks and to deal with other consequences of the attacks, including the costs of: (1) providing Federal, State, and local preparedness for mitigating and responding to the attacks; (2) providing support to counter, investigate, or prosecute domestic or international terrorism; (3) providing increased transportation security; (4) repairing public facilities and transportation systems damaged by the attacks; and (5) supporting national security.

As required by Public Law 107–38, on September 18th, I designated the entire $40 billion as an emergency funding requirement. Today, I hereby request and designate these individual proposals as emergency funding requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. In addition, I hereby designate the funds in or credited to the Defense Cooperation Account during FY 2002 as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act.

I am proud that we have continued to work together with such bipartisan spirit in the weeks following the despicable attacks on our Nation. Since final estimates of the total resources needed to address the consequences of this tragedy will not be known for months to come, I urge the Congress to enact—without delay—these specific requests that address immediate, near-term needs and that represent currently defined and certain requirements.

My Administration does not intend to seek additional supplemental funding for either domestic or defense needs for the remainder of this session of Congress. If further requirements become clear, we will work with the Congress to address additional needs in the Second Session of the 107th Congress. In addition, we will assess the manner in which our FY 2003 Budget will address further needs as they relate to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the text of Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels' letter.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Proposed "Freedom to Manage Act of 2001"

October 17, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Freedom to Manage Act of 2001." This legislative proposal would establish a procedure under which the Congress can act quickly and decisively to remove those structural barriers to efficient management imposed by law and identified by my Administration.

This proposal is part of the "Freedom to Manage" initiative outlined in the "President's Management Agenda" issued in late August. The initiative includes additional legislative proposals, to be transmitted separately, that would give Federal agencies and managers the tools to more efficiently and effectively manage the Federal Government's programs by: (1) providing Federal managers with increased flexibility to manage personnel; (2) giving agencies the responsibility to fund the full Government share of the accruing cost of all retirement and retiree health care benefits for Federal employees; and (3) giving agencies greater flexibility in managing and disposing of property assets.

In transmitting the Freedom to Manage Act, I am asking the Congress to join with my Administration in making a commitment to reform the Federal Government by eliminating obstacles to its efficient operations. Specifically, the Freedom to Manage Act would establish a process for expedited congressional consideration of Presidential proposals to eliminate or reduce barriers to efficient Government operations through the repeal or amendment of laws that create obstacles to efficient management or the provision of new authority to agencies.

The Freedom to Manage Act would provide that if the President transmits to the Congress legislative proposals relating to the elimination or reduction of barriers to efficient Government operations, either through repeal or amendment of current law or the provision of new authority, special expedited congressional procedures would be used to consider these proposals. If a joint resolution is introduced in either House within 10 legislative days of the transmittal containing the President's legislative proposals, it would be held in committee for no more than 30 legislative days. It would then be brought to the floor of that House very quickly after committee action is completed for a vote under special procedures allowing for limited debate and no amendments. Finally, a bill passed in one House could then be brought directly to the floor of the other House for a vote on final passage.

As barriers to more efficient management are removed, the Nation will rightly expect a higher level of performance from its Federal Government. Giving our Federal managers "freedom to manage" will enable the Federal Government to improve its performance and accountability and better serve the public. I urge the Congress to give the Freedom to Manage Act 2001 prompt and favorable consideration so we can work together in the coming months to implement needed and overdue reforms.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 17, 2001.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang Zemin of China in Shanghai, China

October 19, 2001

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I've just had a very good talk with President Bush. This is our first meeting, and we have had an indepth exchange of views and reached a series of consensus with respect to such major issues as Sino-U.S. relations, counterterrorism, and maintenance of world peace and stability.

China and the United States are two countries with significant influence in the world. As such, we share common responsibility and interest in maintaining peace and security in the Asia-Pacific and the world at large, promoting regional and global economic growth and prosperity, and working together with the rest of the international community to combat terrorism.

China attaches importance to its relations with the United States and stands ready to make joint efforts with the U.S. side to develop a constructive and cooperative relationship.

We live in a world of diversity. Given the differences in national conditions, it is not surprising that there are certain disagreements between China and the United States. I believe that different civilizations and social systems ought to have long-term coexistence and achieve common development in the spirit of seeking common ground while shelving differences.

The Sino-U.S. relations are currently faced with the important opportunities of development. We will conduct high-level strategic dialog, advance exchanges in cooperation in economic, trade, energy, and other fields, and strengthen consultation and coordination on major international and regional issues.

I'm confident that so long as the two sides keep a firm hold of the common interests of the two countries, properly handled, bilateral ties, especially the question of Taiwan, in accordance with the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, the relations between China and the United States will continuously move forward.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much. I, too, felt like we had a very good meeting. I've come to Shanghai because China and other Asia-Pacific nations are important partners in the global coalition against terror.

I've also come because the economic future of my Nation and this region are inseparable. The nations of APEC share the same threat, and we share the same hope for greater trade and prosperity.

Thank you so much for hosting this meeting. You and the city of Shanghai have done an outstanding job. Mr. President, I visited this city 25 years ago—a little over 25 years ago. Then, I could not have imagined the dynamic and impressive Shanghai of 2001. It's an impressive place, and I know you're proud. It's a tribute to the leadership of the current officials of Shanghai, as well as to your leadership as a former mayor, Mr. President.

We have a common understanding of the magnitude of the threat posed by international terrorism. All civilized nations must join together to defeat this threat. And I believe that the United States and China can accomplish a lot when we work together to fight terrorism.

The President and the Government of China responded immediately to the attacks of September 11th. There was no hesitation; there was no doubt that they would stand with the United States and our people during this terrible time. There is a firm commitment by this Government to cooperate in intelligence matters, to help interdict financing of terrorist organizations. It is—President Jiang and the Government stand side by side with the American people as we fight this evil force.

China is a great power, and America wants a constructive relationship with China. We welcome a China that is a full member of world community, that is at peace with its neighbors. We welcome and support China's accession into the World Trade Organization. We believe it's a very important development that will benefit our two peoples and the world.

In the long run, the advance of Chinese prosperity depends on China's full integration into the rules and norms of international institutions. And in the long run, economic freedom and political freedom will go hand in hand.

We've had a very broad discussion, including the fact that the war on terrorism must never be an excuse to persecute minorities. I explained my views on Taiwan and preserving regional stability in East Asia. I stressed the need to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology.

Today's meetings convinced me that we can build on our common interests. Two great nations will rarely agree on everything; I understand that. But I assured the President that we'll always deal with our differences in a spirit of mutual respect. We seek a relationship that is candid, constructive, and cooperative.

I leave my country at a very difficult time. But this meeting is important because of the campaign against terror, because of the ties between two great nations, because of the opportunity and hope that trade provides for both our people.

I regret, Mr. President, I couldn't accept your invitation to visit Beijing, but it will happen at a different time.

President Jiang. Next time.

President Bush. That's right. Thank you for your hospitality.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. I'm a correspondent from China Central Television. Recently, there has been improvement in Sino-U.S. relations. Just now you've had your first meeting with President

Bush. How would you envisage the future growth of the bilateral ties?

President Jiang. The developments of international situation has, time and again, shown that despite our disagreements of this type or that, the two countries share extensive common responsibility and interest on major issues that bear on the survival and development of mankind.

I'm pleased to note that, recently, there has been improvement in our bilateral ties. The two sides have maintained close consultation and cooperation on major issue of counterterrorism. We've also made new headway in our economic and trade fields in such exchanges and cooperation.

China and the United States are different in their national conditions, so it's normal that there are certain disagreements between us. So long as both sides respect each other, treat each other with sincerity, enhance trust through frequent exchange of views, then the disagreements can get addressed properly.

Just now, in my meeting with President Bush, we once again had an extensive and indepth exchange of views on bilateral relations. We also reached important consensus. We stand ready to work together with the U.S. side to increase our exchanges and cooperation, enhance understanding and trust, and develop a constructive and cooperative relations between us.

I'm convinced that so long as the three signed U.S. joint communiques and fundamental norms governing international relations are adhered to, and so long as the problems between us, especially the problem of Taiwan—the question of Taiwan is properly addressed, then there will be a bright future of our relationship.

Response to Terrorism/Anthrax

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, sir, for having us here. Mr. President, do you know yet whether there is a definite link between the anthrax attacks and any foreign interests, particularly Al Qaida or Iraq? And separately, there's a report that we have special forces in southern Afghanistan now. Can you confirm that the ground war has begun?

And a quick question to our host, sir. Do you support the U.S. military action in Afghanistan, which President Bush says could last 1 or 2 years?

President Bush. First, I spent some time explaining to the President of my determination to bring people to justice that murdered our citizens. And I told the President that our Nation will do what it takes to bring them to justice, no matter how long it takes. And Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I don't know the time, but I do know the desire.

And secondly, I explained to the President that we will hold people accountable who harbor terrorists. And that's exactly what we're doing.

I will not comment upon military operations. I made it very clear from the outset of this campaign that I will not respond to rumors and information that seeps into the public consciousness, for fear of disrupting the operations that are taking place. But let me reiterate what I've told the American people and the world: We will use whatever means are necessary to achieve our objective.

Thirdly, I do not have a direct—I don't have knowledge of a direct link of the anthrax incidents to the enemy. But I wouldn't put it past them. These are evil people, and the deeds that have been conducted on the American people are evil deeds. And anybody who would mail anthrax letters, trying to affect the lives of innocent people, is evil. And I want to say this as clearly as I can, that anybody in America who will use this opportunity to threaten our citizens, will think it's funny as a hoax to put out some kind of threat, will be held accountable and will be prosecuted.

Now is the time in America—now is the time—for us to stand up against terror and for American citizens to unite against terror. And we're looking; we're on the search to find out who's conducting these evil acts.

I'm also pleased that the Government is responding very quickly, that people who have been exposed to anthrax are getting the necessary treatments. I think it's very important for people of all the world to understand that if anthrax—if people are exposed to anthrax, there is a treatment for it. And it's very important for all our governments to react and respond as quickly as possible to make sure the citizens who get exposed receive the

necessary antibiotics. And we're doing that in America.

And the American people also have got to understand that we will make sure that there is ample supplies, as we deal with this evil act, that we'll make sure there's ample supplies available for the American people.

[*At this point, President Bush's comments were translated in Chinese.*]

President Bush. Couldn't have said it any better. [*Laughter*]

President Jiang. In my discussion with President Bush this morning, I've made clear that we are opposed to terrorism of all forms. And what we have done in the past has shown this attitude of ours very clearly. We hope that antiterrorism efforts can have clearly defined targets. And efforts should hit accurately and also avoid innocent casualties. And what is more, the role of the United Nations should be brought into full play.

I'd also like to make a comment on anthrax. I've also heard about it. And I think with regard to this problem, all countries should take a unanimous stand, because it's a public hazard. We should all unite and work to prevent it from spreading any further.

That's the end of the press conference. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:47 a.m. in the Western Suburb Guest House. President Jiang spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and an Exchange With Reporters in Shanghai

October 19, 2001

President Bush. I've been looking forward to yet another meeting with our friend the leader of South Korea. We had a good meeting in Washington, DC. Now we have a second meeting to discuss our common interests.

First, we'll spend a lot of time talking about the war against terror. South Korea has been very firm in their support for the United States and the people of the United States. The President was very quick to respond, and I want to thank you, sir.

Secondly, I look forward to affirming our support for trade with South Korea. We'll discuss the new round of trade negotiations.

Thirdly, and as importantly, I'll confirm our support for the President's Sunshine Policy with North Korea. We appreciate his leadership on this very important issue, and I have looked forward to explaining to the President that we, after having reviewed our policy, like I told him we would do, our policy toward North Korea—we have done so, and we've offered Kim Chong-il the chance to meet with United States representatives. So we look forward to hearing a positive response from him.

In the meantime, the President is taking his policy and moving it forward, and we're very supportive of that policy.

President Kim. First of all, ladies and gentlemen, what I would like to say is that I would like to convey our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the people of America for their tremendous loss and the pain and the suffering that they suffer due to the terrorist attack.

And also, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to applaud and show my great respect for the leadership of President Bush, for his calm composure and his very wise decisions in bringing together, first of all, the people of America together so that they will be able to effectively fight this war against terrorism, and also for his outstanding leadership in bringing together the international community together in this fight to eradicate terrorism. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my most sincere congratulations and respect.

As a very close, staunch ally and friend and partner of the United States of America, the Republic of Korea will continue to take active participation in this war against terrorism. We will render all the necessary cooperation and assistance that they might need. And also as for the specifics as to what the Republic of Korea will do, we have already publicly stated our measures to help this war against terrorism, and we have notified the U.S. Government, as well.

And also, ladies and gentlemen, after September 11th, the world has tremendously become a completely different place for us. No country, nobody on this Earth is safe from terrorism and from these heinous terrorists. We must work together; we must cooperate with each other so that the world will become once again a safe place for us to travel freely by air, so that all of us will be able to freely go live and to visit highrises and large apartment buildings, and also so that all of us will be able to safely open our own private mail. All these are very much in doubt these days, and we must cooperate with each other to fight this and eradicate terrorism. And I have great faith that we will, indeed, succeed and that we will be victorious in this war against terrorism. And once again, I would like to applaud the efforts of President Bush for leading this effort to this endeavor.

And ladies and gentlemen, so, during today's meetings with President Bush, it is my hope to have indepth discussions on the effective ways to counter terrorism. And also I wish to discuss, as President Bush mentioned, other issues of common interest.

APEC Support for Military Action in Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, the APEC terrorism declaration will not mention Afghanistan or Usama bin Laden by name. Does this indicate a lack of support for military action in Afghanistan?

President Bush. I believe the APEC nations fully understand that not only terrorists should be brought to justice, but those who harbor terrorists should be brought to justice, as well. I am confident that we've got strong support here with the leaders who are present here at Shanghai; I've talked to most of them on the phone. I can tell you that the support is near unanimous for not only the activities that are going on now but for the strategy of fighting terrorism in the long run.

These leaders understand that we're in a new type of war. They understand that the evil ones are a threat to established governments. They understand that for there to be peace throughout the generations, that we must be decisive and victorious. You heard the South Korean President. He's got a conviction about the need to fight terror; so do other world leaders.

Q. Is it not important to have the APEC nations endorse the kind of military action the United States is leading?

President Bush. The APEC leaders that I have talked to all—at least the ones I've talked to, fully understand that the United States, as well as other allies, will do what it takes to bring people to justice.

And secondly, the doctrine is more than just the people who perpetuate these crimes on the American people. It is any country that harbors them, feeds them, houses them, or funds them. And the world leaders understand that. And I am very grateful for the breadth of support we have received. So far you've heard from two world leaders today, President Jiang of China, President Kim of South Korea, both of whom stand side-by-side with the American Government and the American people.

And I am most pleased with the support we're receiving here, and I look forward to continuing to describe our efforts to our close friends and allies. And they will see in me a determination to succeed. And I fully understand that some, over time, may grow weary and may tire. But they'll realize the United States of America, under my leadership, will not. We must be successful in the war against terror.

The United States—I'm looking forward to sharing with our friend the President about the recent news in the United States, that we've—there have been some anthrax cases, where people have sent anthrax through the mail. And although I cannot pinpoint directly who did it, I will tell him, however, that anybody who were to do that in any country is obviously an evil person.

And we're fighting evil. We don't fight a religion; we fight evil people. There is widespread support for the coalition and widespread support for the aims and goals of this country.

APEC Terrorism Declaration/South Korea-U.S. Cooperation

[*At this point, a question was asked in Korean, and a translation was not provided.*]

President Kim. First of all, the Republic of Korea, the Government of the Republic

of Korea during this APEC meeting will endorse, and we have been actively participating in endorsing this statement and the declaration condemning terrorism, international terrorism. We will continue to take a leading role in this fight against terrorism.

And secondly, we have notified and announced to the Government of the United States our own measures to help in this fight against terrorism. For example, we've decided to send, dispatch a mobile medical team. And also we will be dispatching not only transportation assets and equipment, but also we will be dispatching our military liaison officers, among other measures.

And also, whenever the need arises, the Republic of Korea, the Government will continue to closely consult with the U.S. Government.

Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea

[*At this point, a question was asked in Korean, and a translation was not provided.*]

President Bush. First, I look forward to talking to our friend about his attitudes. After all, President Kim has been a leader in seeking exchanges between families.

Secondly, as I mentioned, my administration wishes to begin a dialog with the Government of Kim Chong-il, yet he has refused to accept our invitation. I would hope that he would accept not only our invitation but seize an opportunity to bring more peaceful relations to the Korean Peninsula. He has an opportunity to lead. President Kim has given him that opportunity, and so have I. And I would hope he would seize the opportunity. I would hope he would show the world that he's interested in peace and interested in improving the lives of the citizens who live in North Korea. This is a moment in history where he can prove his worth. This is—part of our discussions today, of course, will be the Korean Peninsula.

Final question.

Relief Efforts in Afghanistan

Q. Relief organizations say that Afghanistan faces what could be the worst humanitarian crisis ever. Should there be any consideration to halting U.S. military strikes in order to get enough food into the country by winter?

President Bush. First of all, my Government and, I know, the leaders involved in the coalition are worried about the suffering in Afghanistan. The Taliban Government is seizing food. The Taliban Government refuses to allow for an efficient distribution of aid that has been assembled to help the Afghan people.

We will continue our military operations in such a way that it will not disrupt the delivery of food. And not only that, as a matter of fact, concurrent with our military operations will be the distribution of food. But the world must understand that the primary reason why food is not making it to starving people is the Taliban. If they were that interested in serving as representatives of the people, they would be encouraging the distribution of food.

We will continue to do everything we can to make sure that our commitment to aid to the Afghan people is fulfilled. We are the leading country, in terms of providing aid to the Afghan people. I have increased our budget from $170 million to—or asked to increase the budget to over $300 million of aid.

Our beef is not with the Afghan people. Our beef is with a repressive government that houses, aids, and abets terrorists.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:03 p.m. at the Portman Ritz Carlton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, and President Jiang Zemin of China. President Kim spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the United States Embassy Community in Shanghai

October 19, 2001

Thank you all very much. Look who I brought with me—Ambassador Randt's boss, the Secretary of State, who, by the way, is doing a fabulous job on behalf of the American people. I want to thank all my fellow Americans who are here, those of you who are working for a great land and a great people. I also want to thank the Foreign Service nationals who are here, as well.

All of us are very proud of the job that you're doing. I want to say that I sent a clear

signal to China that I take this relationship very seriously, that it's of paramount concern of my administration, when I picked my longtime friend to be the Ambassador to this country. I've known Clark T. for a long, long period of time. I know him to be a man who is bright, intelligent, a man who understands China well. He's going to be a great ambassador to this country.

Hank, I want to thank you, as well. I know how much work goes into making sure one of these trips goes well. After all, our delegation is only occupying three full hotels. [*Laughter*] It's good for the economy when the President shows up. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank you, and I want to thank your office and all the people who have helped with the arrangements for this important trip.

Sergeant, I want to thank you, as well, for your service to the country. As you all know, I committed American troops to a very important cause in the last couple of weeks. And I did so with the full confidence that our military is the best in the world. The American people have got the full confidence that our military will fulfill its mission. And one of the reasons that I've got so much confidence is I know many of the people who wear the uniform.

Sergeant Khaled represents the fine quality of the men and women who serve our country. And Sergeant, thank you very much for being here.

Before I work my way through the ropeline to shake everybody's hand and thank you for coming, maybe take a picture or two, I want to give you a report from the homefront, what it's like in the United States. The United States of America is united. It is strong. It is determined to reject evil, to fight terrorism. The United States people are very patient. They understand that we've entered into a new kind of conflict, and they, like the President and the Secretary of State, are ready to do whatever it takes to win. We will not let terrorism stand.

Our fight is not against a religion or a nation. Our fight is against evil people and a government that houses them. Our fight is against the evildoers, individuals who think so evil that they're willing to murder innocent people, and those who house them. The doctrine is, is that those who have committed crimes against America and crimes against freedom will be held accountable. But so will nations who harbor them, who feed them, and who hide them.

And our great Government, along with others, is now making that statement clear to the world. And we're making good progress. We've got them on the run. And slowly but surely we're pulling the net of justice around them—"they" being the Taliban as the host and the Al Qaida as the parasite. And we will bring them to justice; make no mistake about it. And the world will be better for it when we do.

I had a very good meeting with President Jiang today. He understands that—he understands the threat that terrorism means not only to America but to nations around the world. And he also is willing to join with us in the war against terror. The war against terror is more than just conventional means, the war against terror—using conventional means. The war against terror means smart diplomacy, and for those of you on the diplomatic front, thank you for helping wage that war.

The war against terror means sharing of information. And the Chinese Government is more than willing to work with us as we share information, as we hunt these evildoers down. The war against terror is fought on all kinds of fronts. And whether you realize it or not, you're on the front—on the frontlines of this war. And we want to thank you for that.

I come to this important—I come to this meeting in a time of uncertainty in America. And I did so because I wanted our country to have the confidence that our Government is doing everything we can to win, that we're going to continue to build coalitions, we're going to continue to rally the world.

At home, I want to assure you that we're responding quickly. Perhaps you've read about these anthrax mailings. We don't know who did it yet. But if you've got relatives at home, I can assure you that our Government is taking the necessary actions to make sure Americans are treated quickly when we find any exposure to our fellow citizens.

We're doing everything we can at home to disrupt the evildoers. The Justice Department is on full alert. The FBI is active, within

the Constitution of the United States of America. We're protecting your loved ones and your relatives in America. But I also will remind you that the surest way to make sure America is protected, and other governments and countries are protected, is to win the war, is to find them, patiently hunt them down, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what our great land is going to do.

I'm glad to be back in China. I was here when my mother and dad lived here in the mid-seventies. You weren't here then, were you? [*Laughter*] There's a man who's got a lot of tenure. I've got to tell you, I was amazed—as a matter of fact, my mother and my family—except for my dad—got on a train in 1975 and motored down from Beijing to Shanghai. And I still remember Shanghai. But what I drove through last night from the airport just was mind-boggling. It is a great testament to the ingenuity and drive of the Chinese people. It was—it's going to be hard to describe to my fellow citizens what I saw. It is miraculous and incredible, really. And I think it's—those of you probably who have been here for a while take it for granted. I didn't, and I was amazed.

But it speaks to the great opportunities that exist between China and the United States. The relationship is a very important relationship, one that I take seriously and one that I'm confident will be a positive relationship that will lead to not only strong relations at the governmental level but good relations between our two peoples.

I want to thank you again for working on behalf of the great land called America. We're strong. We are steady. We're united. I'm so proud of the American people, and I'm honored to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:14 p.m. at the Shanghai Center Atrium. In his remarks, he referred to Clark T. Randt, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to China; Sgt. Khaled Hafid, USMC; and President Jiang Zemin of China.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 14

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

October 15

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa of Bahrain to the White House on October 25.

October 16

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia concerning cooperation against terrorism and the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in Shanghai, China. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel of Austria in Washington, DC, on November 1.

The President announced his intention to nominate James T. Morris for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as U.S. Representative to the Food and Agricultural Organization.

The President announced his intention to nominate James D. McGee to be Ambassador to Swaziland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eve Slater to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sally Stroup to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Postsecondary Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Franz S. Leichter to be a member of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allan I. Mendelowitz to be a member of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph Timothy Kelliher to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Samuel E. Ebbesen to be a member of the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Collister Johnson, Jr., to be a member of the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur E. Dewey to be Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugee, and Migration Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Lawson to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert H. Roswell to be Under Secretary of Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad: Zvi Kestenbaum, Albert Glickman, Ari Storch, Daniel Lapin, Laura Raybin Miller, Vincent Obsitnik, and August B. Pust.

October 17

In the morning, the President traveled to Sacramento, CA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Travis Air Force Base. Later, he traveled to Shanghai, China, arriving in the afternoon of October 18.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India to Washington for an official working visit on November 9.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dale Klein to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Samuel T. Mok to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Labor.

October 18

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul A. Quander to be Director of the District of Columbia Offender Supervision, Defender and Court Services Agency.

October 19

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Paul Gilman to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Research and Development.

The President announced his intention to designate Richard A. Clarke as Chair of the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health: Paul L. Zeimer, Henry Anderson, Roy Lynch DeHart, Sally Gadola, James M. Melius, Wanda Iris Munn, Robert W. Presley, and Gennevieve S. Roessler.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 16

Christopher Bancroft Burnham,
of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of State, vice Bert T. Edwards.

Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice D. James Baker, resigned.

Constance Berry Newman,
of Illinois, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Vivian Lowery Derryck, resigned.

R. David Paulison,
of Florida, to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, vice Carrye Burley Brown.

Submitted October 18

Kathleen Burton Clarke,
of Utah, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, vice Thomas A. Fry III.

W. Michael Cox,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice John Martin Manley, resigned.

Dale Klein,
of Texas, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, vice Harold P. Smith, Jr., resigned.

James David McGee,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Samuel T. Mok,
of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor, vice Kenneth M. Bresnahan.

William Schubert,
of Texas, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, vice Clyde J. Hart, Jr.

Sichan Siv,
of Texas, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 15

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the upcoming APEC Summit

Transcript of an interview of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice by Al Jazeera TV

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa of Bahrain

Released October 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the October 15 signing of H.R. 1583 and H.R. 1860

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by Austrian Chancellor Schuessel

Released October 17

Statement by the Press Secretary: Assassination of Israeli Cabinet Minister

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Vajpayee of India

Statement by the Press Secretary commending Chairman Young for introducing comprehensive legislation to improve aviation security

Released October 18

Transcript of a press roundtable by Gov. Tom Ridge on homeland security

Transcript of a press briefing by Gov. Tom Ridge; Attorney General John Ashcroft; Surgeon General David Satcher; Postmaster General Jack Potter; FBI Director Robert Mueller; CDC Director Mitch Cohen; Deputy Surgeon General Ken Moritsugu; and Assistant Secretary of Defense-designate William Winkenwerder on homeland security

Released October 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Gov. Thomas Ridge, Health and Human Services Secretary

Tommy G. Thompson, Surgeon General David Satcher, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joseph Allbaugh on homeland security

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 15

H.R. 1583 / Public Law 107–49
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 West Spring Street in New Albany, Indiana, as the "Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse"

H.R. 1860 / Public Law 107–50
Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001

Approved October 16

H.J. Res. 42 / Public Law 107–51
Memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland

H.J. Res. 51 / Public Law 107–52
Approving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Proclamation 7487—National Forest Products Week, 2001

October 19, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation has been blessed with and sustained by its many natural resources. Among these resources, one that has provided us with both vital products and much enjoyment is America's forestland.

Throughout our Nation's history, our forests have provided paper products, construction materials for dwellings and furniture, and fuel for warmth and cooking. Timbers harvested from our lands have been fundamental to the growth and expansion of America. Although our reliance on our forests has changed during the last century, they continue to remain an invaluable resource.

The beautiful cherry wood of Pennsylvania, the mighty oaks of the Midwest, the pines of the South, and the firs of the West are loved by millions of Americans, who find solace and relaxation in camping, hiking, and enjoying recreational activities among these trees. And for many Americans working in the construction, manufacturing, and recreation industries, our forests represent economic security for their families and communities. They serve as important ecosystems, sheltering and feeding wildlife, protecting soil, and purifying water and air. Our timberlands also serve as an important symbol of our Nation's beauty and economic strength. Now, more than ever, we have a responsibility to ensure that they remain healthy and productive.

By working together to develop and promote sensible policies, we can achieve success in protecting these natural resources and pristine areas. My Administration will work closely with Federal, State, and local officials, as well as private landowners to encourage sustainable land management techniques, utilize the latest in scientific research, foster local stewardship of resources, and support innovative methods of pollution control. If we remain vigilant, our forests will provide products, recreation, clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat for generations to come.

In recognition of the economic, environmental, and recreational importance of our forests, the Congress, by Public Law 86–753 (36 U.S.C. 123), has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 21 through October 27, 2001, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon all Americans to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 24, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 25. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 20, 2001

Good morning. I'm speaking to you today from Shanghai, China, at an international meeting of Pacific rim nations where we are continuing to enlist the resources of the civilized world in our war against terrorism.

I am meeting with leaders from China and Mexico, Russia and Canada, Australia and Japan, and many other friends, allies, and trading partners. We're discussing ways to cooperate to improve intelligence, freeze funding, and better track down terrorist groups. We're also discussing ways to better protect all our citizens from a new threat, the threat of bioterrorism.

America has now confirmed several different cases of anthrax exposure in Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. I commend the many health and law enforcement officials who have worked quickly to identify people who may have been exposed and provide preventative antibiotic treatment. Their quick work has no doubt saved lives.

We do not yet know who sent anthrax to the United States Capitol or several different media organizations. We do not, at this point, have any evidence linking the anthrax to the terror network that carried out the attacks of September 11. We do know that anyone who deliberately delivers anthrax is engaged in a crime and an act of terror, a hateful attempt to harm innocent people and frighten our citizens.

Our health care laboratories and law enforcement officials continue to work overtime to test samples, to track leads, and prosecute hoaxes that have now been reported not only across America but across the world. These attacks once again reveal the evil at the heart of terrorism, the evil we must fight.

The nations meeting here in Shanghai understand what is at stake. If we do not stand against terrorism now, every civilized nation will at some point be its target. We will defeat the terrorists by destroying their network, wherever it is found. We will also defeat the terrorists by building an enduring prosperity that promises more opportunity and better lives for all the world's people. We will oppose envy, resentment, and anger with growth, trade, and democracy.

The countries of the Pacific rim made the decision to open themselves up to the world, and the result is one of the great development success stories of our time. The peoples of this region are more prosperous, healthier, and better educated than they were only two decades ago. Many more live under democratically elected governments.

This progress has been achieved by people of all cultures and all religions, by Christian and Buddhist South Korea, and majority-Muslim Malaysia and Indonesia. And this progress proves what openness can accomplish.

The terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. They fear trade because they understood that trade brings freedom and hope. We're in Shanghai to advance world trade because we know that trade can conquer poverty and despair. In this struggle of freedom against fear, the outcome is not in doubt; freedom will win. And it will bring new hope to the lives of millions of people in Asia and throughout the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:37 p.m. on October 19 at the Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Shanghai, China, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., EST, on October 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Prime Minister John Howard of Australia; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters in Shanghai, China

October 20, 2001

President Bush. It's an honor to be with our—with my friend. And we have no stronger friend in the fight against terror than the Prime Minister of Japan. I have been impressed by his resolve and his determination.

I'm also very impressed by his resolve and determination to make economic reforms within Japan. He's got a very good strategy, an economic strategy, and I support it. And I support the fact that he is a strong leader.

I regret that I didn't have an opportunity to take advantage of the kind invitation to

go to Tokyo. But Mr. Prime Minister, I assure you that when things settle down, if I'm still invited, I would like to come back.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Of course.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I appreciate your strong leadership to fight terrorism. Your determination and the patience, I appreciate.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

I'll be glad to take—yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. A question, sir?

President Bush. Sure.

Operation Enduring Freedom Helicopter Crash

Q. Your reaction, please, to the crash of the helicopter that cost the lives of two servicemen. And can you tell us what mission it was that they were supporting?

President Bush. My heart goes out to the family and friends of those who lost their life. It is hard to express my gratitude in proper words for people that are willing to sacrifice for freedom. The Nation feels the same gratitude. And I want to assure the loved ones that the soldiers died in a cause that is just and right and that we will prevail.

In the addresses I've given to our Nation, I have said that sometimes the American people and our allies will see actions we take, and sometimes people won't see the actions we take. But they can rest assured that we will use the resources of our country, all the resources of our country, to ferret out and find and bring to justice those who would harm our country and harm other countries, as well. And that's exactly what we're doing.

Special Forces Ground Operations

Q. Sir, are you satisfied with the progress in the first day of the ground war by the Special Forces?

President Bush. I am satisfied we're making very good progress. We are dismantling Taliban defenses, Taliban military. We are destroying terrorist hideaways. We are slowly but surely encircling the terrorists so that we can bring them to justice.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Domestic Reaction to Casualties

Q. Do you feel like you've prepared the American people adequately for the possibility of casualties, sir?

President Bush. Steve, I think the American people understand that ours will be a long struggle against terror. And they understand there will be sacrifice. After all, there was no greater example of that sacrifice than on Flight 93, when American citizens, after having said the Lord's Prayer, said, "Let's roll." And they stormed that airplane so as to save lives on the ground.

I think the American people now fully understand that we are in an important struggle, a struggle that will take time, and that the country—there will be moments of sacrifice. We've seen two such examples today.

The thing that's important for me to tell the American people, that these soldiers will not have died in vain. This is a just cause. It's an important cause. The Prime Minister of Japan understands how important this cause is. He's a strong friend and ally in our fight against terror. We must succeed, and we will succeed.

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Mr. President, both you and Dr. Rice have talked about how much cooperation you're getting from other countries. Is it the case that all countries around the world are cooperating in this effort, or are there still countries that we would like to see more determination from to join this fight against terror?

President Bush. Well, I fully understand that some countries will participate with military forces, and others won't feel comfortable doing that. Some countries will be very good about sharing intelligence; other countries may not be so good. Some countries will be much more efficient about cutting off money; other countries may be a little lax about cutting off money. But the point is, is that the coalition is broad and deep and strong and committed.

And we are very pleased with not only the commitment but the collective contribution. And we're making great progress. We're—not only are we doing well militarily, but we're sharing intelligence all across the

globe, in ways that people could never envision up to now.

So I'm very pleased. And I want to commend the Secretary of State for not only working hard to put the coalition together but working hard to reinforce the coalition. And one of the reasons I came to this important meeting was to be able to look at my friend and thank him for his commitment, his support, and thank other world leaders for their support.

Q. Should the American people expect more from——

Discussions With Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia

Q. Sir, can you tell us how the meeting went with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, who has expressed concern about the military action?

President Bush. Well, we had a very good visit today. He is concerned about the death of innocent people in Afghanistan, and I assured him I am, too. Our beef is not with the Afghan people. Our beef is with a government that houses and feeds and tries to hide terrorists. And I assured him that our campaign was—that we were trying to be as careful as we possibly could to achieve our military objective.

Secondly, I want the American people to understand that we're a compassionate Government. We're spending a great deal of money to help the people of Afghanistan. And I'm concerned about the fact that food isn't getting to some Afghan citizens, and the reason why is, is because the Taliban is preventing food distribution. They're disrupting food; they're stealing food. These are people that are willing to starve their people, which is yet another reason why the Taliban must go.

Q. Should the American people expect more——

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. [*Inaudible*]—to his question, were you commenting on the success of today's mission, or to the success of the mission in general?

President Bush. The success of the mission in general. We're making great progress. We're making great progress. As you know, I'm not going to comment on a specific operation. I will tell you, though, that we're using all the resources of the country. And in general, we're making very good progress. We're pleased with the progress being made.

Q. Should the American people expect more raids like today, sir?

Upcoming Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. [*Inaudible*]—what about Putin tomorrow——

President Bush. Oh, I think it's a very important meeting with President Putin tomorrow. I'm sorry, Mr. Prime Minister. But I look forward to the continued progress toward our Crawford meeting.

Somebody said, "Well, there's great anticipation that there will be so-called breakthroughs." Well, the breakthrough occurred in our first meeting, where we made a determined effort to work together to find common ground when it comes to new strategic arrangements. But I wouldn't expect any startling news, except for the fact that we're continuing our dialog.

The Prime Minister has got a few comments.

Baseball

[*At this point, a question was asked in Japanese, and a translation was not provided.*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. My treasure, precious, for Ripken, world-famous baseball player. I love baseball very much. I love baseball very much—American sports.

President Bush. He's got a very nice arm, too. [*Laughter*] I saw his fastball at Camp David. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. Yes—quite a spirit, very strong. Reliable.

President Bush. Plus, we've been very impressed by Ichiro. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. My name is "Jun-Ichiro." [*Laughter*] "Jun" is "pure"—"Jun" means pure, purity. "Ichiro."

President Bush. Got you. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. at the Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Baltimore Orioles third baseman Cal Ripken, Jr., and Seattle Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki.

Remarks at the Chief Executive Officers Summit in Shanghai

October 20, 2001

Thank you all very much. Bob, thank you so much for your kind words, and thank you for your great service to our country. Thank you, Chairman Yu, as well, for your good work in organizing this event.

I want to thank our hosts. I was telling Chairman Yu that I was here in 1975 with my mother. [*Laughter*] Shanghai has finally recovered. [*Laughter*] I can't tell you what a startling difference it is—Shanghai is today than what it was in 1975. It's a great testimony to the Chinese people and the leadership of Shanghai and the leadership of this great land.

I also want to say that I'm proud to be accompanied by our great Secretary of State, who is doing such a fantastic job for the United States of America, Colin Powell.

We meet today with recent memories of great evil, yet great hope for this region and its future. The attacks of September 11th took place in my country, but they were really an attack on all civilized countries. The roll of the dead and the missing includes citizens from over 80 nations: 96 Russians, 23 Australians, at least 30 Chinese, 24 Japanese, 20 Malaysians, 16 Mexicans, 21 Indonesians. This was truly a crime against humanity. And it stands condemned by humanity.

The American people are grateful for the world's sympathy and support following September 11th. We truly are. We won't forget the American Stars and Stripes flying in solidarity from every fire truck in Montreal, Canada, or children kneeling in silent prayer outside the embassy in Seoul, baseball players in Japan observing moments of silence, a sign handwritten in English at a candlelight vigil in Beijing that read, "Freedom and justice will not be stopped."

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the phone calls from leaders from around the world. We're deeply grateful to countries, including all the APEC countries, that have now joined in a great coalition against terror.

In our world, there is no isolation from evil. Our enemies are murderers with global reach. They seek weapons to kill on a global scale. Every nation now must oppose this enemy or be, in turn, its target. Those who hate all civilization and culture and progress, those who embrace death to cause the death of the innocent, cannot be ignored, cannot be appeased. They must be fought. This is my firm resolve and the firm resolve of my Nation. This is the urgent task of our time.

The most visible part of our response is taking place in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime has allied itself with murderers. I gave Taliban leaders a choice: Turn over the terrorists, or face your ruin. They chose unwisely.

Yet, even as we oppose the Taliban, we seek friendship with the Afghan people. Our military actions are accompanied by food drops. We have substantially increased aid to Afghanistan. My Government supports international efforts to bring help and stability and peace to that unfortunate nation.

There's frustration about the delivery of food and medicine and help in Afghanistan. I share that frustration. The guilty ones are the Taliban. They disrupt; they steal; they prevent supplies of food from delivery. They starve their people, and that is another reason they must go.

Our war on terror has many fronts, and military action is only part of our plan. This campaign will take strong diplomacy and intelligence, diligent law enforcement and financial cooperation. It will span every continent and require varied contributions from many nations.

Tomorrow APEC leaders will pledge to work together to deny the terrorists any sanctuary, any funding, any material or moral support. Together, we will patiently and diligently pursue the terrorists from place to place until justice is done.

This conflict is a fight to save the civilized world and values common to the West, to Asia, to Islam. Throughout the world, people of strong faith, of all faiths, condemn the murder of the innocent. Throughout the world, people value their families, and nowhere do civilized people rejoice in the murder of children or the creation of orphans. By their cruelty, the terrorists have chosen to live on the hunted margin of mankind. By their hatred, they have divorced themselves from the values that define civilization itself.

The stakes of this fight for all nations are high: our lives, our way of life, and our economic future. By attacking two great economic symbols, the terrorists tried to shatter confidence in the world economic system, but they failed.

The terrorists hoped world markets would collapse, but markets have proven their resiliency and fundamental strength. And this week in these halls, we return to the steady work of building the market-based economic system that has brought more prosperity more quickly to more people than at any time in human history. We know a future of greater trade and growth and human dignity is possible, and we will build it.

When nations allow their citizens to exercise conscience and creativity, the result is economic and social progress. When nations accept the rules of the modern world, they discover the benefits of the modern world.

This vast region and its people, 21 economies on the shores of a peaceful ocean, are demonstrating the power and appeal of markets and trade. China's per capita GDP has grown by 513 percent since 1975. Seventy-three percent of all South Korean households have personal computers. Slashing trade barriers has helped Chile raise per capita incomes by 53 percent over the past 10 years.

And the wealth generated by markets and trade brings dramatic improvement to human lives. Indonesia has cut its infant mortality rate in half since 1980. Malaysia's illiteracy rate is one-third of what it was in 1975; Mexico is less than half.

I'm here in Shanghai to assure our friends and to inform our foes that the progress of trade and freedom will continue. The ties of culture and commerce will grow stronger. Economic development will grow broader.

The Asia-Pacific region provides the world with a model and a choice: Choose openness, trade, and tolerance, and you will find prosperity, liberty, and knowledge. Choose isolation, envy, and resentment, and you will find poverty, stagnation, and ignorance. Our nations have chosen: We have chose freedom over fear.

Out of the sorrow of September 11th, I see opportunity—a chance for nations and their leaders to strengthen and to rethink and reinvigorate our relationships. We share more than a common enemy; we share a common goal, to expand our ties of trade and trust. And now we must seize the opportunity.

First, our governments must keep the path of economic progress. That progress begins with freer trade. Trade is the engine of economic advancement. On every continent, in every culture, trade generates opportunity, enhances entrepreneurial growth. And trade applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It has lifted countless lives in this region, from Asia to Australia to the Americas.

Together, we must meet the Bogor Goals, including free trade for every nation in this region by 2020. The Shanghai Accord we'll sign tomorrow gives us new and useful tools to enhance trade and investment.

We must also launch a new global trade round in November in Doha. We're committed to the goal of a world that lives and trades in freedom, and we must meet any challenge that stands in our way. There's much work to be done, and all of us, every nation, must redouble our efforts to see that Doha is a success. And every CEO in this room knows the strong case for free trade, and I urge all of you to press that case with your own governments.

The United States will do its part to restore economic momentum for the world. We'll keep our markets open and our country open for business. We've already announced additional spending to assist and rebuild New York City, to stabilize the airline industry, and defend our country. Tax rebates have been arriving in America's mailboxes. Interest rates have been cut to historically low levels. In addition, I'm working with Congress to help workers who have lost their jobs and to stimulate the American economy with additional tax relief, relief that will bolster consumer spending and provide incentives for business investment.

The economic fundamentals in America are strong, and our Nation will recover.

Even before September 11th, this region faced economic uncertainty. The answer is more trade and openness, not less. This region needs regulatory systems that attract investors. Banking systems must be more transparent. Corporations must be more open and

accountable. And as called for in the Shanghai Accord, we must dramatically reduce the cost of doing business across borders by streamlining customs procedures, by harmonizing technology standards, and by cutting redtape.

Even in the midst of our current slowdown, there are many encouraging signs. Reform programs have been put in place in Japan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. China and Taiwan have made great strides as they prepare for WTO membership. Russia and Mexico are tracking new sources of capital. All of this is progress, and we must build on it.

Our second broad challenge is to fight terrorism within our countries without undermining the ties of commerce and friendship between our countries. Terrorists want to turn the openness of the global economy against itself. We must not let them. We need customs, financial, immigration, and transportation systems that make it easier for us to do our business and much harder for terrorists to do theirs. Pursuing both openness and security is difficult. But it is necessary, and it is the aim of the counterterror measures the APEC leaders will commit themselves to tomorrow.

Our third challenge is to see to it that the benefits of prosperity and freedom are widely shared. The great alternative to hate is hope. And to seize the hopeful opportunities of markets and trade, people must be educated and healthy, and governments must be fair and just and committed to the rule of law.

All of our citizens need basic education. The greatest resource of any nation is the creative energies of its people. They must gain the skills demanded by a new economic world. Only when literacy and learning are widespread will the benefits of the global economy be widely shared.

All our citizens must have the advantage of basic health. Diseases such as AIDS destroy countless lives and undermine the success of many nations. Prosperous nations must work in partnership with developing nations to help remove the cloud of disease from our world's future.

Our governments must continue to fight official corruption in every form. Good economies can be suffocated by bureaucrats that serve themselves and not the public. Corrupt officials can destroy people's faith in fairness and in progress.

All nations must also realize that, in the long run, the habits of economic freedom will create expectations of greater democracy. All people, of every religious or ethnic group, have a right to participate in their nation's political life. No government should use our war against terrorism as an excuse to persecute minorities within their borders. Ethnic minorities must know that their rights will be safeguarded, that their churches and temples and mosques belong to them. We must respect legitimate political aspirations and, at the same time, oppose all who spread terror in the name of politics or religion.

Our times present many challenges. Yet I'm confident about our shared future. I know that our region and our world can trade in freedom. I know we can bring health and education and prosperity to our people. And I know we can defeat terror so our children and grandchildren can live in peace and security.

In the struggle of freedom against fear, the outcome is certain. We speak for the common hopes of mankind, to live as we choose, to follow our faith, to build better lives for all who follow us. These hopes have carried us a long way, bringing progress and prosperity to millions. And they carry us forward to even greater achievement.

Now is the time to act boldly, to build and defend an age of liberty.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Pudong Shangri-La Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Robert E. Rubin, chairman, executive committee, board of directors, Citigroup; and Yu Xiaosong, chairman and chief executive officer, APEC CEO Summit 2001 Organizing Committee.

APEC Leaders Statement on Counter-Terrorism

October 21, 2001

1. Leaders unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, and

express their deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of a large number of nationalities and their families and to the people and Government of the United States of America.

2. Leaders consider the murderous deeds as well as other terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of all nations. Terrorism is also a direct challenge to APEC's vision of free, open and prosperous economies, and to the fundamental values that APEC members hold.

3. Leaders reaffirm that it is more important than ever for every economy to forge ahead in its commitment in achieving Bogor's goal of free, open trade and investment.

4. Leaders deem it imperative to strengthen international cooperation at all levels in combating terrorism in a comprehensive manner and affirm that UN should play a major role in this regard, especially taking into account the importance of all relevant UN resolutions.

5. Leaders commit to prevent and suppress all forms of terrorist acts in the future in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international law, pledge to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1368 and 1373 faithfully and immediately, strongly support all efforts to strengthen the international anti-terrorism regime, call for increased cooperation to bring perpetrators to justice, and also call for early signing and ratification of all basic universal anti-terrorist conventions including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

6. Leaders are determined to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation in line with specific circumstances in their respective economies, through:

- Appropriate financial measures to prevent the flow of funds to terrorists, including accelerating work on combating financial crimes through APEC Finance Ministers' working Group on Fighting Financial Crime and increasing involvement in related international standard-setting bodies;
- Adherence by all economies to relevant international requirements for the security of air and maritime transportation. Leaders call on Transport Ministers to actively take part in the discussions on enhancing airport, aircraft, and port security, achieve effective outcomes as early as possible, and assure full implementation and cooperation in this regard;
- Strengthening of energy security in the region through the mechanism of the APEC Energy Security Initiative, which examines measures to respond to temporary supply disruptions and longer-term challenges facing the region's energy supply;
- Strengthening of APEC activities in the area of critical sector protection, including telecommunications, transportation, health and energy.
- Enhancement of customs communication networks and expeditious development of a global integrated electronic customs network, which would allow customs authorities to better enforce laws while minimizing the impact on the flow of trade.
- Cooperation to develop electronic movement records systems that will enhance border security while ensuring movement of legitimate travelers is not disrupted.
- Strengthening capacity building and economic and technical cooperation to enable member economies to put into place and enforce effective counter-terrorism measures.
- Cooperation to limit the economic fallout from the attacks and move to restore economic confidence in the region through policies and measures to increase economic growth as well as ensure stable environment for trade, investment, travel and tourism.

7. Leaders also pledge to cooperate fully to ensure that international terrorism does not disrupt economies and markets, through close communication and cooperation among economic policy and financial authorities.

NOTE: The joint statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not

issued as a White House press release. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration, Shanghai, China

October 21, 2001

Meeting New Challenges in the New Century

1. We, the Economic Leaders of APEC, gathered today in Shanghai for the first time in the twenty-first century. We are here to explore ways to meet the new challenges confronting us. Convinced of the great potential of the Asia-Pacific region, we have resolved to achieve common prosperity through broader participation and closer cooperation.

2. Our meeting has taken place at a crucial juncture. The major world economies are experiencing a slowdown more severe than anticipated. Most economies in the Asia-Pacific region have experienced an economic downturn, with some emerging economies particularly affected by unfavorable external market conditions. In addition, the terrorist attack on the United States risks undermining some industries as well as consumer and investor confidence. In the long run, a major challenge for the Asia-Pacific community is to manage the profound changes brought forth by globalization and the New Economy and to benefit from the opportunities that abound.

3. As the premier forum for regional economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific, APEC is well suited to play a leading role in helping its member economies embrace these opportunities and challenges. We wish to send a clear and strong message on the collective resolve of the Asia-Pacific community to counter terrorism. We are determined to reverse the current economic downturn and maintain public confidence at a time of uncertainty by fighting protectionism and committing to the launch of the new WTO round at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference. These efforts are consonant with and contribute to the pursuit of the APEC vision of peace, harmony and common prosperity.

4. Inspired by such a vision, we are determined to work together for a more dynamic and prosperous Asia Pacific in the new century by promoting sustainable economic growth, sharing the benefits of globalization and the New Economy, and advancing Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF). To this end, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies. We have also charted the course for the development of APEC in its second decade and beyond by adopting the Shanghai Accord.

Promoting Sustainable Growth

5. We affirm our unwavering confidence in the medium and long-term growth prospects for the Asia-Pacific region since the fundamentals of the region remain sound. As reforms and restructuring following the 1997–1998 financial crisis take effect, many emerging economies are now in a much stronger position to cushion themselves against the impact of the economic slowdown and unexpected shocks.

6. We undertake to adopt appropriate policies and measures to increase economic growth and resolve to enhance macroeconomic policy dialogue and cooperation not only to resume growth but also to build a stronger foundation for sustainable growth and broad-based development. It is important for all economies to take timely policy actions to strengthen markets and facilitate an early pick-up in global economic activity.

7. In this context, we pledge to accelerate our domestic efforts to build capacity and deepen structural reform so as to strengthen the market fundamentals across the region. To this end, we emphasize the importance of sound economic policies and corporate governance as well as the important role and responsibility of governments in shaping the legal and regulatory framework that encourages competition and innovation, with an increased emphasis on capacity building. Developing the social safety net is a high priority, as it can make an important contribution to reducing the harmful effects of economic shocks on vulnerable groups. As noted in the 2001 Economic Outlook, enhancing

financial efficiency is also essential to promoting growth. We thus welcome efforts made in these areas in APEC, including strengthening economic legal infrastructure, supervision of capital markets, corporate governance, and implementation of international financial standards, as exemplified by the work done through the Finance Ministers' process. We also welcome contributions by Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) in these areas. We direct responsible Ministers and Officials to build on their work.

8. Recognizing the importance of promoting financial stability and crisis prevention, we stress the need to strengthen the international financial system. We urge continued efforts to enhance the effectiveness of mechanisms to prevent the recurrence of financial crisis. We welcome the important steps that have been taken to strengthen the international financial architecture including, for example, the review by the Financial Stability Forum of the effectiveness and the progress in implementing the recommendations from the Working Group on Offshore Financial Centers and Highly Leveraged Institutions. We emphasize the importance of ensuring that representation on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board and IMF quota/share allocation appropriately reflects the current world economy. While the IMF and other international financial institutions play a pivotal role, regional cooperation can also be very useful in complementing efforts by these institutions to promote financial stability. In this connection, we welcome the substantial progress in implementing the Chiang Mai Initiative to strengthen cooperative financing arrangements among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. We also note the ongoing work in the Manila Framework Group. We support all these efforts and urge them to be strengthened.

9. The current economic slowdown underlines, above all, the importance of APEC's work towards more open and stronger economies. We reaffirm our unyielding commitment to free and open trade and investment and resolve to work together to fight against protectionism in all forms. We render the strongest support for an open, equitable and rules-based Multilateral Trading System, which is essential to sustain global economic growth. APEC must also stay on track with its own agenda on trade and investment and on capacity building.

Sharing the Benefits of Globalization and the New Economy

10. We are convinced that globalization is a powerful vehicle that stimulates economic growth, and holds great promises for delivering higher living standards to people and improving social well-being for our communities. We acknowledge that the New Economy has broad potential to raise productivity, stimulate innovation in economic organization and entrepreneurship, and create and disseminate knowledge and wealth. However, the opportunities arising from these processes are not sufficiently shared among and even within economies. Hence the need to enable all individuals in our communities to benefit from them. We emphasize the importance of capacity building, both human and institutional, as a key answer to the challenges and opportunities of globalization and the New Economy. Capacity building constitutes a key element of the balanced approach essential to the success of APEC along with market opening and full participation.

11. In this context, we reiterate that human capacity building (HCB) remains a central theme this year and the years ahead. We commend the success of the High-Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building, and welcome the Beijing Initiative as a comprehensive set of principles for human capacity building, which also provides opportunities for further work in the New Economy. We call on APEC fora and member economies to undertake follow-up activities in specific areas of their interest in the spirit of developed and developing economies complementing each other. We support the engagement of all key stakeholders in the region and, in particular, the establishment of the partnership of government, business, academic and training institutions for this purpose. We welcome the launch of the Consortium for APEC Cyber Education Cooperation initiated and sponsored by the APEC Education Foundation, the Human Capacity

Building Promotion Program and the APEC Finance and Development Program. We also welcome the outcomes of the 4th Human Resources Development Ministerial meeting and support the Kumamoto Statement that makes a contribution to APEC Human Resources Development activities in the 21st Century as a basis for advancing social and economic development and the sharing of prosperity by our people.

12. Reaffirming the importance of Economic and Technical Cooperation (Ecotech) in achieving equitable growth and sustainable development, we welcome the progress that APEC has made in advancing Ecotech goals and underscore that Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation and Ecotech should be mutually reinforcing. We call for efforts to this end to be further strengthened. We commend the formulation and submission of Ecotech Action Plans by individual member economies as a major step forward for promoting sound and balanced development of APEC and ask Ministers and Officials to develop the exercise as lessons are learned.

13. We also welcome the progress made in other areas of Ecotech. We endorse the APEC Strategy for Combating Infectious Disease and call on members and relevant fora to implement its recommendations.

14. Given the importance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and micro-enterprises, we instruct Ministers and Officials to build on APEC's Integrated Plan of Action for SMEs and place special emphasis on micro-enterprises. In this context, we welcome the High Level Meeting on Micro-enterprises to be hosted by Mexico next year.

15. Building on work done in Brunei last year, we have made further progress by formulating and delivering a long-term, forward-looking and more action-oriented e-APEC Strategy for the development of the New Economy through the promotion of information and communications technology (ICT) and its application in our region. The goal is to build APEC towards a digital society, with higher growth, increased learning and employment opportunities, improved public services and better qualities of life by taking advantage of advanced, reliable and secure ICT and networks and by promoting universal access. Such a society should bring equal opportunities and widely shared benefits for all member economies and individuals, including women, the disabled and others. We commend the crosscutting character of the e-APEC Strategy and urge APEC fora and member economies to implement the programs for collective and individual actions set out in the Strategy, as appropriate. Under the current circumstances, the early implementation of the Strategy will also support the revival of the ICT sector. We also welcome the progress in advancing e-commerce.

16. In September 2002 many of us will be meeting in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to reinvigorate our commitment to sustainable development in pursuit of enhancing economic growth, promoting human and social development and protecting the environment as interdependent objectives. We will consider how APEC, which has undertaken a broad range of activities in this area, can contribute to the success of the World Summit and take forward the outcomes in its work program.

17. We realize that there is an ongoing public debate on the benefits and costs of globalization. Such debates are healthy when they are informed by rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the impact of globalization. The time has come for APEC to come forward and lead the public debate in a constructive manner. We instruct Officials to convene an APEC Dialogue on Globalization and Shared Prosperity, focusing on, among other issues, structural adjustment and its impact. At the same time, APEC should reach out to business and other stakeholders to communicate APEC's objectives, activities and benefits to ensure that they participate in and benefit from the APEC process and globalization at large. In particular, we thank APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for its report and value the interaction with the Council and other business representatives. We also direct our Ministers and Officials to develop and implement programs to give effect to the APEC Communications and Outreach Strategy as well as the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Group on APEC Interaction.

18. Noting that sustainable growth in the APEC region also requires the ability to feed a growing and increasingly prosperous population, Leaders call for accelerated implementation of the APEC Food System initiative. Recognizing the benefits of biotechnology in improving productivity, increasing nutrition, and reducing the environmental impact of agricultural production, we reaffirm the importance of safe introduction and use of biotechnology products based on sound science. We also welcome the initiative to hold a policy-level dialogue on agricultural biotechnology and call for more related capacity building activities.

19. We take satisfaction at the significant progress made, through the leadership of the Ad Hoc Group on Gender Integration, in the capacity of APEC to address gender equity in its work. Our commitment to a wide distribution of the economic opportunities of our era requires the application of gender perspectives in APEC's work, we welcome the decision to hold a Second Ministerial Meeting on Women in Mexico in 2002, as an opportunity to make further progress.

Supporting the Multilateral Trading System

20. Trade and investment liberalization and facilitation hold another key to realizing our vision for reduced disparities and common prosperity. They have taken on increased importance at a time when rapid changes are reshaping the global marketplace. Hence, we commit to further efforts in advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation both within our region and globally.

21. In November, a major decision will be taken at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference. Its outcome will have long-term implications for our future. Our choice is unmistakably for a stronger Multilateral Trading System with greater opportunities for all. We strongly support the launch of the WTO new round at the conference, recognizing that the current slowdown in the world economy has added to its urgency. We agree that, once launched, the new round should be concluded expeditiously.

22. We emphasize the need for a balanced, sufficiently broad-based agenda, which is achievable. This is essential to the successful launch and conclusion of the New Round. We agree that the agenda for the New Round should include further trade liberalization, the strengthening of WTO rules, implementation issues, and reflect the interests and concerns of all members, especially those of the developing and least developed ones. We also agree that such an agenda should address the challenges in the 21st century and support the goal of sustainable development. This will help ensure that the prosperity flows from growing trade and investment is accessible and equitably distributed to all. In this context, we also emphasize the importance that the New Round be supported by all WTO members, and hence the need for effective implementation of special and differential treatment and for enhancing WTO's internal transparency.

23. We reconfirm the commitment to the APEC-wide moratorium on the imposition of custom duties on electronic transmissions, and agree on its extension until the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, recognizing the importance of relevant WTO agreements for electronic commerce.

24. We reaffirm the importance of APEC WTO-related capacity building activities which realize the objectives of the Strategic APEC Plan as a unique, substantial contribution to strengthening the Multilateral Trading System, and call for the accelerated implementation of the Plan to assist developing economies in implementing the WTO agreements.

25. We applaud the conclusion of all negotiations on the terms for China's membership in the WTO as a historic development that not only helps make WTO a truly world organization but also reinforces the underpinnings for global economic cooperation. We urge that the decision on final approval of China's accession be taken at the upcoming Ministerial Conference. We also reiterate strong support for the final approval of the accession by Chinese Taipei at the Conference and the advancement of WTO accession by the Russian Federation and Viet Nam.

26. We reaffirm that regional and bilateral trade agreements should serve as building blocks for multilateral liberalization in the

WTO. We affirm that the existing and emerging regional trading agreements should therefore be consistent with WTO rules and disciplines. We also believe that these arrangements should be in line with APEC architecture and supportive of APEC's goals and principles. We note the initiatives on exchange of information in this regard.

Sharpening the Vision for the Future

27. APEC has come a long way since its inception in 1989. So has the world around it. These changes have not in any way lessened the need for a vehicle of cooperation like APEC in our region. On the contrary, they have made it more compelling for us to remain fully committed to the APEC process, to the vision of a peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific community of diverse yet interdependent economies that has evolved from Seattle to Brunei, and above all, to the Bogor Goals. We also reaffirm our belief in the unique APEC Approach based on the fundamental principles of voluntarism, consensus-building, combination of individual and collective actions, flexibility, comprehensiveness and open regionalism, which has inspired and underpinned our successes.

28. At the same time, we recognize that APEC must demonstrate its dynamism in advancing with the times by responding and adapting to changes in the global and regional economy. As it enters the second decade, it is important for APEC to enrich, update and sharpen its vision for the future. In this respect, we envision that APEC's objectives in the second decade are to make continuous progress in achieving the Bogor Goals; deepen the spirit of community by sharing the benefits of growth more widely and equitably; and build APEC into a closer, stronger partnership for regional economic cooperation.

29. To this end, we announce today the Shanghai Accord as a strategic, forward agenda for the development of APEC in the coming years. The Accord not only gives voice to our common resolve to fulfill our commitments, it also stands as a template laying out some key steps to be taken to achieve our Goals and Objectives. Reflecting the diversity of APEC's membership, it incorporates trade and investment as well as economic and technical cooperation as two mutually supportive and reinforcing elements.

30. In the Shanghai Accord, we commit to:

- Broadening APEC's vision for the future by identifying a conceptual and policy framework to guide APEC in the new century. Such a framework recognizes the changes entailed by globalization and the New Economy and reflects the need to extend the APEC agenda to cover reforms and capacity building at both domestic and international levels;
- Clarifying APEC's roadmap for achieving the Bogor Goals on schedule with a mid-term stocktake of the overall progress in 2005, including by broadening and updating the Osaka Action Agenda, adopting a pathfinder approach in advancing selected APEC initiatives towards achieving the Bogor Goals, promoting the adoption of appropriate trade policies for the New Economy, following up on the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles, pursuing greater transparency in economic governance; and
- Strengthening APEC's implementation mechanism by strengthening the Individual Action Plan Peer Review process, reinforcing Ecotech and capacity building efforts.

31. We direct our Ministers and Officials to follow up actively on the Accord. We have no doubt that with our concerted efforts the vision we set here will over time come to full fruition, culminating in a stable, secure and prosperous Asia-Pacific community.

Appendix 1 Shanghai Accord

I. Broadening the APEC Vision

Globalization and the New Economy have transformed the global and regional economy significantly since the Bogor Goals, bringing forward extraordinary opportunities as well as challenges. APEC's vision needs to reflect these changes. While trade liberalization is at the core of APEC agenda, Leaders also agree that the Bogor Goals need to be placed within the context of an updated and expanded vision that addresses trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and

economic and technical cooperation in an integrated manner to maximize the benefits for all economies in the region. One of the greatest challenges to materialize such a vision is to intensify the collective and individual actions that economies take at domestic and international levels on reforms and capacity building across a range of areas.

The strategic goals of the Finance Ministers' Process should also be reflected in a broader vision for APEC, given the important role of sound macroeconomic policies, good economic governance, stable financial systems and greater economic interaction have in improving prosperity for the region.

II. Clarifying the Roadmap to Bogor

Broadening and updating the OAA

Leaders applaud the work done this year on the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA), and recognize its importance in reflecting APEC's accomplishments and ability to respond to changes in our regional and global situation. Leaders agree that the OAA should be broadened to reflect fundamental changes in the global economy since Osaka, such as the development of new economy including through the implementation of relevant aspects of e-APEC Strategy, and Strengthening the Functioning of Markets. Leaders direct Ministers to follow this up. Officials should present an interim report at the 2002 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) and a full report at the 2002 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on their recommendations with regard to broadening the OAA.

Adopting a pathfinder approach in advancing some APEC initiatives

Leaders reaffirm that those economies ready to initiate and implement a cooperative arrangement may proceed to do so, consistent with the Bogor Declaration. Leaders encourage the development of such "pathfinder initiatives' and agree that in adopting such an approach, APEC principles of voluntarism, comprehensiveness, consensus-based decision-making, flexibility, transparency, open regionalism and differentiated timetables for developed and developing economies should be observed. Use of 'pathfinder initiatives' based on a group of members piloting the implementation of the initiatives, will invigorate progress towards the Bogor Goals and provide a framework to encourage broader participation through enhanced capacity building programmes. Leaders also agree that these initiatives should be transparent and open, with clearly defined objectives and framework for implementation to encourage the broadest participation by other APEC members when they are ready to join.

Promoting the adoption of appropriate trade policies for the New Economy

Leaders recognize the importance of adopting appropriate trade policies to reflect the new context and encourage the development of the New Economy. As part of this effort, Leaders instruct officials to undertake by mid-2002 an exchange of appropriate trade policy information, such as information on the status of liberalization of services, and adherence to tariff and intellectual property regimes. On this basis, economies may develop targets by the Ministerial Meeting in 2002. In this exercise, account should be taken of the implementation of relevant recommendations endorsed in the e-APEC Strategy. Given the diversity among member economies, Leaders agree that the development of the New Economy would also involve developing and implementing concrete capacity building programs to improve performance.

Follow up on the Trade Facilitation Principles

Leaders instruct Ministers to identify, by Ministerial Meeting in 2002, concrete actions and measures to implement the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles by 2006 in close partnership with the private sector. The objective is to realize a significant reduction in the transaction costs by endeavoring to reduce them by 5 percent across the APEC region over the next 5 years. Leaders also instruct Ministers to explore the possibility of setting objective criteria on trade facilitation, taking fully into account the diversity among the members as well as progress achieved in respective economies so far. Leaders also agree that assistance programmes to help build the capacity of developing economies in trade facilitation is particularly important.

Adoption of transparency principles

Leaders recognize the importance of transparency in economic governance. In this regard, APEC has developed, menus of options and principles in different areas that contain transparency provisions. Leaders direct Ministers to pursue the implementation of APEC's agreed transparency principles, taking into account economies' specific circumstances and report on the progress in their IAPs in 2002 and thereafter. Leaders also underline the importance of well-targeted assistance to help the developing economies make progress towards greater openness and transparency. Leaders note the importance of cooperation on e-government for achieving this objective.

III. Strengthening the Implementation Mechanism

Strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process

Leaders welcome the decision by Ministers to strengthen the Individual Action Plan (IAP) peer review process, and encourage member economies to volunteer their IAPs for peer review on the basis of the new approach. Leaders also agree that upon completion of such a review cycle, involving all volunteer economies, a mid-term stocktake of the overall progress towards the Bogor Goals should be undertaken in 2005.

Strengthening Ecotech and capacity building efforts

Leaders recognize that in addition to promoting sustainable development and narrowing disparity, Ecotech helps to enable all member economies to achieve prosperity through activities that both directly support trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and strengthen the competitiveness of our economies. Leaders applaud the efforts undertaken this year to update the OAA Part II and call for greater integration of Ecotech efforts with all APEC priority goals. Leaders underscore the need to give a strong impetus to ensuring the effective implementation of various Ecotech initiatives, especially cross-cutting issues such as human capacity building.

Leaders recognize the importance of substantially enhancing the profile of Ecotech and improving the coordination and management of Ecotech activities of all fora. In this context, Leaders welcome the review to be undertaken on the mandate and role of the SOM Subcommittee for Ecotech (ESC), and look forward to early progress. Leaders also recognize the need to encourage the incorporation of the priorities of micro, small and medium enterprises throughout the APEC agenda.

Leaders agree to further develop Ecotech Action Plans (EAPs), as an instrument to gauge and encourage Ecotech activities, drawing from the experience and lessons learned in the pilot phase. Leaders also call on all members to take part in this exercise on a voluntary basis. Leaders agree that APEC should strengthen ties with bilateral, multilateral, and private funding entities with a view to minimizing duplication and maximizing the delivery of capacity building programs. Leaders instruct Ministers and officials to intensify Ecotech activities and report the progress to the Ministerial Meetings next year.

NOTE: The joint statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement on Counterterrorism by the President of the United States and the President of Russia, Shanghai

October 21, 2001

The President of the United States and the President of Russia categorically reject and resolutely condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motive. The Presidents stress that the barbaric act of terrorism committed in the United States on September 11, 2001 represent a crime against all humanity.

The Presidents note that terrorism threatens not only the security of the United States and Russia, but also that of the entire international community, as well as international peace and security. They believe that terrorism poses a direct threat to the rule of

law and to human rights and democratic values. It has no foundation in any religion, national or cultural traditions, and it only uses them as a cover for its criminal goals.

The Presidents agree that every effort be undertaken to bring the perpetrators to justice, while protecting the rights and welfare of civilians. They stress that the fight against terrorism requires the unity of the entire international community to counter new challenges and threats on the basis of international law and the full use of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Presidents call for all states to join a sustained global coalition to defeat international terrorism. Nations must make use of diplomatic, political, law enforcement, financial, intelligence, and military means to root out terrorists and their sponsors and bring them to justice.

The Presidents emphasize that the current situation in Afghanistan is a direct consequence of the policies pursued by the Taliban, which turned that country into an international center of terrorism and extremism. They reaffirm that the United States and Russia are ready to cooperate closely with the United Nations to promote a post-conflict settlement in Afghanistan that would provide for the formation of a representative, broad-based government capable of ensuring the restoration of a peaceful Afghanistan that maintains good relations with countries of the region and beyond it.

The leaders of the two countries view U.S.-Russian cooperation as a critical element in the global effort against terrorism. They reaffirm their personal commitment and that of their two countries to fight this deadly challenge through active cooperation and coordination, both bilaterally and within the framework of international institutions.

The Presidents note with satisfaction the fruitful cooperation between the United States and Russia in the United Nations and the UN Security Council, in the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, and in the G–8. They also instruct their governments to reinforce bilateral cooperation throughout the U.S.-Russia Working Group on countering terrorist and other threats emanating from Afghanistan.

The Presidents agree that the financial, communications, and logistics networks of terrorist organizations must be destroyed. They call upon all nations without exception to take measures to block access of terrorist organizations to financial resources, to enhance law enforcement tools to combat terrorism, and to strengthen procedures to stop the transit of terrorists and their material within and between countries. They stress the importance of speedy ratification and implementation of existing international counterterrorism conventions.

The two Presidents are resolved to advance cooperation in combating new terrorist threats: nuclear, chemical and biological, as well as those in cyberspace. They agreed to enhance bilateral and multilateral action to stem the export and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, related technologies, and delivery systems as a critical component of the battle to defeat international terrorism.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Shanghai

October 21, 2001

President Putin. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We will briefly inform you about the meeting and talks with the U.S. President.

In our assessment, in Russian assessment, the meeting was really productive and useful, as well as during our previous negotiations at Ljubljana and Genoa. It was a forthright and trustful talk.

Today, Russian-U.S. cooperation develops smoothly, and we take full note of the global changes that took place in the world, and we consistently strengthen the foundation of our new relations. In this century, our strategic priority is a long-term cooperation and partnership, a partnership which is based upon common values of one civilization, the partnership which works for our common goals of development and progress. And precisely in this direction we intend to move.

November this year, our full-fledged negotiations with the United States are to take place. And we will discuss U.S.-Russia relations in detail and the most significant issues of the world's policies. And the relevant instructions to prepare this meeting were given to our experts and agencies.

The consequences of the tragic events of September 11th—political, economic, psychological consequences—today are acutely felt in many countries and in all the continents. I think nobody has doubts the unprecedented carnage of the terrorists requires our united efforts, unification of the efforts of international community to fight terrorism. And we prepared and we issued a joint statement in this regard.

We analyzed in detail the developments of the Russia-U.S. dialog on strategic stability issue. As you remember, during Genoa meeting, there was an agreement to reach about joint work on strategic offensive and defensive weapons, which are interrelated. And in our assessment, we made progress here.

First of all, it relates to START issue. We reaffirmed our mutual intention to reduce strategic offensive weapons. And now our task is to develop parameters of such reductions and to design a reliable and verifiable method to reduce nuclear arsenals of Russia and United States.

As for the ABM-related issues, we also made some progress—at least, I believe we do have understanding that we can reach agreements, taking into account national interests of Russia, United States, and taking into account the necessity to strengthen international stability in this very important area.

During the meeting, we exchanged opinions on the most pressing regional issues: Iraq, Middle East, the Balkans. We intend to discuss relations of Russian Federation with NATO. We attach special importance to deepening business relations between Russia and the United States.

We agreed in Ljubljana and Genoa to pay increased attention to that, and this agreement works. Russia-American trade, economic, and investment links have been considerably broadened. Over the last months, U.S. Secretary of Trade Minister Evans came to Moscow twice, and we received Paul O'Neill and Robert Zoellick in Moscow. And we felt a clear signal from the U.S. President, and all our partners displayed a sincere desire to develop our relations.

Business in Russia with the United States is moving forward, and not only U.S. and Russian companies—big companies—participate in it but also small and medium enterprises. We agreed to work on concrete measures in economic interaction. We will discuss it with more details in November in Texas.

Thank you for your attention.

President Bush. My administration seeks a new relationship with Russia based on cooperation and mutual interests, instead of confrontation and mutual vulnerability. We must truly and finally move beyond the cold war. Today, after my third meeting with Vladimir Putin in 5 months and after the events of the last 5 weeks, we can report progress toward that goal—positive progress.

Within hours after September the 11th attacks, President Putin called. He extended his sympathy, and he extended his support. He did something more. He knew that the American military was moving to high alert status. To simplify our situation, to show solidarity, he ordered Russia's military to stop a set of exercises that were getting underway. America, and I in particular, will remember this act of friendship in a time of need.

Today, the world is building a broad international coalition against terrorism, and Russia is taking a full and responsible role in the coalition. Russia is sharing valuable intelligence on terrorist organizations, providing overflight clearance for humanitarian missions, and helping out diplomatically.

It is clear that President Putin understands the magnitude of the terrorist threat. It is clear there's a lot the United States and Russia can do together to defeat terrorism. The challenges and goals we share provide an opportunity to rethink and renew a broader relationship.

Both our nations are working to prevent proliferation and to reduce the threat from cold war weapon stockpiles throughout the former Soviet Union. We also see progress

in our efforts to build a new strategic framework. Today we discussed significantly lowering offensive nuclear weapon arsenals within a framework that includes limited defenses, defenses that are able to protect both our lands from political blackmail, from potential terrorist attack. Both our nations must be able to defend ourselves against the new threats of the 21st century, including long-range ballistic missiles. The events of September the 11th make it clearer than ever that a cold war ABM treaty that prevents us from defending our people is outdated and, I believe, dangerous.

Economic cooperation and progress will be an important part of our new relationship. With the right incentives and a firm commitment to rule of law, there is no question in my mind a new class of entrepreneurs can grow and flourish in Russia. And there's no question in my mind that American businesses and American investment can foster that trend. Both President Putin and I are anxious to see this happen.

And our new relationship is one of candor. I emphasized to Vladimir Putin that the war on terror is not and cannot be a war on minorities. It's important to distinguish between those who pursue legitimate political aspirations, and terrorists.

We're also looking at ways we can work together in the development of a free media in Russia. We had a good and serious exchange. Both of us see great opportunity. Both of us see positive good that has come out of the evil of September the 11th. Both of us are willing to work hard to seize the moment, to make sure we foster a new and unique and constructive relationship between our two great lands.

I'll be glad to answer some questions. Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I take it you're the first one.

International Support Against Terrorism/ ABM Treaty

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, your communique did not mention the war in Afghanistan, and several leaders at this meeting have urged America to end the conflict quickly. What do you intend to do to cure this queasiness about your military initiative?

And to President Putin, do you agree with President Bush that the ABM, post-September 11th, is dangerous to the world? And if so, are you more open to modifying it or scrapping it?

President Bush. I think I listened to probably 3 or 4 hours of discussions about our campaign against terrorism. And there was a very strong support for our activities, strong support for sharing intelligence, strong support for the diplomatic front we're waging, strong support to disrupt the financial operations of the terrorists, and strong support for our military operations in Afghanistan.

The people who came to this conference came because they wanted to show the world that they were not afraid of terrorists. They weren't going to let terrorists disrupt an important meeting. They also came to stand with solidarity with the United States. And I'm most appreciative of the support we received. It was strong; it was steady; and it's real. And the people of the United States need to know that we're not conducting these operations alone. We've got universal support around the world.

President Putin. I would like to tell a couple of words about the first question. First of all, I fully agree with the position of President Bush, and I believe that his action was measured and adequate to the threat that the United States was confronted with.

It's first. Second, and it is very important for everybody to know, if we started fighting terrorism, it should be completed, because otherwise, terrorists might have an impression that they are not vulnerable. And in that case, their actions would be more dangerous, more insolent, and would result in worse consequences.

As for the ABM Treaty of 1972, our position is well known, and I can reproduce it once again. We believe it is an important element of stability in the world. But we agree, and I said it several times, that we should think about future. We should look into the future, and we should react adequately to possibly threats in future. And we are prepared to discuss that with our American partners, of course, in case—if certain parameters for this discussion is provided to us.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. I have a question to the American President. Recently you talked much that U.S.-Russia relations gained a new strategic nature. And you even called Vladimir Putin your friend. Could you give specific examples of the changes in political, military, and especially economic sphere?

President Bush. Well, I think the first sign of our new relationship is that he knows I don't view Russia as an enemy, that we're not a threat to Russia. And I know that he's not going to threaten the United States. That's a different attitude from the old days.

The old days, we used to distrust each other. The old days, the discussions were not very frank and candid. They were probably bureaucratic in nature. And we have a very frank and open relationship because we're not a threat. As a matter of fact, we're looking for ways to form alliances and to find common ground. We actively seek ways to fight terrorism.

Vladimir Putin was the first person to call. That's what a friend does, calls in a time of need, and he called. It's clear to me that he understands that we're developing a new relationship. After all, in the old days, had an American President put their troops on alert, Russia would have responded. And then America would have upped the ante, and then Russia would have upped the ante, and we would have had two issues on our hands: one, a terrorist attack on America, plus a military standoff.

Instead, his first reaction was to stand down so as not to create any confusion, any doubt, so that the United States could stay focused on the terrorist attack. To me, that signals a brand new attitude, a different point of view, someone who doesn't fear America but someone who wants to find ways to work with America. And so it's an attitude change, for starters.

Secondly, I look forward to working with him on a new strategic framework. I also look forward to working with him on ways to encourage the flow of capital from the United States into Russia. Russia is a land of vast natural resources. It's also a land of a different kind of resource, and that's brainpower. Russia has got a lot of entrepreneurial talent. And I'm confident that the United States and our entrepreneurs and Russian entrepreneurs will find ways to work together. So we've got a lot in common.

But the thing that really bound us together most right now is our common desire to fight terrorism. And he understands what I understand, that the new wars of the 21st century will be fought fighting evildoers, people that have no country, people that may try to take a country, parasites that may try to leech onto a host country. But that's the true threat and the true threat for both our Governments. And we'll work together to fight terrorism. And he is an active participant in the coalition, and I'm grateful for his support and advice.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters], I presume it's you, since you're about to stand up.

ABM Treaty/Nuclear Arms Reductions

Q. Yes, thank you very much, sir. Did you tell Mr. Putin that you would begin the process of withdrawing from the ABM Treaty by the end of the year? And did you give him a figure on missile cuts?

President Bush. Let's see—no, to the second. Let me be a little more expansive. I told Mr. Putin that we are in the process of analyzing our nuclear arsenal and that I intended to fulfill a campaign process, which was that we were going to reduce our nuclear arsenal to a level that would help maintain the peace, on the one hand—on the other hand, that would also represent the realities of the 21st century.

Secondly, I reiterated exactly what I told Vladimir in Slovenia—that I felt like the ABM Treaty was outmoded and outdated, and it was time for us to see if we couldn't work together to move beyond the ABM Treaty.

Q. [*Inaudible*].

President Bush. Well, we've got work to do between now and Crawford, and I look forward to continuing to work with him. Let me just rephrase that—now and Washington/Crawford.

But he knows my feelings about the ABM Treaty, and so does America—actually, the world now, I think, fully understands it. It was a treaty written when our nations hated each other. We no longer hate each other. As a matter of fact, we're finding ways to

cooperate. It's also a treaty that prevents peace-loving nations from developing systems necessary to hold terrorists who might acquire weapons of mass destruction to be delivered by ballistic missiles—won't be able to hold them accountable.

And we're in a new war, a new environment. And it seems wise to me to react to that environment in a positive way. We'll continue working with each other and see if we can't find common ground on the ABM Treaty.

Russia-U.S. Cooperation

Q. I have question to both Presidents. It attracts our attention that you are building a good understanding on key problems. Can you say with certainty that your teams will act in the same spirit?

President Bush. [*Laughter*] That's a very interesting question, isn't it—a man who understands bureaucracy. Well, I can assure you that the Secretary of State understands my point of view and is working hard with his counterpart to achieve the common ground we seek. We have sent—as Vladimir mentioned, we sent our Secretary of Treasury and Secretary of Commerce and our Trade Representative to Russia to talk about ways to cooperate, talk about ways to enhance the flow of capital from the United States into Russia.

And so the answer to your question is, absolutely, that we will—that this attitude will be shared throughout our Government. And it's a very good question you ask, because sometimes the intended top doesn't necessarily get translated throughout the levels of Government. I'm confident, though, in this case, that it will happen. It's too important a relationship to allow bureaucratic intransigence to delay what I believe is going to be one of the more interesting relationships as we head into the 21st century.

I think it's necessary that United States and Russia cooperate. I think it's going to make the world more peaceful. I think it will lend a lot of stability in Europe, as well, when we find ways to cooperate.

President Putin. President Bush told a lot of warm words about myself in public, and I'm grateful to him for that. And I feel his attitude outside formal events, and I hope that he has the same feeling when he talks to me.

By the way, it does not prevent us from protecting our viewpoints and from having our viewpoints, defending the national interests of our countries. In particular, with regard to the ABM, we continue our discussion. You can see that.

I agree with many positions that President Bush puts forward, and one cannot but agree with them. In such complex issue like the ABM Treaty, we have common approach on the basis of which we can discuss it and propose solutions. But it would be difficult for me to agree that some terrorists will be able to capture intercontinental missiles and will be able to use them. So we always have discussions, but our good relations does not impede this process.

Speaking about teams, of course, there is always a bureaucratic threat. But I would like to draw attention to the fact that, if we talk about teams, it's a group of like-minded men that we choose ourselves. And if a team, a so-called team does something different from what we recognize as the right way of developing our relations, I wouldn't like to have such people around us.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 7:40 p.m. at the Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Executive Order 13232—Further Amendment to Executive Order 10789, As Amended, To Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services To Exercise Certain Contracting Authority in Connection With National Defense Functions

October 20, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 50 U.S.C. 1431–35, and in order to authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to exercise certain contracting authority in connection with national defense functions, it is hereby ordered that Executive

Order 10789 of November 14, 1958, as amended, is further amended by inserting the words "Department of Health and Human Services" in the list of departments and agencies in section 21 of that order after the words "Department of Commerce."

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 20, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., October 23, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 22, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

Proclamation 7488—National Character Counts Week, 2001

October 22, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation was built on a foundation of sound moral principles. The heroes of American history responded to threats to their freedom by choosing to fight for these timeless principles, assuming duties that superseded their self-interest. The character of America's founders was exemplified in their willingness to risk death in resisting tyranny and securing liberty and independence. From the frozen soil of Valley Forge to the beaches of Normandy and the deserts of the Persian Gulf region, American soldiers have answered the call of patriotic duty at great personal cost.

Our Nation's character continues to define how we respond to those who threaten America's core principles of liberty, justice, and equality. We saw that character when, in the face of the terrible terrorist attacks of September 11, American firefighters, police officers, and airline passengers sacrificed their lives to save others. We saw it when people across our land donated blood for the victims. And we see it as the children of America donate dollars to help suffering Afghan children. These acts reveal that enduring patriotism and faith are part of the fabric of America.

How our military is responding to these despicable attacks is also indicative of our national character. We are waging a war against terrorists who have hijacked their own peaceful religion in an attempt to justify their evil deeds. As we strike military targets, however, we also are dropping food, medicine, and supplies to relieve the suffering among the victims of the Taliban regime.

The manner in which we face these and other challenges in this war will continue to influence our country for generations to come. In fulfilling our mission with both compassion and courage, we show our children what putting American values into action means. Similarly, parents should teach their children by word and deed to understand and live out the moral values that we hold, such as honesty, accepting responsibility for our actions, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Places of worship, faith-based organizations, and other community groups also play an important role in helping to shape young hearts and minds. Government should cultivate a climate that supports families and organizations that seek to instill sound moral principles in their children. My Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative proposes a program that will ensure that faith-based and community caregivers are welcomed as partners in these efforts. In addition, my budget triples the funds available for character education in public schools. I have also proposed to extend Federal afterschool funding to programs run by faith-based and community-based organizations.

During this week, we should reflect on the national character we inherited from our forefathers and on the obliga tion we now have to stand for morality and virtue in the face of evil and terror. Since September 11, our Nation has shown that we are prepared to respond to the evildoers who have attacked the principles for which we stand. Our national character shall guide us as we wage this war, and in that we know that evil will not triumph.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 21 through October 27, 2001, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon the people of the United States to commemorate this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:37 a.m., October 29, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 30.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Transfer of Funds in Response to Terrorist Attacks of September 11

October 22, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I have authorized transfers from the Emergency Response Fund totaling $1.7 billion for emergency recovery and response and national security activities listed in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As provided in Public Law 107–38, $1.6 billion of these funds will be made available to agencies 15 days from the date of this transmittal and $71.4 million will be made available to the Department of Defense immediately.

These funds are in addition to the $7.2 billion that I previously authorized for transfer and will allow our Government to continue to address the consequences—both at home and abroad—arising from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

On October 17th, I asked the Congress to provide $20 billion in emergency funding for both defense and domestic needs related to the September attacks. I urge the Congress to enact these crucial resources without delay. The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 23. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the text of Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels' letter. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

October 23, 2001

The President. It's been my honor to brief key Members of the Senate and the House on our trip to the Far East. It was a very successful trip, in that we were able to have an honest dialog about the need to fight terror.

And the 21 nations—20 other nations represented there agreed with our country, and they appreciate our determination to fight and win the war against terror. They understand that an attack on America could have been an attack on them. And the cooperation was very strong and very evident, and I am most grateful.

And I am most grateful for the opportunity to share with the Members of the House and the Senate this essential—and I want to, first, thank Chairman Biden and Chairman Hyde and the other Members here for standing solidly with the administration to formulate and conduct a foreign policy that's in the best interest of our country.

It is oftentimes said that when it comes to foreign policy, partisanship stops, and that's exactly what has happened here at this table. I've had a lot of discussions with both

Chairmen up to now, and I will continue having discussions with the leaders of the House and the Senate, because whether you're Republican or Democrat, we all want to win this war.

I'd be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Anthrax at the White House Complex

Q. Sir, is the White House under attack now—the latest anthrax case?

The President. Well, there is no question that evildoers are continuing to try to harm America and Americans. Today, at a remote facility, we detected some anthrax. And just like at the Congress, our Government is responding very quickly.

We're working hard to find out who is doing this and bring them to justice. We're also working to develop measures necessary to protect American citizens and postal workers. All of us around this table grieve when we hear the fact that a citizen has lost a life. Two postal workers passed away, and our hearts are with their families. Our prayers are with their loved ones. And the evil ones continue.

Q. Is there any way, sir, that whatever contaminated that machine, whether it be a letter or a package, got into the West Wing? Or has all mail been cut off to prevent that from happening?

The President. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], we're making sure that the West Wing, the White House is safe. Let me put it this way: I'm confident, when I come to work tomorrow, that I'll be safe.

U.S. Response to Anthrax

Q. Mr. President, have you or the Vice President been tested for anthrax? And what is your sense of this latest development, sir? For the most part, these attacks have been aimed at prominent people and prominent places. Is it your sense that the real purpose here is to sow fear and confusion in the American public?

The President. First of all, I don't have anthrax. It's hard for Americans to imagine how evil the people are who are doing this. We're having to adjust our thinking. We're a kind nation. We're a compassionate nation. We're a nation of strong values, and we value life. And we're learning people in this world want to terrorize our country by trying to take life.

They won't succeed. This country is too strong to allow terrorists to affect the lives of our citizens. I understand people are concerned, and they should be. But they need to know our Government is doing everything we possibly can to protect the lives of our citizens—everything. We're waging an aggressive campaign overseas to bring Al Qaida to justice.

Today I've—in working with the Postmaster General—got our OMB to allocate $175 million for immediate relief, immediate safety at post offices around the country. This is what he requested; he thinks this is what is necessary to assure the post office employees that they will be as safe as possible. And we're going to spend that money.

Our health care workers are working around the clock to help people in need, and I will tell you that I think not only are they doing a good job; I think they probably saved a lot of lives by their quick action. And I'm proud of how quickly and how hard they're working.

The object of terrorism is to try to force us to change our way of life, is to force us to retreat, is to force us to be what we're not. And that's—they're going to fail. They're simply going to fail. I want to assure my fellow Americans that our determination—I say "our;" I'm talking about Republicans and Democrats here in Washington—has never been stronger to succeed in bringing terrorists to justice, protecting our homeland, because what we do today will affect our children and grandchildren. This is our calling. This is the time for us to act in a bold way, and we are doing just that.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, are you now operating on the assumption that the September 11th attacks and the anthrax attacks, anthrax letters, are linked? And if I may shift gears for a second and ask about your meeting with Foreign Minister Peres. Would an Israeli failure to withdraw from the Palestinian areas make it harder to keep Arab states in the international antiterrorism——

The President. Well, I told Shimon Peres that, first of all, our country and the people

of our country are saddened by the fact that a Cabinet Minister was assassinated. It's just unacceptable behavior. I also told him that we continue to call upon Chairman Arafat to do everything he can to bring the killer to justice. It's very important that he arrest the person who did this, or those who did this act, and continue to arrest those who would disrupt and harm Israeli citizens. He must—he must show the resolve necessary to bring peace to the region.

And finally, I did express our concern about troops in Palestinian territory, and I would hope the Israelis would move their troops as quickly as possible.

Q. Did you get any satisfaction?

The President. Well, he's a very thoughtful man. He's a friend, a friend of America's, and I listened very carefully.

Your first question was?

Linkage of Terrorist Acts

Q. The link between September 11th and——

The President. Well, we don't have any hard evidence. But there's no question that anybody who would mail anthrax with the attempt to harm American citizens is a terrorist. And there's no question that Al Qaida is a terrorist organization. So it wouldn't put it past me that there—you know, it wouldn't surprise me that they're involved with it. But I have no direct evidence.

I do know that this country is strong enough to endure, to endure the evil ones. And we're making great progress on the ground in Afghanistan, and we'll bring the Al Qaida to justice, and we'll—we're doing everything we can to find out who mailed these letters.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

President's Health

Q. Mr. President, have you been tested for anthrax?

The President. I don't have anthrax.

Q. So you've been tested, sir?

The President. I don't have it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:48 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Northern Ireland

October 23, 2001

I warmly welcome the announcement by the Chairman of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, General John de Chastelain, that a significant act of decommissioning has been carried out by the IRA and verified by the Commission. This is an historic step by the IRA. The people of Northern Ireland are now measurably closer to the lasting peace which they richly deserve.

I hope all paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland will build on today's events, striving to achieve the total disarmament called for by the Good Friday agreement. I know I speak for all Americans when I express my heartfelt appreciation to General de Chastelain for his continuing efforts in support of the peace process. This act of decommissioning will, I hope, lead to the full functioning of the political institutions of the Good Friday agreement. All leaders should be prepared to intensify their efforts to resolve remaining outstanding issues.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

October 23, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2001.

Remarks to Employees of the Dixie Printing and Packaging Corporation in Glen Burnie, Maryland

October 24, 2001

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Newth, thank you very much. And Ray and Susan Blavatt, thank you for being here, as well. I'm glad my SBA Director is here; Hector Barreto is in charge of the Small Business Association. And Hector, thank you for coming. I want to thank the employees of Dixie Printing and my fellow Americans.

Some might ask why, in the midst of war, I would come to Dixie Printing. They say, "Here you are conducting a campaign against terrorists, and you take time to come to a small business." And the answer is, because we fight in the war on two fronts. We fight a war at home, and part of the war we fight is to make sure that our economy continues to grow.

When the terrorists struck our homeland, they thought we would fold. They thought our economy would crater. That's what they wanted. But they don't understand America. They don't understand the entrepreneurial spirit of our country. They don't understand the spirit of the working men and women of America. They don't understand that small-business owners all across our country are saying, "We're not going to allow you to terrorize us." We're going to make sure our—[*applause*].

I am here to report that we're doing well on both fronts. Overseas, our diplomatic efforts are strong. Nations all across the globe have bound with the United States to send a clear message that we'll fight terrorism wherever it may exist.

Recently I was in China. I had an interesting meeting, as you can imagine, with the President of Russia, the head of China, Mexico, Chile—were all represented. And to a leader, from all kinds of nations, some Muslim, some not, the people said, "We stand with America. We stand with America in our noble goal of finding the evildoers and bringing them to justice."

As you know, I have asked our military to take an active role in the campaign. I set out a doctrine to America that said the following: Not only will we hold terrorists accountable for their activities, we will also hold those accountable, those nations accountable that harbor them, that hide them, that try to feed them. And that's exactly what we're doing in Afghanistan.

I gave the Afghan Government, the Taliban Government, plenty of time to respond to the demands of the United States. I said, "You must hand over the Al Qaida leadership which hides in your country." I said, "You must free those who you illegally detain in your country." And I said, "You must destroy the camps that have been used to train the terrorists." And they had time to respond, and they didn't respond positively, and therefore, they're paying a price.

Our military is conducting a campaign to bring the terrorists to justice, not to harm the Afghan people. While we are holding the Taliban Government accountable, we're also feeding Afghan people. You need to be proud of the United States military. It's doing its job. It is slowly but surely encircling the terrorists so that we'll bring them to justice. We're patient. We're firm. We have got a strategy that is going to work. And make no mistake about it, justice will be done.

But there is another front in this war, and the front is here at home. It's something that, obviously, we're not used to in America. We've had oceans which have protected us over our history. Except for Pearl Harbor, we've never really been hit before. And yet, on September 11th, this great land came under attack. And it's still under attack as we speak. Anybody who puts poison in mail is a terrorist. Anybody who tries to affect the lives of our good citizens is evil.

I'm oftentimes asked by our friends in the press, do I know if there's a direct connection between what took place on September the 11th and what's happening today. I have no direct evidence, but there are some links. Both series of actions are motivated by evil and hate. Both series of actions are meant to disrupt Americans' way of life. Both series of actions are an attack on our homeland. And both series of actions will not stand.

It's important for the American people to know our Government is doing everything we can on both fronts of this war. On the homefront, we've got an Office of Homeland Security, the job of which is to organize and

coordinate our functions of Government in such a way as to disrupt and find those who would harm our citizens. We've got thousands of FBI agents scouring the information, asking questions, following up leads, all aimed to raise the risk of someone who would harm our citizens.

And as well, we've responded to every incident that has occurred. Our Nation has responded with bravery and courage. I'm proud of our health officials who responded so quickly to the incidents that took place. And unfortunately, we lost life, and our prayers are with anybody who lose life in America. But I firmly believe their quick actions saved many lives, as well.

We're learning about terror and evil, and our country is responding forcefully. The American people have got remarkable spirit and remarkable resolve. We are strong; we are united; and we are determined to prevail.

One of the effects of the attacks has been on our economy. Make no mistake about it: September 11th affected economic growth, and our Government must respond in an effective way. And so I'm here to talk about an important part of the homefront security, and that is our economy.

First of all, the bases for economic growth are very strong. The entrepreneurial spirit is really strong in America. We're the haven for small business opportunity in our country. I mean, more jobs are created through small-business owners and the entrepreneurs of America than they are through large corporate America. And so as we think through how to encourage economic growth, we've got to always keep in mind the small business and the medium-sized businesses of America.

Secondly, our tax structure has been improved. In other words, we're giving people more of their own money back. And that's an important part of economic growth. We just finished distributing about 40 billion in rebate checks. Maybe some of you have received a 600 or $300 check. That's part of encouraging growth. And by the way, those tax cuts that have just begun will continue next year and the year after that, as well.

And we've acted confidently and quickly to spend money necessary to help the country recover from the attacks. We spent money on helping rebuild New York City and the Pentagon. We have spent money to stabilize our airline industry, which was the industry most directly affected by the attacks of September the 11th. We've spent money to take care of workers who have lost jobs, and that's necessary, and that's important.

And we've taken enough money—spending money to make sure we defend our country and accomplish our mission overseas. That spending has amounted to about $60 billion above and beyond our budget. That money will help with job creation and will help our economy grow. It's necessary to spend that kind of money in a time of emergency, and we're in times of emergency.

But I strongly believe it's time to balance this amount of spending with additional tax relief. My judgment, we've provided a lot of money in the short run, and in order to encourage and stimulate our economy, we ought to offset that money with additional tax relief, and I want to describe some of what that means.

First, we need to accelerate the tax relief that is already going to happen. In other words, instead of waiting for next year's tax relief to happen, let's put it into this year, to bolster consumer spending. We want you to have more money to spend, particularly as we head into the Christmas season. We want our consumers feeling confident.

One way to feel confident is for the people to know there's a strong homeland security initiative and strategy, that our country is doing everything we can to succeed. And there's nothing like boosting confidence than a little extra money in the pocket, too.

I also believe we ought to have rebates for low- and moderate-income workers, people who might have filed an income tax return but didn't get any rebate last time. Those good folks have been particularly hard-hit as a result of September the 11th. And that ought to be a part of our consumer confidence package.

And then there's the business side, and I want you to know that we've thought very carefully about how to stimulate economic vitality and growth. And it's a package that will help small-business America. It's a package that will do two things: One, encourage more investment, immediate investment in

plant and equipment, and therefore, one that will help small businesses not only retain their workforce, but, hopefully, expand their workforces.

And, therefore, we need to reform the corporate income tax to get rid of the alternative minimum tax, which so severely affects small businesses like Dixie. As well, we need to allow businesses to deduct more of the cost of new investments immediately. We need to say to the Dixie Printings of America, "If you invest in equipment now, you're rewarded for that investment." To me, that makes common sense. It's a good way to make sure that we enhance the employment opportunities of America.

The terrorists wanted our economy to stop. It hasn't. They wanted to diminish the spirit of America. It didn't. They thought the Government wouldn't be able to react. The Government is going to react with an economic stimulus package that is good for workers. The House is getting ready to vote on that package. I urge them to pass it, and then I urge the Senate to act quickly to make sure that the American people understand that at this part of our homeland defense, our country and the Congress is united.

You know, I said early on that through my tears I see opportunity. And I believe my faith teaches that out of evil can come good, and there's been a lot of good that has come out of this terrible situation. By the way, there's a spirit of cooperation in Washington that is very positive. We've got Republicans and Democrats talking to each other. [*Laughter*] That's good. It's very important during this time in our history that we in Washington, DC, show that we can work together.

I don't know if you know this or not, but I'm now having a weekly breakfast with the leaders of the House and the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats. And I can report that there is no party that has got a lock on patriotism. The Democrats, just like Republicans, want to win this war. And we're talking about how to best solve the problems with which we're confronted.

But there's also a lot of other good, too. We've got moms and dads reassessing values, recognizing there are things that are so precious in life, like their children and their marriage and their family and their church and their synagogue and their mosque. Values are strong in America. Those who struck our country didn't realize—didn't realize, because they're so evil and so dark and so negative, they couldn't realize that there's going to be such good that comes out of what took place in America.

We're resolved. We are strong. We're determined. We're patient. And this Nation is going to do whatever it takes. You see, my attitude is, is that how the Dixie Printings behave and how the workers behave here and how the citizens of Maryland behave are incredibly important. How you respond to these attacks are incredibly important, not only to help win the war today but to set the example for future generations of Americans.

It's important that we win today, place that flag of freedom squarely in the world, because this is the first battle of the 21st century, and it's a battle we must win—we have no choice—for our children and our grandchildren. And it means that the country is going to have to do what it takes.

And I'm here to report, we are. We are going to do it.

So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to drop in to say hello. I am so honored to be the President of this great Nation, and I mean, great. What a fabulous land we have. And the reason why is because we've got such fabulous citizens.

Thank you for letting me come by. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. on the factory floor of the Dixie Printing & Packaging Corporation. In his remarks, he referred to A. Newth Morris, president, and Raymond J. Bedell, general manager, Dixie Printing & Packaging Corporation; Susan Blavatt, president and owner, ASC Corp.; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and President Ricardo Lagos of Chile.

Statement on Congressional Action on Counterterrorism Legislation

October 24, 2001

I am pleased Congress has reached an agreement on counterterrorism legislation that will give our law enforcement officials the tools and resources necessary to disrupt, weaken, and defeat terrorists. I look forward to signing this strong bipartisan plan into law so that we can combat terrorism and prevent future attacks.

Proclamation 7490—United Nations Day, 2001

October 24, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On June 26, 1945, representatives from 50 countries signed the charter creating the United Nations (U.N.), which inaugurated a new era of unprecedented international cooperation. The world had then just emerged victorious against the threat of global tyranny, and these representatives resolved to preserve peace through international cooperation and collective security. Officially coming into existence on October 24, 1945, the U.N. became the central organization charged with carrying out this mission. Since then, it has worked to maintain world peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems, and to promote respect for human rights.

Today, 189 countries belong to the United Nations. The organization's mission remains as urgent as ever, particularly as our world confronts new challenges in the 21st century. The recent terrorist attacks on the United States not only threatened Americans, they also threatened civilized people everywhere who believe in freedom and peace. These tragic events remind us all of the vitally important unified efforts necessary to building international security and to guaranteeing a more peaceful world for us and for our children.

Americans are a generous and compassionate people, willing to do all we can to help alleviate poverty and suffering around the world. These efforts include close cooperative ventures with the United Nations organizations through its many humanitarian programs. As our country observes United Nations Day, 2001, we pause to reflect on the noble history of the U.N. and to praise its many contributions toward providing a better quality of life for people around the globe. We also celebrate the U.N.'s commitment to promoting human rights, protecting the environment, fighting disease, fostering development, and reducing poverty. By reaffirming our desire to advance these goals, America looks forward to continued progress in addressing the challenges that face humanity and to achieving a brighter future for the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2001, as United Nations Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:38 a.m., October 29, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 30.

Proclamation 7489—National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America, 2001

October 24, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Drug and alcohol abuse in America annually create staggering societal costs and prevent millions of people from reaching their full potential at school, on the job, and in their communities. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that approximately 14 million Americans use illegal drugs and 17 million Americans are alcoholics or abusers of alcohol. To improve the well-being of our Nation and to protect our people, we must continue to make the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse a national priority.

The rate of abuse of drugs and alcohol by our Nation's youth is cause for alarm. Currently, 3 million young people between the ages of 14 and 17 have an alcohol problem, and more than half of America's school-age children have tried illegal drugs by the time they have finished high school. Research indicates that youth who avoid the early use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are less likely to engage in other harmful behaviors such as crime, delinquency, and other illegal drug use. That is why we must clearly communicate to America's youth that drug and alcohol abuse is dangerous and harmful to both their health and their future.

Through the efforts of families, law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, teachers, and dedicated community activists, we have made progress in the ongoing war against substance abuse. To continue this progress, my Administration is implementing a comprehensive, results-oriented strategy for reducing illegal drug use in America. We will work cooperatively with other nations to help eradicate illegal drugs at their source. We will increase border security to stop the flow of these drugs into America. And we will provide Federal support to local law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking networks.

The most effective way, however, to reduce the cycle of youth drug addiction and the crime it causes is to reduce demand. This effort begins at home; and it depends upon the active participation of families, schools, and community organizations in education and outreach programs that clearly communicate to children the dangers inherent in drug and alcohol abuse.

On the occasion of "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug- Free America," Laura and I are pleased to serve as Honorary Chairpersons of the 2001 National Red Ribbon Campaign. We join all Americans in saying that we will no longer tolerate the destructive impact that drug and alcohol abuse have had on our homes, schools, workplaces, and highways. With strong resolve and creative leadership, we can protect our communities from the preventable dangers of substance abuse and restore dignity and character to millions of men, women, and children who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the period beginning October 23 through October 31, 2001, as National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America. I encourage citizens to support activities that raise awareness and encourage prevention of substance abuse. I also call upon every American to wear a red ribbon throughout the week in recognition of their commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and our commitment to a drug-free America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:38 a.m., October 29, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 30.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

October 16, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1 through September 30, 2001. The previous submission covered June 1 through July 31, 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 25.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Intention To Reach an Arrangement With the United Nations Regarding Reciprocal Debt Forgiveness

October 24, 2001

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 913 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (as contained in Public Law 106-113), and amended by Public Law 107-46, and, in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), I am notifying you of my intention to exercise my authority under section 913. The United States will reach an arrangement with the United Nations regarding the reciprocal debt forgiveness contemplated by the legislation.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 25. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Protocol to the Morocco-United States Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

October 24, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the ≥Act≥), the text of a proposed Protocol Amending the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed at Washington on May 30, 1980. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Protocol, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Protocol. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified Annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified informa-tion, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

I am informed that the proposed Protocol has been negotiated to be in accordance with

the Act and other applicable law, to meet all statutory requirements, and to advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The Protocol amends the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in two respects:

1. It extends the Agreement, which expired by its terms on May 16, 2001, for an additional period of 20 years, with a provision for automatic extensions thereafter in increments of 5 years each unless either Party gives timely notice to terminate the Agreement; and

2. It updates certain provisions of the Agreement relating to the physical protection of nuclear material subject to the Agreement.

As amended by the proposed Protocol, I am informed that the Agreement will continue to meet all requirements of U.S. law.

Morocco is in the early stages of developing a nuclear research program, with support from the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The United States firm, General Atomics, is currently building the country's first reactor, a small (2 megawatt) TRIGA Mark II research reactor that will use low-enriched uranium fuel. General Atomics' completion of the project cannot occur without an Agreement for Cooperation in force.

Morocco is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the IAEA for the application of full-scope safeguards to its nuclear program. Morocco is a signatory to (but has not yet ratified) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for the storage and transport of nuclear material.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed Protocol and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Protocol and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 24, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 25. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the Thurgood Marshall Extended Elementary School

October 25, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Americans believe in patriotism. We don't believe in prejudice. We're determined to fight terror. That's what we're going to do. And we're equally determined to build ties of trust and friendship with people all around the world, particularly with children and people in the Islamic world.

As you all know, our Nation is at war right now. We're going to defend America and defend the values that we all hold dear. And our Nation is united in the defense of our country. We are not at war with Muslims. We don't have a beef with Muslims. We want to be friends with Muslims and Muslim children.

We're fighting evil people. It's important for the boys and girls of Thurgood Marshall to know that we're fighting evil with good. And one way to fight evil with good is, you can help by writing letters to boys and girls your age. You can let boys and girls know what you think are important. You can let boys and girls know what your dreams are, and ask them about theirs, too.

I want to thank very much the Secretary of Education for being here with me. He's

a fellow Texan who is doing a great job of running the Education Department. He helps herald our number one domestic agenda item, and that is making sure every boy and girl in America gets a good education.

And he's right. We hope Congress gets the business done and gets us a good education bill. They're close; all they've got to do is work a little harder to get us a bill, one that I can sign. I'm confident they will do so with a little extra work.

I want to thank very much the principal of this fine school. Ms. Wilson, thank you so much for your hospitality. And I want to thank all the teachers who are here, as well. It's really important for all of us to thank our teachers. And I wish the First Lady were here with me, because she could thank you, too. One of the things she's trying to do is go around the country reminding people what a noble profession teaching is, and we need more people to become teachers. But thank you all for being such good role models for your children here.

I want to thank Paul Vance, as well. Gosh, it seems like I see Paul every other week. I appreciate your hard work. I want to thank the boys and girls of this school for letting me come by to say hello. It's been my honor to be able to come to Thurgood Marshall and to see all the future leaders of the country. I guess I don't need to ask; I'm sure all of you are going to be going to college, aren't you?

Students. Yes.

The President. Yes, that's good. I hope you read more than you watch TV, too. It's really important to be a good reader. But thanks for letting me come by.

We're here talking about how we can best conduct a war against evil. And you can play a part. You can be an integral part of that by establishing friendship. And I want to thank some of the adults who have helped set up programs that enable boys and girls all across America to reach out to boys and girls all across the world.

And one such person is Mary Eisenhower, who is the chief executive officer of a program called People to People. Thank you very much, Mary, for being here. She had a relative named Eisenhower, and he and I share something in common: We're both Presidents. And I appreciate you, Mary, for working here.

And I also want to thank Ed Gragert, as well, the executive director of iEARN. iEARN is the umbrella organization that's encouraging organizations to help fund and organize the effort for our schoolchildren to reach out to children, particularly in the Muslim world. Thank you for coming, as well, Ed.

And we've got Issa Al-Nashit from the country of Bahrain. Issa, thank you for coming so much. The reason he is here is that he represents a country to which you're sending letters. We were in the fourth grade class, and we had four letters read by fourth graders to fourth graders in Bahrain. And it's part of our effort to outreach to boys and girls all across the world. So I want to thank you for coming, Issa.

I'm looking forward to meeting with the Crown Prince of Bahrain this afternoon. It is a perfect opportunity for me to remind him that, one, we appreciate the alliances we're forming around the world with Muslim nations and non-Muslim nations. And we also remind him that we've all got to work hard to make sure we establish trust at the most basic level, and that's people to people.

And so today I'm here to announce a new initiative called Friendship Through Education. And we're going to ask schools all across the country to join with schools in other countries to spread the message that we care for each other, that we want to understand each other better.

I think the best way to attack—to handle the attacks of September the 11th is to fight fear with friendship, is to fight fear with hope, is to remind people all around the world we have much more in common than people might think, that we share basic values—the importance of family and the importance of faith and the importance of friendship.

And do you know something? Boys and girls all across America can do that job pretty darn well. And so I'm asking schools all across the country to join up. And I want to thank you for actively recruiting schools. We've got St. Patrick Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia, is helping. Mott Hall School in New York City has joined up, as

has, of course, Thurgood Marshall here in Washington, DC.

The students here and students all across our country witnessed a terrible tragedy. It is a terrible moment in our country, and it's got to have affected a lot of our students in a way where they ask the question, "Why would this have happened to America? Why would somebody do this to our country?" And I want to assure the boys and girls, these attacks didn't come from a nation or a religion. These attacks are from some people who just are so evil it's hard for me to describe why. It's hard for us to comprehend why somebody would think the way they think and devalue life they way they devalue and to harm innocent people the way they harmed innocent people. It's just hard for all of us adults to explain.

But what we can do is, we can find common ground with others who wonder about America. We can prove them wrong by acting in a way that's good. We can show the world what a great, compassionate, and decent nation America is. I can do that through diplomacy. I can do that through our actions, through the alliances we form. But children all across America can do it, as well—can do it through letters and e-mails and pictures and drawings, and reaching out to boys and girls.

I thought it was really interesting, the letters that I heard today. Every letter said, "Would you write me back? Would you share with me your experiences so I can understand you better?" And that's exactly the spirit of the program and the initiative we're announcing, and it makes a lot of sense.

It is very important for us to combat evil with understanding. It's very important for us reinforce our message in all ways possible to the people in the Islamic world that we don't hold you accountable for what took place. As a matter of fact, we want to be friends. The average citizen in America harbors no ill will toward you. As a matter of fact, the average citizen in America would like to do everything we can to explain what our country is about, to explain what our future is about. And this is a great way to do this, in my judgment.

And so we're going to work hard to encourage other schools, other principals to sign up, other boys and girls to write letters. And one way that people who are interested in participating can do, they can call up on a Web site to find out how to participate. And I'd like to give the address of the Web site: It is www.friendshipthrougheducation.org; it is www.friendshipthrougheducation.org. And that's a way for other principals and parents and concerned citizens to participate in this outreach.

Rod Paige mentioned the fact that we've got a—we've asked boys and girls all across America to contribute a dollar to help feed and provide medicine for Afghan children who are suffering. The response has been great, and I can't thank the boys and girls of America enough. That's one initiative. The initiative we're announcing today is a second initiative, all to send a message about the goodness and decency of our great country.

I want the boys and girls to know that the action that we're taking in our Government is all aimed to make sure that you can grow up in a free country. The military action, the diplomatic action, the intelligence-gathering, what you read and hear on the TV and newspapers has got one goal, and that's to make sure you can live in freedom in our great land.

And so thank you for giving me a chance to come by to thank you for your hard work. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:12 a.m. in the auditorium of the school. In his remarks, he referred to Eugene Pair and Eileen Wilson, principals, Thurgood Marshal Extended Elementary School; Paul L. Vance, superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools; and Issa Al-Nashit, cultural attache, and Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa of Bahrain.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Proposed "Secure Transportation for America Act"

October 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The quickest, most effective way to increase aviation security is to pass H.R. 3150, the Secure Transportation for America Act.

Time is of the essence. I urge your support for H.R. 3150. Making American air travel as safe and secure as possible is one of our Nation's top priorities. Last month, I proposed dramatic changes to our aviation security system: full Federal control of airport security and screening services; major expansion of the Federal Air Marshal program; and substantial new funding for aircraft security modifications. H.R. 3150 would accomplish these important initiatives and improve security quickly and effectively.

Both my proposal and H.R. 3150 give the Federal Government immediate and comprehensive control of aviation security. A new Transportation Security Agency, housed at the Department of Transportation, will hire Federal employees to supervise, manage, and train all passenger and baggage screeners. The new Security Agency would also establish and enforce new qualification standards for screeners, perform background checks on all screeners and other persons with access to secure areas at airports, and provide a uniformed Federal law enforcement presence at commercial airports.

Significantly, H.R. 3150 leaves the Federal Government the flexibility to build the best workforce to perform the actual screening function—another key element of my proposal. This model of Federal control plus flexibility mirrors the well-regarded airline security systems in place in many European countries, which involve public/private partnerships. Many adopted this model of strong government oversight over high-quality private security companies after finding other models of airline security to be less effective.

Other legislative proposals would mandate that all passenger and baggage screeners *must* be Federal workers in all circumstances. Such an inflexible, one-size-fits-all requirement fails to permit security tailored to the very different circumstances that exist at airports across the country. I am pleased that Chairman Young and the cosponsors of H.R. 3150 have chosen not to limit the Administration's options in choosing the strongest possible means to protect Americans who travel by air. Giving the Government the flexibility to use private contractors will facilitate transition to the new system, promote better screening services through competition, and ensure that security managers can move swiftly to discipline or remove employees who fail to live up to the rigorous new standards.

The American people deserve a quick and smooth transition to a better aviation security system. I urge the House to pass H.R. 3150 as soon as possible; and my Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress on any refinements that may be necessary to ensure that the Nation's aviation security needs are addressed in the most effective manner possible.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks on Signing the USA PATRIOT ACT of 2001

October 26, 2001

Good morning and welcome to the White House. Today we take an essential step in defeating terrorism, while protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. With my signature, this law will give intelligence and law enforcement officials important new tools to fight a present danger.

I commend the House and Senate for the hard work they put into this legislation. Members of Congress and their staffs spent long nights and weekends to get this important bill to my desk. I appreciate their efforts and bipartisanship in passing this new law.

I want to thank the Vice President and his staff for working hard to make sure this law was passed. I want to thank the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Treasury for being here, both of whom lead important parts of our war against terrorism. I want to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft for spending a lot of time on the Hill to make the case for a balanced piece of legislation. I want to thank the Director of the FBI and the Director of the CIA for waging an incredibly important part on the two-front war, one overseas and a front here at home.

I want to thank Governor Tom Ridge for his leadership. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here on the stage, the leaders, on this impressive effort: Senator

Hatch and Senator Leahy and Senator Sarbanes and Senator Graham and Senator Reid.

I also want to thank Representative Porter Goss, LaFalce, Oxley, and Sensenbrenner for their hard work. And I want to welcome the men and women of law enforcement who are here in the White House with us today, as well.

The changes, effective today, will help counter a threat like no other our Nation has ever faced. We've seen the enemy and the murder of thousands of innocent, unsuspecting people. They recognize no barrier of morality. They have no conscience. The terrorists cannot be reasoned with. Witness the recent anthrax attacks through our Postal Service.

Our country is grateful for the courage the Postal Service has shown during these difficult times. We mourn the loss of the lives of Thomas Morris and Joseph Curseen, postal workers who died in the line of duty. And our prayers go to their loved ones.

I want to assure postal workers that our Government is testing more than 200 postal facilities along the entire eastern corridor that may have been impacted. And we will move quickly to treat and protect workers where positive exposures are found.

But one thing is for certain: These terrorists must be pursued; they must be defeated; and they must be brought to justice. And that is the purpose of this legislation. Since the 11th of September, the men and women of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been relentless in their response to new and sudden challenges.

We have seen the horrors terrorists can inflict. We may never know what horrors our country was spared by the diligent and determined work of our police forces, the FBI, ATF agents, Federal marshals, custom officers, Secret Service, intelligence professionals, and local law enforcement officials. Under the most trying conditions, they are serving this country with excellence and often with bravery.

They deserve our full support and every means of help that we can provide. We're dealing with terrorists who operate by highly sophisticated methods and technologies, some of which were not even available when our existing laws were written. The bill before me takes account of the new realities and dangers posed by modern terrorists. It will help law enforcement to identify, to dismantle, to disrupt, and to punish terrorists before they strike.

For example, this legislation gives law enforcement officials better tools to put an end to financial counterfeiting, smuggling, and money laundering. Secondly, it gives intelligence operations and criminal operations the chance to operate not on separate tracks but to share vital information so necessary to disrupt a terrorist attack before it occurs.

As of today, we're changing the laws governing information-sharing. And as importantly, we're changing the culture of our various agencies that fight terrorism. Countering and investigating terrorist activity is the number one priority for both law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Surveillance of communications is another essential tool to pursue and stop terrorists. The existing law was written in the era of rotary telephones. This new law that I sign today will allow surveillance of all communications used by terrorists, including e-mails, the Internet, and cell phones. As of today, we'll be able to better meet the technological challenges posed by this proliferation of communications technology.

Investigations are often slowed by limit on the reach of Federal search warrants. Law enforcement agencies have to get a new warrant for each new district they investigate, even when they're after the same suspect. Under this new law, warrants are valid across all districts and across all States.

And finally, the new legislation greatly enhances the penalties that will fall on terrorists or anyone who helps them. Current statutes deal more severely with drug-traffickers than with terrorists. That changes today. We are enacting new and harsh penalties for possession of biological weapons. We're making it easier to seize the assets of groups and individuals involved in terrorism. The Government will have wider latitude in deporting known terrorists and their supporters. The statute of limitations on terrorist acts will be lengthened, as will prison sentences for terrorists.

This bill was carefully drafted and considered. Led by the Members of Congress on this stage and those seated in the audience, it was crafted with skill and care, determination and a spirit of bipartisanship for which the entire Nation is grateful. This bill met with an overwhelming—overwhelming—agreement in Congress because it upholds and respects the civil liberties guaranteed by our Constitution.

This legislation is essential not only to pursuing and punishing terrorists but also preventing more atrocities in the hands of the evil ones. This Government will enforce this law with all the urgency of a nation at war. The elected branches of our Government and both political parties are united in our resolve to find and stop and punish those who would do harm to the American people.

It is now my honor to sign into law the USA PATRIOT ACT of 2001.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:49 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas L. Morris, Jr., and Joseph P. Curseen, Jr., postal workers at the Brentwood postal facility in Washington, DC, who died as a result of anthrax infections contracted from contaminated mail processed at the facility. H.R. 3162, Uniting and Strengthening America By Providing Appropriate Tools Required To Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001, approved October 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107–56.

Remarks to Business, Trade, and Agricultural Leaders

October 26, 2001

Thank you for that warm welcome, and welcome to the White House. I appreciate you giving us a chance to share with you our strategy on how we're going to win the war against terror.

It starts with assembling a good team, and I put together a fabulous administration. I picked a great Vice President in Dick Cheney. Some of you may know him. [*Laughter*] But I know him a man who gives solid advice, and he's got great judgment. And the Nation's lucky that he left the—left his previous occupation to serve our country.

I'm also pleased to be joined by three members of my Cabinet who are all involved with shepherding through an economic stimulus plan through the United States Congress. Secretary Paul O'Neill is doing a fabulous job. I've got great confidence in Paul and his ability to sell to the American people and to the United States Congress that which we're trying to do to make sure our economy grows. And I want to thank you, Paul, for your service, as well.

Bob Zoellick is traveling the world promoting free trade. I'll talk a little bit about trade later on. But I want to thank his tireless efforts. One thing that we're all hopeful for is that we start a new round of WTO talks at Doha, Qatar. And Bob's working hard to make that happen. I just have come from China, as you know, and he proceeded me there, and they were still talking about the Zoellick touch. [*Laughter*]

And I want to thank Spence Abraham, as well, who's helping us shepherd a realistic energy plan through the United States Congress. So thank you all for being here.

We are at the beginning of what I view as a very long struggle against evil. We're not fighting a nation; we're not fighting a religion; we're fighting evil. And we have no choice but to prevail. We're fighting people that hate our values. They can't stand what America stands for. And they really don't like the fact that we exist. And I want to assure you all that we will fight this fight on every front. We will use every resource we have. And there is no doubt in my time—in my mind—that in our time, we will prevail. There's no doubt.

And we're fighting this war on a variety of fronts. We've put together a vast coalition of nations to slowly but surely encircle those who would terrorize and to send the message that their actions will not stand. I really appreciate the hard work of the Secretary of State Powell. He is working endlessly to not only keep a coalition together but to broaden it. And it's working—and it's working.

We're fighting them on a financial front. We're choking off their money. We're seizing their assets. We will be relentless as we pursue their sources of financing. And I want to thank the Secretary of Treasury for leading that effort.

We're sharing intelligence, because in order to fight a war—the new war of the 21st

century—we've got to know more about the enemy, where they try to hide, where they may try to strike next. And so we've got great cooperation with intelligence services from around the world, as well as great cooperation internally between the CIA and the FBI.

The culture in our agencies have changed. We are now interested in preventing attack. We're now interested in finding those who may attack America and arrest them before they do. We've had over—nearly 1,000 people have been detained in America and questioned about their motives and their intentions. The FBI is on full alert, and they take information garnered from around the world and share that information in a way that will make Americans proud.

And we've also put our military into action. I've got great confidence in the American military. I've also got great confidence in our strategy, as we uphold this doctrine: It says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you harbor anybody who has harmed America, you're just as guilty as those who have harmed our country.

And therefore the Taliban Government, which we gave ample time to respond to reasonable demands, are now paying the price for harboring the Al Qaida organization, as they should. We're slowly but surely dismantling Taliban defenses, Taliban military installations, the Taliban command and control structure, all aimed at bringing the Al Qaida criminals to justice.

It is the first battle in the war of terrorism. The American people are going to have to be patient, just like we are. They're going to have to be determined, just like our military is. And with that patience, and with that determination, we will eventually smoke them out of their holes and get them and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what the world demands. And that's what the United States will deliver.

It's hard for some Americans to realize that this is a two-front war. After all, history has basically said there would never be two fronts, one abroad and one in America. But we now have a second front on this war against terror here at home. We've been struck, obviously, on September the 11th, and we're being struck again. Anytime anybody puts anthrax in a letter, it's an act of terror.

The press often ask me, "Well, is this the—is the evil one hiding from us in Afghanistan, the ones who have done this to America?" I said, "I don't know." We don't know yet. But we do know the evil one who hides thinks in ways that we can't possibly think in America—so destructive, such a low regard for human life. And anybody who puts anthrax, trying to kill American citizens, shares the same set of values. Whoever has done it shares that same value of evil that we saw on September the 11th. And we'll find them and bring them to justice, as well.

But we've got a strategy to fight the war on the homefront. As I mentioned, we're disrupting, as much as we possibly can, any possible attack on America. Every day I meet with the FBI Director and the Attorney General and Tom Ridge, who heads the Office of Homeland Security, to get a report on the activities that were taking place. We take every threat seriously. We respond to every piece of information we receive.

As I mentioned, we have arrested or detained over 1,000 people here in America, to determine—to find out what they know. And if they know something that is helpful, we will act on it.

And we've got a great response mechanism in place. Today I mourned the lives of two who—two postal officers who lost their life in the line of duty. But I can tell the American people that because of the hard work of many in our public health offices, I believe we've saved a lot of lives, too, by responding as quickly as we have.

Today, right here in this room, I had the honor of signing a piece of antiterrorist legislation widely supported by Members of both parties in both Houses. It's needed legislation to help us do the job the American people expect, which is to protect the homeland.

This is a two-front war. It's a two-front war. And it's a war we're going to win on both fronts. But make no mistake; the best way to make sure we protect our homeland is to succeed by bringing the terrorists abroad who try to strike us to justice.

Now, there's another front on the war, as well, and that's our economy. And there's no question the terrorists want to cast a shadow

of fear on the businesses of America. They understand how important our businesses are to our way of life. After all, the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. It's part of our culture. It's part of a hopeful society. And the more that can be disrupted, that spirit of commerce and enterprise, the more successful they think they will be.

But they're not going to succeed there, either. In all our wars, the productive power of the economy has been one of our Nation's great advantages. And that's true today. But it's clear that our economy has been shocked. There's been shockwaves sent throughout all parts of the Nation's economic fabric. Obviously, we took a huge hit at the financial center of our country, in New York City. Our transportation system has been severely disrupted, which has, in turn, affected hotels and people who work in hotels.

This administration is deeply concerned about those who have lost jobs, and we know there are a lot of Americans who hurt. And we hurt for them. And we're going to work with Congress to take the appropriate actions.

I also know that some in this room have made a tough economic decision by delaying any layoffs or have chosen not to lay off workers. And I applaud you for that. And I thank you for making that decision, on behalf of the workers in America. I believe it's the right thing to do during this national emergency.

But our Government must act wisely, as well. We must understand that our job is to help restore confidence in the future of the country in a way that is wise and sound. Buildings can be rebuilt, and they will be. Transportation systems will be invigorated, and they will be, as well. But the vitality of our economy depends upon the willingness of Americans to spend and for Americans to start new businesses to purchase new equipment and to invest in the future of this country. And I understand that. And we're taking practical steps. And let me share some of those with you.

We're supporting American aviation with money and loans, to make sure the planes fly. We're also beefing up security at our airports, to make sure people feel safe in flying. And we're working with Congress to get a long-term law passed that will say to the American consumer and the American flyer, this Government is doing everything in our power to secure the airways on your behalf.

As I mentioned, we're—we've spent money in a supplemental to rebuild New York City and the Pentagon. It's the right thing to do. We've got SBA, the Small Business Administration, helping small businesses in the areas impacted by the attacks from the evil ones. We're paying for improved security at our post offices. We're just beginning to secure the post offices in a way—you see, the post office, obviously, was set up as a way to efficiently deliver mail, not understanding that someone would dare use the mail as a weapon against America. And we're adjusting quickly to the new realities that we face.

All this costs money, and we're spending it here in Washington. And when the money we've committed is spent, we believe it will have a positive effect on the economy. But we must be careful not to overspend. There's a lot of good ideas in Washington, and a lot of them cost a lot of money. And we must be careful to assess our needs and make sure we're cautious about how we spend taxpayers' money. We believe the best way to stimulate and restore confidence to the economy is not through additional spending, but through tax relief.

Tax relief arrives quickly. If we can get a bill out of both the House and the Senate, it will happen in quick fashion. Unlike spending programs, we won't have to wait for plans to be drafted and contracts to be let. The tax relief for new investment in the House stimulus package will go into effect as soon as the bill is signed, if we can get it out of the Senate. New lower tax rates for consumers and entrepreneurs will show up in paychecks on the first day of the next year—of the new year, if we can get that passed out of the Senate. The tax rebates for low- and moderate-income folks would begin to arrive soon, if we can get it out of the Senate.

Tax relief will put money rapidly into the hands of consumers. Tax relief will improve incentives to save and invest and will give a powerful boost to our national economy. And tax relief is efficient. When we've tried

in the past to spend our way out of an economic slowdown, we have found that the money has often been spent unwisely.

Tax relief, on the other hand, lets individuals decide for themselves what they need most. Tax relief lets economic resources flow to places where they can do the most good for the country. The House's tax relief plan accelerates some income tax reductions already planned for individuals and entrepreneurs and small businesses. This will give people opportunity to make decisions for themselves. And we've learned from experience that free decisions are usually the best decisions for our economy as a whole.

And third, and most important, tax relief will expand productive investment. The House plan allows businesses to speed up the expensing of new equipment. And it reforms the corporate Tax Code, so that companies do not face higher effective rates as their profits decline. Together, these two changes will persuade many companies that time has come to reinvest in America. And when we invest in America, we create jobs for American workers.

Tax relief is an essential step. But it's not the only step we should take. We need an energy plan for America. Under the leadership of the Vice President, we drafted a comprehensive, commonsense plan for the future of this country. It passed the House of Representatives. It needs a vote in the United States Senate.

Oh, I understand energy prices are low right now, thank goodness. But that shouldn't lead our Nation to complacency. We need to be more self-reliant and self-sufficient. It is in our Nation's national interest that we develop more energy supplies at home. It is in our national interest that we look at safe nuclear power. It is in our national interest that we conserve more. It is in our national interest that we modernize the energy infrastructure of America. It's in our national interest to get a bill to my desk, and I urge the Senate to do so.

And we can restore economic confidence by expanding trade. More open trade is essential to the growth of our Nation's economy. A part of our economic recovery program is to give me the ability to negotiate trade agreements. I need trade promotion authority to expand opportunity for businesses large and small, for entrepreneurs in America. I need trade promotion authority to expand the job base of this great Nation.

I'm the first President who hadn't had trade promotion authority. I need it now. It's in our Nation's best interest that we have it. And it's in the best interests of our world that we trade in freedom.

We have a chance to draw all the people into the world—in the world into an open market economy, and that will offer better living standards and more political freedom and will enhance human dignity all across our globe. And it's our Nation's interest that that happen.

Nobody is disqualified from an open world that trades freely. No one will be disqualified by religion, no one by nationality. No one will be disqualified by geography. Our enemies fear this world precisely because they know how attractive modernization is to the oppressed people around the globe. Our enemies fear open societies in which men and women can think for themselves, can decide their own destinies, can decently support their own families, can educate their sons and their daughters in a modern world. Our enemies fear a society which is pluralistic and open to worship an almighty God.

Our enemies are right to fear open societies, because those societies leave no room for bigotry and tyranny. The promise of our time has no room for the vision of the Taliban or Al Qaida.

This is a time of promise for America. I'm incredibly optimistic about this Nation's future, because I understand America and I understand the people of America. Franklin Roosevelt warned us 70 years ago that fear feeds on itself and contributes to the very problems that first gave it rise. America has prevailed over fear in a Great Depression and in a global war, and we will do so again.

The character of our country has not changed. Oh, the TV sets have changed; the telephones have changed; the cars have changed; but not the heart and soul of America. When they struck America, they did not understand our Nation. They did not understand our resolve. They did not understand our patience. They did not understand our will to win.

I want to thank the Business Council for coming and for joining this war. All of us need to understand, it is now time to plant the flag of freedom firmly in our nation and around the world, because what we do today will determine whether or not our children and our grandchildren can grow up in a life that we knew. What we do today will determine how free America is for the future. And we will not fail.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 22

In the morning, the President returned from Shanghai, China, to Washington, DC, crossing the international date line to arrive in the morning of October 22.

In the afternoon, the President met with Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge concerning ongoing terrorist anthrax mail attacks.

The President announced his intention to nominate Diane Lenegan Tomb to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ned L. Seigel to be a member of the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter B. Teets to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

October 23

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders, and later, met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice concerning peace efforts in the Middle East.

October 24

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council. Also in the morning, he met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and later with Members of Congress and Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Glen Burnie, MD, and later returned to the White House.

October 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia concerning cooperation against terrorism. Later, he met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress and Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. Later, he met in the Oval Office with Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa of Bahrain. Also in the afternoon, he met in the Roosevelt Room with members of the Republican Governors Association.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain for a working visit on November 28.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria to Washington for a meeting on November 2.

The President announced his intention to nominate Darryl N. Johnson to be Ambassador to Thailand.

The President announced his intention to appoint Antonio Andrade to be a member of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

October 26

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, and President Jacques Chirac of France concerning the war against terrorism. Also in the morning, the President met separately with his National Security Council and with Attorney

General John Ashcroft, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert S. Mueller III, and Director of the Office of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to discuss the latest developments in the war against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence A. Greenfield to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard M. Russell to be Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dan Gregrory Blair to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Morrison Combs to be Chief Financial Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes on October 9-10.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 23

Robert M. Beecroft,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Head of Mission, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Arden Bement, Jr.,
of Indiana, to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, vice Raymond G. Kammer, resigned.

John Marshall,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Terrence J. Brown, resigned.

Charles Lester Pritchard,
of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for Negotiations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and United States Representative to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

Melvin F. Sembler,
of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Italy.

Submitted October 25

James A. McDevitt,
of Washington, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington for the term of 4 years, vice James Patrick Connelly, resigned.

Earl Norfleet Phillips, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Johnny Keane Sutton,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice James William Blagg, resigned.

Richard S. Thompson,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Harry Donival Dixon, Jr., resigned.

Withdrawn October 25

Michelle Van Cleave,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Brian E. Sheridan, which was sent to the Senate on September 21, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 21

Fact sheet: The Shanghai Accord: U.S. Leadership in Achieving APEC's Free Trade Goals

Fact sheet: APEC's Leaders' Statement on Counterterrorism

Fact sheet: U.S. Accomplishments APEC Leaders' Meeting

Fact sheet: U.S. Leads APEC Efforts to Combat Infectious Disease

Fact sheet: U.S. Supports APEC e-Learning Initiatives

Fact sheet: U.S. Promotes Biotechnology in APEC

Released October 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Postmaster General John E. Potter, National Association of Letter Carriers President Vince Sombratto, Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC, Centers for Disease Control Representative Mitch Cohen, and Deputy Surgeon General Ken Moritsugu on anthrax in the District of Columbia

Released October 23

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice's appointment of Ambassador John B. Craig as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Combating Terrorism

Released October 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia

Released October 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge; Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Maj. Gen. John Parker; and Deputy Surgeon General Ken Moritsugu on homeland security

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Nigerian President Obasanjo

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

Fact sheet: Friendship Through Education

Released October 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the State of Oklahoma

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 22

H.J. Res. 69 / Public Law 107–53
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

Approved October 24

S.J. Res. 19 / Public Law 107–54
Providing for the reappointment of Anne d'Harnoncourt as citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

S.J. Res. 20 / Public Law 107–55
Providing for the appointment of Roger W. Sant as citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

Approved October 26

H.R. 3162 / Public Law 107–56
Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required To Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation for the Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

October 25, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed for the consideration of the Congress is a legislative proposal to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Also enclosed is a detailed explanation of the bill's provisions.

Title I of the bill is entitled the "Terrorist Bombings Convention Implementation Act of 2001." It would implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which was signed by the United States on January 12, 1998, and which was transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification on September 8, 1999. In essence, the Convention imposes binding legal obligations upon State Parties either to submit for prosecution or to extradite any person within their jurisdiction who unlawfully and intentionally delivers, places, discharges, or detonates an explosive or other lethal device in, into, or against a place of public use, a State or government facility, a public transportation system, or an infrastructure facility. A State Party is subject to these obligations without regard to the place where the alleged act covered by the Convention took place. Twenty-eight States are currently party to the Convention, which entered into force internationally on May 23, 2001.

Title II of the bill is entitled the "Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Convention Implementation Act of 2001." It would implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which was signed by the United States on January 10, 2000, and which was transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification on October 12, 2000. The Convention imposes binding legal obligations upon State Parties either to submit for prosecution or to extradite any person within their jurisdiction who unlawfully and wilfully provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used to carry out various terrorist activities. A State Party is subject to these obligations without regard to the place where the alleged act covered by the Convention took place. The Convention is not yet in force internationally, but will enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of the deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession with the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 25, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 26. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Statement on the Death of Gerry Solomon

October 26, 2001

Gerry Solomon was a true patriot. A decorated veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he was a tireless advocate of the men and women of the United States military who continued to work to protect the interests of America's veterans long after his service in

the U.S. Congress ended. Gerry Solomon will always be remembered as true to his creed: duty, honor, country.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
October 27, 2001

Good morning. I'm pleased to report that our Nation continues to take important steps in the war against terrorism. Next week, the House of Representatives will be voting on an airline security bill that Congressman Don Young has introduced.

It was modeled after proposals I made last month. Under the Young bill, the Federal Government will assume complete control of airport security and screening. It also greatly expands the Federal air marshal program and provides substantial new funding for secure cockpits and other security measures aboard airplanes.

There's a critical difference between the Young bill and the bill the Senate passed a few weeks ago. My approach gives the Government the flexibility it needs to assemble a skilled and disciplined screening workforce.

The Senate bill mandates that all passenger and baggage screeners be Federal workers in all circumstances. While that bill is well-intended, the best approach will be one that provides flexibility. The Young bill allows the use of private contractors operating under tough Federal standards on background checks with Federal law enforcement at every gate to promote better screening services, and ensure that security managers can move aggressively to discipline or fire employees who fail to live up to the rigorous new standards.

The Young bill is the quickest, most effective way to increase aviation security. And time is of the essence. I urge Congress to move quickly on this vital legislation, as it did this week in passing new legislation to fight terrorism.

The bill I signed yesterday gives intelligence and law enforcement officials additional tools they need to hunt and capture and punish terrorists. Our enemies operate by highly sophisticated methods and technologies, using the latest means of communication and the new weapon of bioterrorism.

When earlier laws were written, some of these methods did not even exist. The new law recognizes the realities and dangers posed by the modern terrorist. It will help us to prosecute terrorist organizations—and also to detect them before they strike.

Since 11th of September, the men and women of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been relentless in their work. In return for their exceptional service, these public servants deserve our full support, and every means of help that we can provide. Intelligence operations and criminal investigations have often had to operate on separate tracks. The new law will make it easier for all agencies to share vital information about terrorist activity.

Surveillance of communications is another essential method of law enforcement. But for a long time, we have been working under laws written in the era of rotary telephones. Under the new law, officials may conduct court-ordered surveillance of all modern forms of communication used by terrorists.

In recent years, some investigations have been hindered by limits on the reach of Federal search warrants. Officials had to get a new warrant for each new district and investigation covered, even when involving the same suspect. As of now, warrants are valid across districts and across State lines.

And finally, the new legislation greatly enhances the penalties that will fall on terrorists or anyone who helps them. Federal law now provides harsh penalties for possession of biological weapons. It is now easier to seize the assets of groups or individuals involved in terrorism. Government has greater ability to deport known terrorists and their supporters. And the statute of limitations on terrorist acts have been lengthened, along with prison sentences, for terrorist crimes.

These measures were enacted with broad support in both parties. They reflect a firm resolve to uphold and respect the civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, while dealing swiftly and severely with terrorists.

Now comes the duty of carrying them out. And I can assure all Americans that these important new statutes will be enforced to the full.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:50 a.m. on October 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the African Growth and Opportunity Forum

October 29, 2001

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. Many of you have traveled half a world for this gathering, and I'm honored to be with you. I want to thank you all for coming.

This conference was delayed by the events of September the 11th, but our common goal will not be delayed or denied. We have a unique opportunity to build ties of trade and trust that will improve the lives on both our continents. And we will seize this opportunity.

I appreciate so very much the leadership of our Secretary of State. He has done a fabulous job of assembling a coalition of people from all around the world to fight terror. I picked the right man for this time in history.

I want to thank the Ministers and Ambassadors from the 35 African nations who are represented here. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate the three members of my Cabinet who are on the stage with us today, members who represent trade and economic activity and economic development, people who join me in my commitment for a freer world and a prosperous Africa. I want to thank Secretary of Treasury O'Neill, Secretary of Commerce Evans, and U.S. Trade Representative Zoellick for being here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios for being here, as well. Andy, thank you for coming. And I, too, want to thank Members of the United States Congress, Republican and Democrat, who have come to join on this important effort. Senator Lugar, Congressman Royce, Congressman Levin, and Congressman Jefferson, I'm honored you all would take time to be here to represent the solidarity of our entire Government in promoting what's right and responsible on the African continent.

And I want to thank members of the business and NGO communities who are here, as well. And thank you for working so hard to put together the coalition that enabled the passage of one of the most hopeful acts that Congress has passed. I appreciate your time; I appreciate your efforts; and I appreciate your concern.

Let me begin by thanking the nations of Africa for their support following September the 11th. America will never forget the many messages of sympathy and solidarity sent by African heads of state. Ambassadors from southern Africa presented a check to the American Red Cross to assist the families of the victims. One Rwandan journalist wrote in a condolence book at the U.S. Embassy, "We feel and understand what the Americans must be experiencing. The forces of evil must be fought and defeated wherever they are." That's represents exactly the firm resolve of the American people. We will fight and defeat the forces of evil wherever they are.

Over 80 countries, including Ethiopia and Egypt, Ghana and Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, and Zimbabwe, lost citizens along with the Americans on September the 11th. The United States is deeply grateful to all countries and all African countries that have now joined in a great coalition against terror.

We are grateful for the political support offered by the Organization of African Unity and by many African regional organizations. We appreciate the basing and overflight rights offered by African countries and the growing number of African nations that have committed to cracking down on terrorist financing.

We are encouraged by the strong declaration issued at Dakar by 28 African countries calling on all African nations to ratify the 1999 Algiers Convention Against Terrorism. I spoke to Senegal's President Wade, to thank him for his leadership in convening the Dakar meeting. The Algiers Convention was developed following the 1998 Embassy bombings by Al Qaida, which took 12 lives and over 200 African lives, including many

Muslims. Now it is critically important that this convention be ratified so that African nations have additional judicial, diplomatic, and financial tools to root out terrorism. And as nations begin to put these measures in place, the United States will look for ways to work together.

In an era of global trade and global terror, the futures of the developed world and the developing world are closely linked. We benefit from each other's success. We're not immune from each other's troubles. We share the same threats, and we share the same goal: to forge a future of more openness, trade, and freedom.

Recent events have provided the world with a clear and dramatic choice. Our enemies, the terrorists and their supporters, offer a narrow and backward vision. They feed resentment, envy, and hatred. They fear human creativity, choice, and diversity. Powerless to build a better world, they seek to destroy a world that is passing them by. And they will not succeed.

We offer a better way. When nations respect the creativity and enterprise of their people, they find social and economic progress. When nations open their markets to the world, their people find new ways to create wealth. When nations accept the rules of the modern world, they discover the benefits of the modern world.

This vision of progress is not owned by any nation or any culture. It belongs to humanity, every African, every Muslim, every man or woman who wants to make it real. Good governments, of course, will look different from place to place. Cultures must preserve their unique values. Yet, everywhere—east and west, north and south—there is a model of successful development, a market economy trading with the world that respects human rights and the rule of law. Every nation that adopts this vision will find in America a trading partner, an investor, and a friend.

And it's for this reason that America welcomes and supports the new African initiative put forward by visionary African leaders. To fulfill this vision of progress, we must return to the steady, patient work of building a world that trades in freedom.

No nation in our time has entered the fast track of development without first opening up its economy to world markets. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a roadmap for how the United States and Africa can tap the power of markets to improve the lives of our citizens.

This law is just over a year, but it is already showing its tremendous power. During the first half of this year, the total trade with sub-Sahara Africa rose nearly 17 percent, compared to last year. U.S. imports from the region now exceed $11.5 billion. Some individual countries have shown staggering increases in trade. Four countries—Senegal, Seychelles, Eritrea, and Madagascar—saw their exports to the United States grow by over 100 percent.

Behind these numbers are investments in projects that are making a real impact on people's lives. In Kenya, the Government projects that AGOA will create 150,000 new jobs over the next several years. Propose new projects—in Lesotho, textiles sectors alone are expected to inject $122 million of investment into that country's economy, 4 times the amount of all official development assistance the country received in 1999.

We need to build on these successes. Across the continent, African governments are reforming their economies and their governments in order to take advantage of AGOA. These nations are working hard to fight corruption, improve labor standards, and reform their customs regimes. The United States will work in partnership with African nations to help—to help them build the institutions and expertise they need to benefit from trade.

Today I'm pleased to announce the creation of $200 million Overseas Private Investment Corporation support facility that will give American firms access to loans, guarantees, and political risk insurance for investment projects in sub-Sahara Africa.

I've asked our Trade and Development Agency to establish a regional office in Johannesburg, to provide guidance to governments and companies which seek to liberalize their trade laws, improve the investment environment, and take advantage of the free trade act between our two continents.

I'm also announcing today the launch of the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Program. With $15 million in initial funding, the trade program will establish regional hubs for global competitiveness that will help African businesses take advantage of AGOA, to sell more of their products on the global markets.

Countries gathered here today have seen the benefits of trade. And we have an obligation to make the case for more open trade throughout the entire world. I hope that African nations will be a powerful voice for the launch of a new round of global trade talks in Doha, beginning next month. Trade and sound economic policies are essential to growth and development, but they are not, themselves, sufficient to seize the hopeful opportunities of markets and trade. Nations need citizens that are educated and are healthy.

My Government will continue its strong support for responsible debt relief, so that nations can devote more resources to education and health. We will continue to press multilateral development banks to provide more assistance in the form of grants, instead of loans. We are moving forward on an initiative I announced in July to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa. And the United States is ready to commit more resources to the new global fund to combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, once the fund demonstrates success.

And finally, as AGOA makes clear, economic freedom and political freedom must go hand in hand. People who trade in freedom want to live in freedom. From Nigeria to South Africa, African nations have made great strides—great strides—toward democracy. The democratic transitions of the last decade mean that a majority of Africans now live in democratic states. That is progress we will praise and progress we must work hard to continue.

Our times present many challenges. Yet, I'm optimistic about our shared future. I know we can build a world that grows in prosperity and trades in freedom. I know we can bring health and education to more people. I know we can defeat terror—defeat terror now, so that our children and grandchildren can grow up in free societies.

Out of the sorrow of September 11th, I see opportunity, a chance for nations to strengthen and rethink and reinvigorate their relationships. We share more than a common enemy; we share a common goal: to expand our ties of commerce and culture, to renew our commitment to development and democracy. And together, we will meet that goal.

May God bless Africa, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Loy Henderson Conference Room at the Department of State headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Homeland Security Council and an Exchange With Reporters

October 29, 2001

The President. Today I had the first official meeting of the Homeland Security Council—Governor—that has been chaired by—when I'm not here, by Governor Ridge. And as you can see, I've assembled many of the members of my administration here, senior members of the administration, because our task is to do everything we can to protect the American people from any threat whatsoever.

The American people are beginning to understand that we fight a two-front war against terror. We fight in Afghanistan, and I appreciate so very much the efforts of our men and women who wear the uniform. And we fight it at home here, to make sure America is as safe is possible.

Along these lines, we've set up a Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force to make sure that the Land of the Free is as safe as possible from people who might come to our country to hurt people. We welcome legal immigrants, and we welcome people coming to America. We welcome the process that encourages people to come to our country to visit, to study, and to work. What we don't welcome are people who come to hurt the American people. And so, therefore, we're going to be very diligent with our visas and

observant with the behavior of people who come to this country.

As an example, if a person applies for a student visa and gets that visa, we want to make sure that person actually goes to school; in other words, if they're using the visas for the intended purpose.

The American people need to know that we're doing everything we possibly can to prevent and disrupt any attack on America and that we're doing everything we can to respond to attacks. And I'm proud of the public health workers, people that report to Tommy Thompson's agency, about their hard work. They're working hours on hours. And I believe that lives have been saved as a result of their diligent efforts.

Be glad to answer a couple of questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], then Dave [David Gregory, NBC News], then Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], then Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Yesterday there was quite a bit of talk on Capitol Hill about the need for ground troops to step up the military action another notch—Senator McCain, Senator Dodd, among others. Do you think the American public is ready for a significant number of ground troops in Afghanistan?

The President. I the most important thing that the American people realize is that we're steady and determined and patient, that we've got a strategy in place to bring Al Qaida to justice and at the same time make it clear that any nation which harbors terrorists will be held accountable for their decisions. And we are implementing our strategy, and we appreciate any suggestions people may have.

But the strategy we have at the time right now is to use our military to dismantle Taliban defenses, use our military to destroy Al Qaida training bases, and to work with troops that now exist on the ground to fulfill our mission. And I am pleased with the progress we're making.

And I'm really pleased with the fact that the American people are patient. They realize this is a war the likes of which they have never seen before. And therefore, they are rooting on their Government and the men and women who wear the uniform. They understand that it's going to take a while to achieve our objective, and I appreciate that patience.

Steve.

Immigration Policy

Q. Sir, since so many of the hijackers were in the country legally, do you plan to crack down on student visas or political asylum cases, things of that sort?

The President. Well, we plan on making sure that if a person has applied for a student visa, they actually go to college or a university. And therefore, we're going to start asking a lot of questions that heretofore have not been asked.

We're going to tighten up the visa policy. That's not to say that we're not going to let people come into our country; of course we are. But we're going to make sure that when somebody comes, we understand their intended purpose and that they fulfill the purpose that they—on their application.

You bring up a very good point, Steve, and that is that sometimes people come here with no intention to fulfill their purpose. And when we find those, they will be escorted out of the United States.

Domestic Response to Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, a couple of weeks ago the FBI issued an alert indicating that within several days the country could be attacked by terrorists again. Does the Government still believe and have information to support the notion that Usama bin Laden is planning a second wave of attacks, and do you believe that all of the resources now dedicated to the anthrax situation reduce the country's level of preparedness?

The President. We believe that the country must stay on alert, that there is—that our enemies still hate us. Our enemies have no values that regard life as precious. They're active, and therefore, we're constantly in touch with our law enforcement officials to be prepared.

Now, having said that, the American people must go about their lives. And I recognize it's a fine balance. But the American people

also understand that the object of any terrorist activity is to cause Americans to abandon their lifestyles. Every American is a soldier, and every citizen is in this fight. And I am proud of our country. Our country is united and strong, and we're prepared. We've got ample resources to fight the war on the homefront on many fronts. And part of our purpose for being here is to make sure that those resources are well organized and that fit into a strategy that this administration is designing.

Stretch.

National Economy

Q. We have some new consumer confidence numbers coming out tomorrow, so perhaps this would be a better question to ask then. But based on what you're hearing from all of the people in this room, what is your sense of the extent which the terrorist attacks, now the anthrax mailings, are having on the consumer? And is it your sense that people really are hunkering down, they're apprehensive, they're—are they finding it difficult to get back to their daily routines?

The President. Well, I haven't seen the numbers, but my view of the mood of the country is, is that the country understands we've entered into a new period in our history, and that there is a—that lives are simply not going to be as normal as they were in the past, and that so long as there is terrorist activities in the world and directed toward our country, that people are going to have to be diligent and on guard. And they are.

Now, having said that, the American people are very patient, and they appreciate the efforts of the Government, and they appreciate the efforts of our military. They understand better than most, better than the world, that this is going to take a long period of time, and they are prepared for this. They are prepared to wait in long lines at airports. They're prepared to support our military. They are prepared to support local law enforcement as local law enforcement works hard with Federal officials to disrupt any potential terrorist activities.

And so, the mood of the country is certainly different from what it was on September the 10th, but I find the mood of the country to be incredibly refreshing and strong and powerful. It is a clear statement to anybody who would want to harm us that instead of weakening America, they have strengthened America.

And how that—what that means to the economy, it means that the—it means that over time, our economy is going to be just as strong as the American spirit. And so I'm very optimistic about the economy. How long it will take to recover to the levels that we hope is just—is beyond my pay grade. But I can tell you that the people of this country are strong and resolute, and for that I am grateful and incredibly proud.

Last question.

Immigration Policy

Q. Mr. President, we understand this task force is to help tighten and close the loopholes in immigration laws. Why were these loopholes so vast, and why were they left for so long? And also, what do you say to the American public who is concerned about anti-American sentiment among Americans who may have helped these immigrants who came in and started September the 11th?

The President. Well, first, I—you know, our country has been an incredibly generous country, the most generous country in the world. We're generous with our universities; we're generous with our job opportunities; we're generous with the—what a beautiful system it is, that if you come here and you work hard, you can achieve a dream.

Never did we realize then that people would take advantage of our generosity to the extent they have. September the 11th taught us an interesting lesson, that while, by far, the vast majority of people who have come to America are really good, decent people, people that we're proud to have here, there are some who are evil. And our job now is to find the evil ones and to bring them to justice, to disrupt anybody who might have designs on hurting—further hurting Americans.

The second part of your question? Sorry.

Domestic Support for Terrorists

Q. The second part is about the Americans in this country who—some may have helped the terrorists.

The President. I think Americans who unwittingly helped people that hurt Americans regret that now. Americans who are willingly participants and have plans to hurt America, they will be brought to justice. My judgment is, anybody who is a terrorist or helps a terrorist are equally culpable. And so, we're doing everything we can, obviously within the law.

And we've got now a new law that will help us pursue those who would harm Americans and those who would help them harm Americans. People need to be held accountable in America, and we're going to do just that.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:10 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Directive on Organization and Operation of the Homeland Security Council

October 29, 2001

Homeland Security Presidential Directive–1

Subject: Organization and Operation of the Homeland Security Council

This is the first in a series of Homeland Security Presidential Directives that shall record and communicate presidential decisions about the homeland security policies of the United States.

A. Homeland Security Council

Securing Americans from terrorist threats or attacks is a critical national security function. It requires extensive coordination across a broad spectrum of Federal, State, and local agencies to reduce the potential for terrorist attacks and to mitigate damage should such an attack occur. The Homeland Security Council (HSC) shall ensure coordination of all homeland security-related activities among executive departments and agencies and promote the effective development and implementation of all homeland security policies.

B. The Homeland Security Council Principals Committee

The HSC Principals Committee (HSC/PC) shall be the senior interagency forum under the HSC for homeland security issues. The HSC/PC is composed of the following members: the Secretary of the Treasury; the Secretary of Defense; the Attorney General; the Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Secretary of Transportation; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security (who serves as Chairman); the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall be invited to attend all meetings of the HSC/PC. The following people shall be invited to HSC/PC meetings when issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are discussed: the Secretary of State; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Commerce; the Secretary of Labor; the Secretary of Energy; the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism. The Counsel to the President shall be consulted regarding the agenda of HSC/PC meetings and shall attend any meeting when, in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, the Counsel deems it appropriate. The Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security shall serve as Executive Secretary of the HSC/PC. Other heads of departments and agencies and senior officials shall be invited, when appropriate.

The HSC/PC shall meet at the call of the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in consultation with the regular attendees of the HSC/PC. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall determine the agenda, in consultation with the regular attendees, and shall ensure that all necessary papers are prepared. When global terrorism with domestic implications

is on the agenda of the HSC/PC, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall perform these tasks in concert.

C. Homeland Security Council Deputies Committee

The HSC Deputies Committee (HSC/DC) shall serve as the senior sub-Cabinet interagency forum for consideration of policy issues affecting homeland security. The HSC/DC can task and review the work of the HSC interagency groups discussed below. The HSC/DC shall help ensure that issues brought before the HSC/PC or the HSC have been properly analyzed and prepared for action. The HSC/DC shall have the following as its regular members: the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Deputy Attorney General; the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Deputy Secretary of Transportation; the Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security (who serves as Chairman); the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence; the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President. The Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor shall be invited to attend all meetings of the HSC/DC. The following people shall be invited to attend when issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are to be discussed: the Deputy Secretary of State; the Deputy Secretary of the Interior; the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; the Deputy Secretary of Commerce; the Deputy Secretary of Labor; the Deputy Secretary of Energy; the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; the Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism; and the Special Advisor to the President for Cyberspace Security. The Executive Secretary of the Office of Homeland Security shall serve as Executive Secretary of the HSC/DC. Other senior officials shall be invited, when appropriate.

The HSC/DC shall meet at the call of its Chairman. Any regular member of the HSC/DC may request a meeting of the HSC/DC for prompt crisis management. For all meetings, the Chairman shall determine the agenda, in consultation with the regular members, and shall ensure that necessary papers are prepared.

D. Homeland Security Council Policy Coordination Committees

HSC Policy Coordination Committees (HSC/PCCs) shall coordinate the development and implementation of homeland security policies by multiple departments and agencies through-out the Federal government, and shall coordinate those policies with State and local government. The HSC/PCCs shall be the main day-to-day fora for interagency coordination of homeland security policy. They shall provide policy analysis for consideration by the more senior committees of the HSC system and ensure timely responses to decisions made by the President. Each HSC/PCC shall include representatives from the executive departments, offices, and agencies represented in the HSC/DC.

Eleven HSC/PCCs are hereby established for the following functional areas, each to be chaired by the designated Senior Director from the Office of Homeland Security:

1. Detection, Surveillance, and Intelligence (by the Senior Director, Intelligence and Detection);
2. Plans, Training, Exercises, and Evaluation (by the Senior Director, Policy and Plans);
3. Law Enforcement and Investigation (by the Senior Director, Intelligence and Detection);
4. Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Consequence Management (by the Senior Director, Response and Recovery);
5. Key Asset, Border, Territorial Waters, and Airspace Security (by the Senior Director, Protection and Prevention);
6. Domestic Transportation Security (by the Senior Director, Protection and Prevention);
7. Research and Development (by the Senior Director, Research and Development);

8. Medical and Public Health Preparedness (by the Senior Director, Protection and Prevention);
9. Domestic Threat Response and Incident Management (by the Senior Director, Response and Recovery);
10. Economic Consequences (by the Senior Director, Response and Recovery); and
11. Public Affairs (by the Senior Director, Communications).

Each HSC/PCC shall also have an Executive Secretary to be designated by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security (from the staff of the HSC). The Executive Secretary of each HSC/PCC shall assist his or her Chair in scheduling the meetings of the HSC/PCC, determining the agenda, recording the actions taken and tasks assigned, and ensuring timely responses to the central policymaking committees of the HSC system. The Chairman of each HSC/PCC, in consultation with its Executive Secretary, may invite representatives of other executive departments and agencies to attend meetings of the HSC/PCC, when appropriate.

The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, at the direction of the President and in consultation with the Vice President, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may establish additional HSC/PCCs, as appropriate.

The Chairman of each HSC/PCC, with the agreement of its Executive Secretary, may establish subordinate working groups to assist the PCC in the performance of its duties.

The Vice President may attend any and all meetings of any entity established by or under this directive. This directive shall be construed in a manner consistent with Executive Order 13228.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This directive was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

Directive on Combating Terrorism Through Immigration Policies

October 29, 2001

Homeland Security Presidential Directive–2

Subject: Combating Terrorism Through Immigration Policies

A. National Policy

The United States has a long and valued tradition of welcoming immigrants and visitors. But the attacks of September 11, 2001, showed that some come to the United States to commit terrorist acts, to raise funds for illegal terrorist activities, or to provide other support for terrorist operations, here and abroad. It is the policy of the United States to work aggressively to prevent aliens who engage in or support terrorist activity from entering the United States and to detain, prosecute, or deport any such aliens who are within the United States.

1. Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force

By November 1, 2001, the Attorney General shall create the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force (Task Force), with assistance from the Secretary of State, the Director of Central Intelligence and other officers of the government, as appropriate. The Task Force shall ensure that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, Federal agencies coordinate programs to accomplish the following: 1) deny entry into the United States of aliens associated with, suspected of being engaged in, or supporting terrorist activity; and 2) locate, detain, prosecute, or deport any such aliens already present in the United States.

The Attorney General shall appoint a senior official as the full-time Director of the Task Force. The Director shall report to the Deputy Attorney General, serve as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and maintain direct liaison with the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on issues related to immigration and the foreign terrorist presence in the United States. The Director shall also consult with the Assistant

Secretary of State for Consular Affairs on issues related to visa matters.

The Task Force shall be staffed by expert personnel from the Department of State, the INS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, the Customs Service, the Intelligence Community, military support components, and other Federal agencies as appropriate to accomplish the Task Force's mission.

The Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence shall ensure, to the maximum extent permitted by law, that the Task Force has access to all available information necessary to perform its mission, and they shall request information from State and local governments, where appropriate.

With the concurrence of the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence, foreign liaison officers from cooperating countries shall be invited to serve as liaisons to the Task Force, where appropriate, to expedite investigation and data sharing.

Other Federal entities, such as the Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Coordination Center and the Foreign Leads Development Activity, shall provide the Task Force with any relevant information they possess concerning aliens suspected of engaging in or supporting terrorist activity.

2. Enhanced INS and Customs Enforcement Capability

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, assisted by the Director of Central Intelligence, shall immediately develop and implement multi-year plans to enhance the investigative and intelligence analysis capabilities of the INS and the Customs Service. The goal of this enhancement is to increase significantly efforts to identify, locate, detain, prosecute or deport aliens associated with, suspected of being engaged in, or supporting terrorist activity within the United States.

The new multi-year plans should significantly increase the number of Customs and INS special agents assigned to Joint Terrorism Task Forces, as deemed appropriate by the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. These officers shall constitute new positions over and above the existing on-duty special agent forces of the two agencies.

3. Abuse of International Student Status

The United States benefits greatly from international students who study in our country. The United States Government shall continue to foster and support international students.

The Government shall implement measures to end the abuse of student visas and prohibit certain international students from receiving education and training in sensitive areas, including areas of study with direct application to the development and use of weapons of mass destruction. The Government shall also prohibit the education and training of foreign nationals who would use such training to harm the United States or its Allies.

The Secretary of State and the Attorney General, working in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and any other departments or entities they deem necessary, shall develop a program to accomplish this goal. The program shall identify sensitive courses of study, and shall include measures whereby the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and United States academic institutions, working together, can identify problematic applicants for student visas and deny their applications. The program shall provide for tracking the status of a foreign student who receives a visa (to include the proposed major course of study, the status of the individual as a full-time student, the classes in which the student enrolls, and the source of the funds supporting the student's education).

The program shall develop guidelines that may include control mechanisms, such as limited duration student immigration status, and may implement strict criteria for renewing such student immigration status. The program shall include guidelines for exempting students from countries or groups of countries from this set of requirements.

In developing this new program of control, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Education shall consult

with the academic community and other interested parties. This new program shall be presented through the Homeland Security Council to the President within 60 days.

The INS, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall conduct periodic reviews of all institutions certified to receive nonimmigrant students and exchange visitor program students. These reviews shall include checks for compliance with record keeping and reporting requirements. Failure of institutions to comply may result in the termination of the institution's approval to receive such students.

4. North American Complementary Immigration Policies

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, shall promptly initiate negotiations with Canada and Mexico to assure maximum possible compatibility of immigration, customs, and visa policies. The goal of the negotiations shall be to provide all involved countries the highest possible level of assurance that only individuals seeking entry for legitimate purposes enter any of the countries, while at the same time minimizing border restrictions that hinder legitimate trans-border commerce.

As part of this effort, the Secretaries of State and the Treasury and the Attorney General shall seek to substantially increase sharing of immigration and customs information. They shall also seek to establish a shared immigration and customs control database with both countries. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General shall explore existing mechanisms to accomplish this goal and, to the maximum extent possible, develop new methods to achieve optimal effectiveness and relative transparency. To the extent statutory provisions prevent such information sharing, the Attorney General and the Secretaries of State and the Treasury shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget proposed remedial legislation.

5. Use of Advanced Technologies for Data Sharing and Enforcement Efforts

The Director of the OSTP, in conjunction with the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence, shall make recommendations about the use of advanced technology to help enforce United States immigration laws, to implement United States immigration programs, to facilitate the rapid identification of aliens who are suspected of engaging in or supporting terrorist activity, to deny them access to the United States, and to recommend ways in which existing government databases can be best utilized to maximize the ability of the government to detect, identify, locate, and apprehend potential terrorists in the United States. Databases from all appropriate Federal agencies, state and local governments, and commercial databases should be included in this review. The utility of advanced data mining software should also be addressed. To the extent that there may be legal barriers to such data sharing, the Director of the OSTP shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget proposed legislative remedies. The study also should make recommendations, propose timelines, and project budgetary requirements.

The Director of the OSTP shall make these recommendations to the President through the Homeland Security Council within 60 days.

6. Budgetary Support

The Office of Management and Budget shall work closely with the Attorney General, the Secretaries of State and of the Treasury, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and all other appropriate agencies to review the budgetary support and identify changes in legislation necessary for the implementation of this directive and recommend appropriate support for a multiyear program to provide the United States a robust capability to prevent aliens who engage in or support terrorist activity from entering or remaining in the United States or the smuggling of implements of terrorism into the United States. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make an interim report through the Homeland Security Council to the President on the recommended program within 30 days, and

shall make a final report through the Homeland Security Council to the President on the recommended program within 60 days.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This directive was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

Remarks Announcing the Lessons of Liberty Initiative in Rockville, Maryland

October 30, 2001

Thank you all very much. Sit down. Behave yourself. [*Laughter*] Thank you for the warm welcome. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to be here to announce a national effort to bring together veterans and students all across America during the week of Veterans Day, to give our young examples of duty and courage at a time when both are sorely needed.

I want to thank Senator Dole for being here. I appreciate his eloquence and his service to the country. He is a—[*applause*] I want to thank the two members of my Cabinet who traveled with me today, Secretary Principi and Secretary Paige, both of whom represent the best of public service. I want to thank Congresswoman Connie Morella for being here, as well.

Rebecca, thank you for opening up your beautiful school. I want to thank you. And I want to thank the teachers who are here. Teaching is such a noble profession. And if some of you students are wondering what you might want to do when you get older, think about teaching.

I also want to thank the students and the veterans and my fellow Americans. I can assure you it makes some of us old guys feel warm in our hearts when we see the enthusiasm you have for your school and the love you have for your country. I am proud to be standing with the Patriots.

We're a nation of patriots. The attacks of September the 11th and the attacks that have followed were designed to break our spirit. But instead, they've created a new spirit in America. We have a renewed spirit of patriotism. We see it in the countless flags that are flying everywhere in America. We hear it in familiar phrases that move us more deeply than ever before. We all know that this is one Nation, under God. And we pray that God will bless America, the land that we all love, regardless of our race, regardless of our religion, regardless of where we live.

We have a renewed appreciation of the character of America. We are a generous people, a thoughtful people who hurt and share the sadness when people lose their life or when people are hurt. We've helped each other in every way we know, in donations, in acts of kindness, in public memorials, in private prayer. We have shown in difficult times that we're not just a world power, that we're a good and kind and courageous people.

As we pursue the enemy in Afghanistan, we feed the innocents. As we try to bring justice to those who have harmed us, we find those who need help. The events of these 7 weeks have shown something else. They have shown a new generation, your generation, that America and the cause of freedom have determined enemies, that there are people in this world who hate what America stands for. They hate our success; they hate our liberty. We have learned all too suddenly that there are evil people who have no regard for human life and will do whatever it takes to try to bring this mighty Nation to its knees.

On the Korean War Memorial in Washington are these words: "Freedom is not free." Our commitment to freedom has always made us a target of tyranny and intolerance. Anyone who sets out to destroy freedom must eventually attack America, because we're freedom's home. And we must always be freedom's home and freedom's defender. We must never flinch in the face of adversity, and we won't.

You've been learning this by studying your history—at least some of you by studying your history. [*Laughter*] Now you're learning the price of freedom by following the news. You're learning that to be an American citizen in a time of war is to have duties. You're learning how a strong country responds to a crisis by being alert and calm, resolute and patient.

And you're the first students who ever learned the—who have had to learn the reality that we're having to fight a war on our

own land. You're the first generation of students who has ever witnessed a war fought in America. This is a two-front war we fight. On one front is the homefront. Our Government is doing everything we possibly can to disrupt and deny and destroy anyone who would harm America again. And the truth of the matter is, the best way to fight for the homeland is to find the terrorists wherever they hide, wherever they run, and to bring them to justice.

I also want to make it clear that the doctrine I laid out to the United States Congress is a doctrine this Nation will enforce. It says clearly that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide sanctuary to a terrorist, if you fund a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorist that inflicted the harm on the American people.

Our Nation gave those who harbor the Al Qaida organization ample opportunity to respond to reasonable demands. Our demands were just, and they were fair. We said very simply, "Turn over Al Qaida. Send the terrorists out of your land. Release the innocent Americans and other foreigners you hold hostage in Afghanistan, and destroy Al Qaida terrorist camps and training activity camps." And we gave them ample opportunity to respond, and they chose the wrong course. And then—they will now pay a price for choosing the wrong course.

This is a nation that is resolved to win. And win we must, not only for your generation but for generations to come.

This country has always been able to count on men and women of great courage. From the day America was founded, 48 million have worn the uniform of the United States. More than 25 million veterans are living today, some of whom are with us at Wootton High, and you may know some of them in your families. I know one such veteran. He fought in World War II, like Senator Dole—my dad.

We must remember that many who served in our military never lived to be called veterans. We must remember many had their lives changed forever by experiences or the injuries of combat. All veterans are examples of service and citizenship for every American to remember and to follow.

In 12 days, on Veterans Day, we will honor them. We will remember the Bob Doles of the world. We will remember a generation that liberated Europe and Asia and put an end to concentration camps. We will remember generations that fought in the cold mountains of Korea and manned the outposts of the cold war. We will remember those who served in the jungles of Vietnam and on the sands of the Persian Gulf. In each of these conflicts, Americans answered danger with incredible courage. We were equal to every challenge. And now a great mission has been given a new generation, our generation, and we vow not to let America down.

Today I have a special mission for our veterans and a special request of our schools. I ask all public, private, and home schools to join our Lessons for Liberty initiative by inviting a veteran to speak to your students during the week of Veterans Day. I'm particularly pleased to announce that Wootton High has already put out the call, and Ron Ten Eyck has answered. Ron's a veteran of World War II. You need to listen to what he has to say.

Lessons of Liberty is supported by veterans groups all across America: American Legion, VFW, Military Order of the World Wars, as well as education groups all across our country. Anyone interested in participating in this important event should go to this Web page: www.va.gov, and then click on Veterans Day.

In addition to launching Lessons of Liberty, I will sign a proclamation in a minute asking all Americans to observe the week of November 11th as National Veterans Awareness Week. In these difficult days here in America, I ask all of us, children and adults, to remember the valor and sacrifice of our veterans. American veterans have extraordinary stories. We should listen to them. American veterans preserved our world and freedom, and we should honor them. American veterans show us the meaning of sacrifice and citizenship, and we should learn from them.

Americans should always honor our veterans. At this moment, we especially need the example of their character. And we need a new generation to set examples of its own,

examples in service and sacrifice and courage. These veterans have shaped our history, and with their values, your generation will help guide our future.

God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. in the auditorium at Thomas S. Wootton High School. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole; Rebecca Newman, principal, Thomas S. Wootton High School; and Ron Ten Eyck, commander, American Legion Post 86, Rockville, MD.

Proclamation 7491—Veterans Day, 2001

October 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence declared that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Throughout the course of American history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend, and maintain these core principles upon which our Nation's freedoms depend. On September 11, 2001, terrorists ruthlessly attacked our land and these freedoms. The terrorists' deluded attempt to assail our spirit failed, and our Nation's response reveals that the spirit of freedom is as strong as ever. Our troops are now fighting overseas to defeat terrorism, and, in that effort, they follow in the footsteps of the 48 million men and women who, since our Nation's founding, have stepped forward to defend our land.

Today, there are more than 25 million living veterans who served our Nation in times of peace and war. Many of them willingly entered harm's way to fight for our freedoms. These veterans have diverse religious beliefs and come from varying backgrounds and ethnicities. By their service, they kept America strong, and they have protected our way of life from tyranny's grip for over two centuries. At this moment, men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world. They represent our resolute dedication to achieving a lasting peace out of the new challenges and threats of the 21st century.

On Veterans Day, let us pause to reflect on the sacrifices of all of those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military. Let us honor our veterans, who proved their heroism and love of country time and again, from Yorktown and Gettysburg to Iwo Jima and the Persian Gulf. They consistently defended our ideals across the globe; and they continue to inspire those who defend America today, half a world away. More than a million have died in service to America; and more than a million and a half have been wounded. Some sustained serious injuries in combat and now live with disabilities. Our Nation will always be grateful for the noble sacrifices made by these veterans. We can never adequately repay them. But we can honor and respect them for their service.

As we consider the sacrifices and efforts of our veterans, we must never forget that freedom comes at a cost. Therefore, I ask all schools to observe November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week, and to invite a veteran to speak at their school. This "Lessons in Liberty" initiative will serve to honor America's veterans, while reminding young people of the strong principles upon which our Nation is founded. Our veterans have much to share with our young people about liberty, patriotism, democracy, and independence. They are living examples of the timeless truth that freedom is not free. I call upon our veterans to serve our country in a different way, by teaching a new generation of young Americans the importance of the liberties they helped secure.

In respect and recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103 (a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2001, as

Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Remarks to the National Association of Manufacturers

October 31, 2001

Thank you all. Welcome. Nice to see everybody. Thank you very much. I've just finished icing down my arm. [*Laughter*]

Today there's some news out on our economy, and it confirms that the events of September the 11th really shocked the Nation. It affected our workforce and affected our business base. The gross domestic product for the third quarter was negative.

People are having tough times in America. People are losing their jobs. And I'm deeply concerned about that, and I know you are, as well. Consumer confidence is down. After all, we're at war, and for the first time in our Nation's history, part of the battlefront is here at home.

Shipments, particularly in the manufacturing sector, declined dramatically in recent months. And it's time for our Government to act in a positive and constructive way. The Congress needs to pass a stimulus package and get it to my desk before the end of November.

I had breakfast today with the Speaker and Minority Leader, Majority Leader Daschle and Senator Lott. All five of us agreed that we need to work together to get a package, that we've got to put aside political differences and act swiftly and strongly on behalf of the American worker and the American business person. And so my call to Congress is: Get to work, and get something done. The American people expect us to do just that.

I want to thank Paul O'Neill for being here. He is leading the charge on Capitol Hill for a commonsense economic stimulus package. He brings a lot of experience to the job. After all, he was a manufacturer at one time. He knows the struggles that you go through. And like me, he hurts with the workers who aren't finding work these days. And I appreciate Christie Todd being here, as well. One of the smartest things I've done is to tap some of my former Governor colleagues and ask them to come to the Government. I tapped a great one when I tapped Christie Todd Whitman. She brings a lot of sense and a good view of our environmental policy. And the American people are proud of the job she's doing, and so am I. Thank you for both being here.

I also want to thank Tim very much for his friendship and his introduction. I didn't realize you were quite so eloquent. [*Laughter*] You must be taking speech lessons. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Don Wainwright as well and, of course, Jerry Jasinowski for his friendship and support.

I—the American people know that we have acted quickly in terms of this attack that has taken place, and we've done so on the domestic front in quick order. Both Republicans and Democrats decided to spend a considerable sum of money to address the country's needs.

We've allocated $55 billion, and it didn't take long to spend it, I might add. A big chunk of that is going to go to make sure we defend our country, make sure our Defense Department is bolstered during this war. A significant amount of money went to help New York City recover as it should. We want New York City to be on her feet. It's

an important symbol for the world that New York City be strong and vibrant.

We spent a considerable amount of money for airplane security. My attitude was that the most directly affected industry was the airline industry, and therefore, we had to spend money to make sure the airlines survived and make sure there was loan money and make sure that the consumer realized that the Government was acting in a positive way to bring security to our airports. And the first act we took was to empower Governors to say, bring your guard to the gates; put troops so that people will see a visible presence. And we started to increase the air marshals. And Congress is now working on an airport security bill, and I hope I am able to sign that pretty quickly, too.

But we are taking action. And we need to spend money on helping workers who were—lost their job as a result of the attack of September the 11th. I believe we need to expend—extend and expand the unemployment benefits to those workers. And I know we need to expand what they call national emergency grants, which will give Governors the latitude to take Federal monies and apply that money to workers'—special workers' needs, such as health care benefits, to make sure that any laid-off worker can have—be able to pay the premiums of their health care plans.

And so there will be—there's more need. But I caution the Congress not to overspend. The temptation is to fund everybody's good idea. And my attitude is that our money ought to be focused and effective—the spending ought to be focused. And we ought to ask the question, is this effective spending? We need to make sure that when we spend there's a strategy and a reason.

And so I look forward to working with the appropriators to be responsible about how we spend taxpayers' money, particularly as we run up to what I hope is a recess around the Thanksgiving period. And we also ought to make sure that we offset any spending with tax relief, that the way to have a balanced stimulus package is to recognize we've spent a considerable amount of money up to date, and we need to spend some more for our workers, but we ought to offset that with tax relief. And I have laid out some ideas for Congress to consider.

One the one hand, we've got to make sure that we bolster consumer demand by both accelerating the tax cuts that now exist as well as providing rebates for non-taxpayers, but who filed. In other words, there are some people who didn't get rebates last year—generally low-income people—that filed an income tax return, but they didn't pay tax, and they ought to get a rebate. And Congress ought to act as quickly as possible to get that money into people's hands as quickly as possible to bolster demand.

And then we've got to make sure our tax relief encourages investment, encourages the flow of capital. And therefore, I think we need to reform the alternative minimum tax on corporate America so corporate America doesn't have to get penalized during times of declining earnings—that doesn't make any sense to do that—as well as encourage investment in new plant and equipment.

The House has passed some elements of that plan, and the Senate needs to act. And any differences we can work out in conference. But time is of the essence. As I mentioned, the leadership is prepared to spend the time necessary to get a good package out, and I'm grateful for that. And I hope the bill writers get moving. That's what the American people expect.

I also want the Congress to know that there is more to helping our economy grow than just tax relief or just spending. And there's two items I want to briefly touch on. One is an energy plan. Our Nation needs an energy plan, an energy plan that encourages conservation and encourages exploration, and I believe we can do both in a responsible way.

And we need to modernize the infrastructure that develops energy from point A to point B, from plant to consumer. We need to get after it. It is in our national interest that we have an energy plan, one designed to make us less reliant upon foreign sources of energy.

And as Tim mentioned, I need to have what's called trade promotion authority. I need to be able to negotiate trade agreements with nations who want to trade with America. The Congress can vote the trade

agreement down if they don't like it. But we need to be aggressive when it comes to opening up markets and taking advantage of opportunities around the world.

This Nation should not stand on the sidelines when it comes to free trade. We must be confident. People who build walls around America aren't confident in America. They're not confident in American workers; they're not confident in American businesses. I'm confident in America's ability to compete. I want to tear walls down. I want to make it easier for the world to trade in freedom. I think it's good for American workers that we trade. I think it's good for American business that we trade. And I know it's good for the spread of American values if we trade freely around the world.

And so I ask the Congress to be confident as we approach these big issues, be confident in the ability of the American people, be confident in the ability of the entrepreneur to succeed, be confident in our future of the country. And that's exactly the way I feel.

This is a very unusual period in American history, obviously. We've never been attacked like this before. We're still being attacked. Our heart goes out to anybody who suffers in America. And so, we're bolstering our homeland defense. We're disrupting and denying anybody who wants to harm the American people. We spend hours tracking down every possible lead of somebody who would come into this country or who might be buried in this country, trying to hurt any American. And I'm proud of our law enforcement officials who work nonstop, around the clock, taking every single lead and pursuing it to its end.

Yesterday—or a couple of days ago, I put the country on alert for a reason, that, on the one hand, while we will go about our business of going to World Series games or shopping or traveling to Washington, DC, I want our law enforcement officials to know we had some information that made it necessary for us to protect the United States' assets, to protect those areas that might be vulnerable. And that's exactly what's taking place today.

And we're also fighting a war overseas, with the purpose of hunting down the evildoers and bringing them to justice. And I'm patient, and I'm focused, and I will not yield. We must win. We have no other choice, for our children and our grandchildren, that we bring any terrorist to justice and hold those nations who harbor them—which harbor them or feed them or clothe them to justice, as well. And the United States will prevail.

People ask me about the economy. They say, "Are you worried?" I say, "I'm worried any time anybody loses a job. But in the long term, I'm optimistic about the U.S. economy. We've got good tax policy. We've got low interest rates. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got an entrepreneurial spirit that is infectious and strong and alive and well. We are the best place to do business in the entire globe. And that hasn't changed."

But I'm optimistic for another reason. I'm optimistic because the spirit of this country is incredibly strong. This is a fabulous nation. The evil ones thought they could affect the spirit of America, but it's had an opposite effect. Our country is patient. Our country is resolved. Our country is united, regardless of our religion, regardless of where we live, regardless of our political party. We're united behind the fact that we must rise to this occasion. And rise we will. We will plant that flag of freedom forever by winning the war against terrorism, by rallying our economy, and by keeping strong and adhering to the values we hold so dear, starting with freedom.

I want to thank you all for letting me come by. Thank you for letting me come by. [*Laughter*] Keep working hard. Keep working hard. And may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to W.R. "Tim" Timken, Jr., chairman, board of directors, Arthur D. "Don" Wainwright, vice chairman, board of directors, and Jerry J. Jasinowski, president, National Association of Manufacturers.

Notice—Continuation of Sudan Emergency

October 31, 2001

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sudan pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan, including continuing concern about its record on terrorism and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery, restrictions on religious freedom, and restrictions on political freedom. Because the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on November 3, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond November 3, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 31, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., November 1, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

October 31, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2001, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2000 (65 *Fed. Reg.* 66163).

The crisis between the United States and Sudan constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan, including continuing concern about its record on terrorism and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery, restrictions on religious freedom, and restrictions on political freedom, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on November 3, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 31, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

October 31, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-

month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, based upon information made available to me.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 31, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1.

Statement on Strengthening the International Regime Against Biological Weapons

November 1, 2001

Disease has long been the deadliest enemy of mankind. Infectious diseases make no distinctions among people and recognize no borders. We have fought the causes and consequences of disease throughout history and must continue to do so with every available means. All civilized nations reject as intolerable the use of disease and biological weapons as instruments of war and terror.

For almost 30 years, the vast majority of nations has banned all biological weapons, in accordance with the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). This landmark accord—now with 144 nations as parties—prohibits the possession of all biological weapons.

Before the BWC, the United States had independently and unconditionally renounced the possession and use of biological weapons. The United States unilaterally destroyed its biological weapons stockpiles and dismantled or converted to peaceful uses the facilities that had been used for developing and producing them.

Today, we know that the scourge of biological weapons has not been eradicated. Instead, the threat is growing. Since September 11, America and others have been confronted by the evils these weapons can inflict. This threat is real and extremely dangerous. Rogue states and terrorists possess these weapons and are willing to use them.

The United States is committed to strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) as part of a comprehensive strategy for combating the complex threats of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. With this objective, my administration is proposing that all Parties:

- Enact strict national criminal legislation against prohibited BW activities with strong extradition requirements;
- Establish an effective United Nations procedure for investigating suspicious outbreaks or allegations of biological weapons use;
- Establish procedures for addressing BWC compliance concerns;
- Commit to improving international disease control and to enhance mechanisms for sending expert response teams to cope with outbreaks;
- Establish sound national oversight mechanisms for the security and genetic engineering of pathogenic organisms;
- Devise a solid framework for bioscientists in the form of a code of ethical conduct that would have universal recognition; and
- Promote responsible conduct in the study, use, modification, and shipment of pathogenic organisms.

I have directed my administration to consult with our friends and allies, as well as with Congress, industry, and non-governmental experts, on these proposals. We look forward to hearing the new ideas on how best to achieve our common aim of eliminating biological weapons.

Our objective is to fashion an effective international approach to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention. The ideas we propose do not constitute a complete solution to the use of pathogens and biotechnology for evil purposes. However, if we can strengthen the Convention against the threat of biological weapons, we will contribute to the security of the people of the United States and mankind as a whole.

Statement on House Action on the Proposed "Secure Transportation for America Act"

November 1, 2001

I commend the House for passing legislation that will help ensure the safety of the

traveling public by strengthening security at America's airports. I am pleased the bill includes many of the safety measures proposed by my administration, including strong Federal oversight of airline security, an expanded Federal air marshals program, and important aircraft security enhancements.

The American people deserve tough security standards, and the House plan delivers. I urge the House and Senate to quickly work together to send a strong and effective bill to my desk.

Executive Order 13233—Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act

November 1, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to establish policies and procedures implementing section 2204 of title 44 of the United States Code with respect to constitutionally based privileges, including those that apply to Presidential records reflecting military, diplomatic, or national security secrets, Presidential communications, legal advice, legal work, or the deliberative processes of the President and the President's advisors, and to do so in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court's decisions in *Nixon v. Administrator of General Services*, 433 U.S. 425 (1977), and other cases, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Definitions.*

For purposes of this order:

(a) "Archivist" refers to the Archivist of the United States or his designee.

(b) "Presidential records" refers to those documentary materials maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration pursuant to the Presidential Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 2201–2207.

(c) "Former President" refers to the former President during whose term or terms of office particular Presidential records were created.

Sec. 2. *Constitutional and Legal Background.*

(a) For a period not to exceed 12 years after the conclusion of a Presidency, the Archivist administers records in accordance with the limitations on access imposed by section 2204 of title 44. After expiration of that period, section 2204(c) of title 44 directs that the Archivist administer Presidential records in accordance with section 552 of title 5, the Freedom of Information Act, including by withholding, as appropriate, records subject to exemptions (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(6), (b)(7), (b)(8), and (b)(9) of section 552. Section 2204(c)(1) of title 44 provides that exemption (b)(5) of section 552 is not available to the Archivist as a basis for withholding records, but section 2204(c)(2) recognizes that the former President or the incumbent President may assert any constitutionally based privileges, including those ordinarily encompassed within exemption (b)(5) of section 552. The President's constitutionally based privileges subsume privileges for records that reflect: military, diplomatic, or national security secrets (the state secrets privilege); communications of the President or his advisors (the presidential communications privilege); legal advice or legal work (the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges); and the deliberative processes of the President or his advisors (the deliberative process privilege).

(b) In *Nixon v. Administrator of General Services*, the Supreme Court set forth the constitutional basis for the President's privileges for confidential communications: "Unless [the President] can give his advisers some assurance of confidentiality, a President could not expect to receive the full and frank submissions of facts and opinions upon which effective discharge of his duties depends." 433 U.S. at 448–49. The Court cited the precedent of the Constitutional Convention, the records of which were "sealed for more than 30 years after the Convention." Id. at 447 n.11. Based on those precedents and principles, the Court ruled that constitutionally based privileges available to a President "survive[] the individual President's tenure." *Id.* at 449. The Court also held that a former President, although no longer a Government official, may assert constitutionally based privileges with respect to his Administration's Presidential records, and expressly rejected the argument that "only an

incumbent President can assert the privilege of the Presidency." *Id.* at 448.

(c) The Supreme Court has held that a party seeking to overcome the constitutionally based privileges that apply to Presidential records must establish at least a "demonstrated, specific need" for particular records, a standard that turns on the nature of the proceeding and the importance of the information to that proceeding. See *United States v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683, 713 (1974). Notwithstanding the constitutionally based privileges that apply to Presidential records, many former Presidents have authorized access, after what they considered an appropriate period of repose, to those records or categories of records (including otherwise privileged records) to which the former Presidents or their representatives in their discretion decided to authorize access. See *Nixon v. Administrator of General Services*, 433 U.S. at 450–51.

Sec. 3. *Procedure for Administering Privileged Presidential Records.*

Consistent with the requirements of the Constitution and the Presidential Records Act, the Archivist shall administer Presidential records under section 2204(c) of title 44 in the following manner:

(a) At an appropriate time after the Archivist receives a request for access to Presidential records under section 2204(c)(1), the Archivist shall provide notice to the former President and the incumbent President and, as soon as practicable, shall provide the former President and the incumbent President copies of any records that the former President and the incumbent President request to review.

(b) After receiving the records he requests, the former President shall review those records as expeditiously as possible, and for no longer than 90 days for requests that are not unduly burdensome. The Archivist shall not permit access to the records by a requester during this period of review or when requested by the former President to extend the time for review.

(c) After review of the records in question, or of any other potentially privileged records reviewed by the former President, the former President shall indicate to the Archivist whether the former President requests withholding of or authorizes access to any privileged records.

(d) Concurrent with or after the former President's review of the records, the incumbent President or his designee may also review the records in question, or may utilize whatever other procedures the incumbent President deems appropriate to decide whether to concur in the former President's decision to request withholding of or authorize access to the records.

(1) When the former President has requested withholding of the records:

(i) If under the standard set forth in section 4 below, the incumbent President concurs in the former President's decision to request withholding of records as privileged, the incumbent President shall so inform the former President and the Archivist. The Archivist shall not permit access to those records by a requester unless and until the incumbent President advises the Archivist that the former President and the incumbent President agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.

(ii) If under the standard set forth in section 4 below, the incumbent President does not concur in the former President's decision to request withholding of the records as privileged, the incumbent President shall so inform the former President and the Archivist. Because the former President independently retains the right to assert constitutionally based privileges, the Archivist shall not permit access to the records by a requester unless and until the incumbent President advises the Archivist that the former President and the incumbent President agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.

(2) When the former President has authorized access to the records:

(i) If under the standard set forth in section 4 below, the incumbent President concurs in the former President's decision to authorize access to

the records, the Archivist shall permit access to the records by the requester.

(ii) If under the standard set forth in section 4 below, the incumbent President does not concur in the former President's decision to authorize access to the records, the incumbent President may independently order the Archivist to withhold privileged records. In that instance, the Archivist shall not permit access to the records by a requester unless and until the incumbent President advises the Archivist that the former President and the incumbent President agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.

Sec. 4. *Concurrence by Incumbent President.*

Absent compelling circumstances, the incumbent President will concur in the privilege decision of the former President in response to a request for access under section 2204(c)(1). When the incumbent President concurs in the decision of the former President to request withholding of records within the scope of a constitutionally based privilege, the incumbent President will support that privilege claim in any forum in which the privilege claim is challenged.

Sec. 5. *Incumbent President's Right to Obtain Access.*

This order does not expand or limit the incumbent President's right to obtain access to the records of a former President pursuant to section 2205(2)(B).

Sec. 6. *Right of Congress and Courts to Obtain Access.*

This order does not expand or limit the rights of a court, House of Congress, or authorized committee or subcommittee of Congress to obtain access to the records of a former President pursuant to section 2205(2)(A) or section 2205(2)(C). With respect to such requests, the former President shall review the records in question and, within 21 days of receiving notice from the Archivist, indicate to the Archivist his decision with respect to any privilege. The incumbent President shall indicate his decision with respect to any privilege within 21 days after the former President has indicated his decision. Those periods may be extended by the former President or the incumbent President for requests that are burdensome. The Archivist shall not permit access to the records unless and until the incumbent President advises the Archivist that the former President and the incumbent President agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.

Sec. 7. *No Effect on Right to Withhold Records.*

This order does not limit the former President's or the incumbent President's right to withhold records on any ground supplied by the Constitution, statute, or regulation.

Sec. 8. *Withholding of Privileged Records During 12-Year Period.*

In the period not to exceed 12 years after the conclusion of a Presidency during which section 2204(a) and section 2204(b) of title 44 apply, a former President or the incumbent President may request withholding of any privileged records not already protected from disclosure under section 2204. If the former President or the incumbent President so requests, the Archivist shall not permit access to any such privileged records unless and until the incumbent President advises the Archivist that the former President and the incumbent President agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.

Sec. 9. *Establishment of Procedures.*

This order is not intended to indicate whether and under what circumstances a former President should assert or waive any privilege. The order is intended to establish procedures for former and incumbent Presidents to make privilege determinations.

Sec. 10. *Designation of Representative.*

The former President may designate a representative (or series or group of alternative representatives, as the former President in his discretion may determine) to act on his behalf for purposes of the Presidential Records Act and this order. Upon the death or disability of a former President, the former President's designated representative shall act on his behalf for purposes of the Act and this order, including with respect to the assertion of constitutionally based privileges. In the absence of any designated representative

after the former President's death or disability, the family of the former President may designate a representative (or series or group of alternative representatives, as they in their discretion may determine) to act on the former President's behalf for purposes of the Act and this order, including with respect to the assertion of constitutionally based privileges.

Sec. 11. *Vice Presidential Records.*

(a) Pursuant to section 2207 of title 44 of the United States Code, the Presidential Records Act applies to the executive records of the Vice President. Subject to subsections (b) and (c), this order shall also apply with respect to any such records that are subject to any constitutionally based privilege that the former Vice President may be entitled to invoke, but in the administration of this order with respect to such records, references in this order to a former President shall be deemed also to be references to the relevant former Vice President.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not be deemed to authorize a Vice President or former Vice President to invoke any constitutional privilege of a President or former President except as authorized by that President or former President.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant, limit, or otherwise affect any privilege of a President, Vice President, former President, or former Vice President.

Sec. 12. *Judicial Review.*

This order is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party, other than a former President or his designated representative, against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

Sec. 13. *Revocation.*

Executive Order 12667 of January 18, 1989, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 1, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:23 a.m., November 2, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Major Illicit Drug-Producing or Major Drug-Transit Countries

November 1, 2001

Dear _____ :

In accordance with section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), I have determined that the following countries are major illicit drug-producing or major drug-transit countries: Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

I note that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit countries is not an adverse reflection on its government's counternarcotics efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug-transit country set forth in section 481(e)(5) of the FAA, among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit despite the most assiduous enforcement measures of the government concerned.

In recent years, we have seen rapidly rising quantities of illegal synthetic drugs entering the United States, especially MDMA (Ecstasy) from Europe. MDMA abuse is an emerging problem that we are studying closely. Because much of the Ecstasy consumed in Europe and the United States is manufactured clandestinely in the Netherlands, we are working closely with Dutch authorities to stop the production and export of the drug. I commend the Government of the Netherlands for its excellent cooperation with the Government of the United States.

Changes to the List

I have removed Cambodia from the Majors List. Cambodia was added to the Majors List in 1996 as a transit country for heroin destined for the United States. In recent

years, there has been no evidence of any heroin transiting Cambodia coming to the United States. On the basis of this cumulative evidence, I have determined that Cambodia no longer meets the standard for a major drug-transit country and I have removed Cambodia from the Majors List. I will, however, keep it under observation as a country of concern.

Countries/Economies and Regions of Concern

I am also noting in this letter various "countries/economies and regions of concern." These are countries or areas that are not "majors," but which in the past met, or could in the future meet, the statutory definition. This informational category carries no stigma, penalty, or sanction. This information is provided to keep the Congress informed of those additional countries and regions on which the executive branch is focusing its antidrug cooperation efforts.

The Majors List applies by its terms to "countries." The United States Government interprets the term broadly to include certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility for certification.

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a future date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again moving through Belize in significant quantities, I will again place it on the Majors List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law enforcement capability, makes the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment area for illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only Guatemala and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since there is clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to move significant quantities of illegal drugs to the United States. The same is not yet true of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, or Nicaragua.

Although there is no question that fluctuating quantities of drugs do flow through these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the drug traffic has shifted away from land routes. Stringent law enforcement and interdiction measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs along sea routes. In the event that I receive evidence that drugs transiting these countries are having a significant effect on the United States, I will add them to the Majors List.

Central Asia. United States Government agencies have again conducted probes in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. These probes did not show significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, I will add the relevant countries to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, continues to make it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While in the past there have been some anecdotal reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have not confirmed that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. For the last several years, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has shifted to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, I will add Cuba to the Majors List.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the FAA. The information available indicates that drugs

moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. I am, therefore, keeping the region under observation and will add relevant countries to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Hong Kong. Hong Kong was removed from the Majors List in 2000 and listed as a country of concern. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past 4 years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, I will again place Hong Kong on the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest United States Government survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug-producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the FAA.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the FAA. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List in 1998 because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation did not change in 2001.

North Korea. United States Government observations this year have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. I continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed significant poppy cultivation or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, I will add it to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. Syria and Lebanon were removed from the list of major drug producers 4 years ago after the United States Government determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa' Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. I continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

Taiwan. Taiwan was removed from the Majors List in 2000, because there was no evidence that it was any longer a transit point for drugs destined for the United States. Stringent law enforcement procedures, together with enhanced customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, I will place Taiwan on the Majors List.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I continue to be concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States. In the event that I determine that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, I will add the relevant countries to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are significant cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported

to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 2. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor

November 2, 2001

The President. Good morning. Thank you all for coming. I just had a meeting with our Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Labor. We're discussing the new unemployment numbers, and it's not good news for America. The attacks of September the 11th have deeply affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Not only has it shattered the lives of those who have lost life, the attacks have threatened the livelihoods of American workers.

I think it's very important for the administration and Congress to work together to extend and expand unemployment benefits to those whose lives have been affected by the attacks.

And we need to work together to prevent further loss of jobs by passing an economic stimulus package that, in fact, will cause the job base to firm up and expand. I believe we've got the ingredients of a good package out of the House. I urge the Senate to work quickly to pass a bill, to get the bill in conference, to show the Nation that we can, in fact, deal with the aftermath of this tragedy.

My administration will be actively involved with helping to get a package moving. We stand ready. The Secretary of Treasury is prepared to take an active role to expedite the process, and we're prepared to take an active role to make sure that an airline security bill comes out of conference as quickly as possible.

I want to thank the House of Representatives for a good and constructive debate, for the passage of a good piece of legislation, and I look forward to working with Members of the Senate and the House to reconcile any differences. And I believe the differences are small, and I believe they can be reconciled quickly.

So if I can sign an airport security bill, airline security bill, it will say to the American people that we are doing everything we possibly can to recover from the aftermath of September the 11th.

I'll be glad to answer questions at the next—your next opportunity to see me.

Thank you.

Q. This is the best position I'll ever have. [*Laughter*]

The President. We'll work on that. Gordon, make sure the man gets a better position. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and an Exchange With Reporters

November 2, 2001

President Bush. I'm proud to welcome President Obasanjo back to the White House. We just had a very good visit.

We discussed our mutual concern, our mutual desire, and that is to fight and win the war against terror. The President has been a steadfast friend of the United States Government and the United States people, before and after September 11th, and for that we're most grateful.

He has got a huge Muslim population in his country, and I assured him and assure those Muslims who live in his country that our war that we now fight is against terror

and evil. It's not against Muslims. We both understand that the Islamic faith teaches peace, respects human life, is nonviolent. And I want to thank the President's leadership in sending a—not only a message of tolerance and respect but also his vision, which I share, that our struggle is going to be long and difficult. But we will prevail. We will win. Good will overcome evil.

Part of the reason why is we've got a strong coalition. And the President is part of that coalition. So welcome, Mr. President. Thank you.

President Obasanjo. Mr. President, thank you for receiving me once again at the White House. Of course, we have come this time to express solidarity, to express support, to express condolence for the terrorist attack on this country, on innocent people of all faiths and of all races on the 11th of September.

We have no doubt in our own mind that terrorism must be fought. And it must be fought to a standstill. And as you have rightly said, we must distinguish and we must lead people to understand that there's a difference between fighting terrorism. And it doesn't matter what mask the terrorists wears. And of course the love that we have for humanity, and the love that we have for men and women of all faiths.

I want to particularly commend your effort, Mr. President, for the way you have built up a coalition, because the tendency and the feeling we need to do something quickly, that we take time to build coalition, and as you rightly said, we are part of that coalition, and we will remain steadfastly part of that coalition.

We, as I said, we are unique in a way, because we have the highest population of Muslims in Africa. We are also unique in the fact that almost 50 percent of our commission are Muslims, and almost 50 percent are Christians. That has advantage and also has disadvantage. It is up to us to let our people, the citizens of our country, know that whatever faith they belong to, they are not safe as long as we allow terrorism to take hold of the world.

Whatever ideal they stand for, their ideal will amount to nothing if terrorism rules the world. Whatever ambitions or aspirations they have, their ambition and aspiration will come to naught if terrorism is allowed to take over a ruling of the world.

And as I said to the President, if leaders who are brought into power through democratic means will abandon their responsibility to terrorists, then they might as well go home. The President, in that case will have to go back to his ranch, and in that case I will have to go back to my chicken farm. [*Laughter*] But we are not going to do that, because that would be height of irresponsibility. We have a duty. We have a commitment. And we believe that the duty and the commitment we have is the duty and commitment given to us by our people. And we should not shirk that responsibility.

I believe that the coalition—and I know you are anxious to ask questions—I believe that the coalition has this challenge, the challenge to fight terrorism. It is also a challenge to make the world wholesome, more equitable, fairer, and safer for all of us to live in. I believe that the coalition should not relax until that objective is achieved. And I believe that we have a leader in President Bush to ensure that the world achieves that objective.

President Bush. Very eloquent. Thank you.

President Obasanjo's Visit

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, why did it take so long to have an African leader visit here, when African leaders had met such strong statements of sympathy and statement of condemnation of the terrorists? Why did it take so long?

President Bush. One of the first phone calls I received was from President Obasanjo. His support has never been—has never wavered. There's no question about where we stood in the coalition. And I'm proud to have him by my side.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Sir, is it still your position that the bombing campaign would stop if the Taliban turned over bin Laden and his followers? Or has the war gone beyond that?

President Bush. We still have the same objective, and that is for the Taliban to hand

over Al Qaida, the leaders, to release those who are being detained, and to destroy any terrorist training camps. And they've been given ample time to meet those demands, and now they're paying a price for not having met the demands.

Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press]. Wait a minute, let me get the "prints" out of the way. Thank you.

Relations With the Muslim World

Q. Could you tell us a little bit more about what you discussed, in terms of reaching out to young people in Muslim countries and addressing the poverty and the despair that they feel, so that they do not become foot soldiers for terrorist networks?

And for President Obasanjo, could you tell us how you plan to deal with the military action in east central Nigeria last week, where some civilians were killed?

President Bush. We did spend time talking about the totality of a war against terror not only require strong military action, strong diplomatic action, strong financial action, but it also recognizes that we need to share a message that our respective governments respect tolerance, respect other points of view. We don't share the point of view that evil is religious. We don't appreciate the fact that somebody has tried to hijack a religion in order to justify terror activities.

And we also recognize that economic prosperity throughout the world is more likely to make people appreciate rule of law, appreciate other people's points of view. That's one reason why I've been such a strong supporter of AGOA, which is the African Trade Act. That's why I believe we ought to start a new round at Qatar, a new round for world trade. I mean, I believe prosperity can best be enhanced by a world that trades in freedom. And I think that's a significant part of making sure people are able to rise out of poverty.

But on the other hand, I don't accept the excuse that poverty promotes evil. That's like saying poor people are evil people. I disagree with that. Usama bin Laden is an evil man. His heart has been so corrupted that he's willing to take innocent life. And we are fighting evil, and we will continue to fight evil, and we will not stop until we defeat evil.

Anyway, you've got a question for the President?

Military Action in Nigeria

Q. On the actions in east central Nigeria by the Nigerian military, in which some civilians were killed?

President Obasanjo. Maybe you don't know what happened. Let me just put you into exactly what happened. That is an area where there have been some clashes between two or three groups, the Tiv, the Jukun, and the Fulanis. And this has been going on for, oh, maybe 15, 10 years. At times it goes down; at times it goes up.

And this time when it went up, the Governors of the two States where this happened, Taraba State and Benue State, separately invited to the military, through me, to take care of the—what I call the lawlessness of young men who put illegal roadblock on either side of the State boundary, and if you do not belong to their ethnic group, they take you and kill you.

And then we sent soldiers there to clear the roadblock and keep this menace out of the way. And they did that. And the last roadblock, the last roadblock, in a place called Vaase, the soldiers were ambushed and taken, disarmed, and killed and their bodies were dismembered, chopped up.

And then I got in touch with the Governor, and I said, "Do everything to apprehend those who committed this heinous crime, and hand them over to us." After 3 days, they called on me and said that, "I have failed. I will ask you to send soldiers to help me in apprehending these people." And that's what we did.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much.

President Bush. Good morning.

Q. James Rosen, Fox News.

President Bush. If that's the case, then I'll call on somebody else. [*Laughter*]

Presidential Records Act Executive Order

Q. Now that you're a wartime President, sir, interest in your decisionmaking processes, and those that you involve your staff in, is going to be greater than even normal times. And yet, the Executive order that you signed yesterday makes it harder for journalists, scholars, historians to write anything

about what decisions you're going to be making and have made, even sympathetically. And I wonder why you took that action?

President Bush. We responded to a new law written by Congress that lays out a procedure that I think is fair for past Presidents. And it is a process that I think will enable historians to do their job and at the same time protect state secrets. That's why I did what I did.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—be able to get their hands on documents for many years?

President Bush. There are some documents that are privileged, protected. And this is just to make sure those documents remain protected and privileged. I don't see this as anything other than setting a set of procedures that I believe is fair and reasonable.

Terrorist Threat Alerts

Q. Mr. President, the Director of Homeland Security, Governor Ridge, has just said that the state of alert, which was introduced last Monday, the high state of alert is now indefinite. A lot of Americans are rattled by what they see as a mixed message, being told to go about their business on the one hand and, yet, having to look for some unspecified threat on the other.

What's your message?

President Bush. Well, I wasn't rattled when I went out and threw out the ball at Yankee Stadium. Right after, I had instructed the Justice Department to inform 17,000 law enforcement agencies to be aware, to harden targets, to harden assets. Most Americans, Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News], understand that there is a new day here in America. They appreciate the efforts the Government is making, and they're going to fight terrorism by going about their daily lives.

But what Governor Ridge is saying, and what I've been saying all along, is we're in a new day here in America. We're fighting a two-front war, and I believe most Americans understand that now. And I appreciate the courage of most Americans, but we have a responsibility at the government to protect the people. When we see something that we think is credible, we hear something that might be real, we're going to notify the respective authorities to help harden targets.

Nature of the Conflict

Q. Mr. President, given these terror alerts—given that these terror alerts are indefinite, should the American people conclude that despite the bombing campaign that Usama bin Laden and the Al Qaida network are no less potent or able to conduct a terror campaign than they were before the 9–11 attack?

President Bush. Oh, no. As a matter of fact, I think that the American people ought to conclude that our enemy is fighting an army not only overseas but at home, that the enemy is being hunted down abroad and at home. We've detained over a thousand people here in America. We're running down every single lead, We're hardening assets. We're on the hunt. We're going to chase them down.

And the American people fully understand that we're in for a long struggle. And I appreciate the patience of the American people. We are making progress overseas in Afghanistan. We're slowly but surely tightening the net on the enemy. We're making it harder for the enemy to communicate. We're making it harder for the enemy to protect himself. We're making it harder for the enemy to hide. And we're going to get him—and them.

There are some that say, "Well, shouldn't this have happened yesterday?" This is not an instant gratification war. This is a struggle for freedom and liberty. This is a struggle for the ability for America and America's children to live in peace. This is a struggle for the people of this good man's country to be able to live in peace.

And that's why I can assure our allies, assure the American people, for so long as I'm the President, this will be my focus. And we're making very good progress.

Q. Mr. President, were you surprised, even if you weren't looking for instant gratification, at the resilience of the Taliban regime under these attacks? And are you concerned, sir, about the future, about the disarray among the people who may take over Afghanistan if the Taliban should fall?

President Bush. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], we've been at this part of the battle for a couple of weeks. And as I explained to the American people, this is going

to be a long struggle. And I am very satisfied, and the American people should be satisfied, with the progress we're making on the ground.

The Taliban's air defenses have been completely demolished. Their assets, whatever assets they had, have been demolished, and we're slowly but surely tightening the net to achieve our objective. This is a different kind of war. The country has been used to Desert Storm, or have been used to Kosovo, where we were able to have massive formations marching across the desert and/or simply an air campaign that eventually brought a country to its knees. This is a different type of struggle, and our strategy reflects that. And I believe the American people understand that and are very patient, as am I.

I am mindful of the objective; the military is mindful of the objective in Afghanistan. But the objective goes beyond just Afghanistan. That's why we're working on the financial front to cut off money. That's why I have encouraged nations all around the world to apprehend those who are known terrorists, and over 280 have been arrested thus far.

That's why this coalition is so important, that it remain strong, to raise the risk for those who would like to conduct terrorist activities. That's why we're standing in solidarity with the Philippines, for example, that's working hard to get rid of Abu Sayyaf.

In other words, this is a global battle. There happens to be two known fronts, two visible fronts: one, Afghanistan; and the other, the United States of America. And we're making good progress on both fronts.

Microsoft Antitrust Case

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us, sir, why the administration made the deal it did this morning in the Microsoft case and what you would say to the State attorneys general, who feel the concessions are so great they're walking away?

President Bush. I think you need to talk to the Attorney General on that, if you don't mind. Kelly [Kelly Wallace, Cable News Network].

Gov. Gray Davis of California

Q. Mr. President, two quick unrelated questions. Number one, have you made a decision, and have you ruled out stopping or lessening the military action during Ramadan? And number two, if you could just comment on how California Governor Davis handled that FBI alert yesterday, and if you think your administration wants to issue any guidelines for State and local authorities to handle this in the future?

President Bush. Well, as a former Governor, I didn't particularly care when the Federal Government tried to tell me how to do my business. When I was the Governor of Texas, I was elected by the people of Texas, and I handled my State's business the way I thought was necessary. And I think any Governor should be able to conduct their business the way they see fit.

I think what should be noticed is, is that we are constantly in touch with State and local authorities as to general and/or specific threats. Part of the homeland defense is active and strong communications, so that Governors and/or local authorities can harden targets, respond to uncorroborated evidence, and to protect their people.

First part of the question? This is the old two question—two-part question. It's one of the old press tricks, Mr. President. You're allowed one question, and then they ask two. [*Laughter*]

Bombing During Ramadan

Q. Have you made a decision, are you ruling out stopping or lessening the military action during Ramadan?

President Bush. I'll let our military speak to that. My own personal attitude is, is that the enemy won't rest during Ramadan and neither will we. We're going to pursue this war until we achieve our objective. As to the specific times and dates, we'll let the military speak to that. They're in charge of this operation. This is not a political campaign; this is a war. And I respect the chain of command. I honor the chain of command, and I will tell you, our military is doing a very good job.

Anthrax

Q. Sir, what would you say to Americans who are concerned they haven't heard a clear answer on how this anthrax got to this woman

in New York, how it killed her, and who are afraid it could happen to them?

President Bush. I would say to the American people that we're learning a lot about anthrax, and we're doing everything we can to find out all the facts. And when we get the facts, we'll share it with the American people.

I will also say to the American people, I believe that the hard work of our public health officials has saved lives. I believe the fact that we've got people all around our country working hours upon hours have helped saved life in America. And for that, the American people are grateful, and so am I.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim separatist group operating in the southern Philippines. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Reception Honoring the United Service Organizations

November 2, 2001

Good afternoon. Laura and I want to welcome you all to the White House. Welcome. Thanks for coming.

I also want to thank all who work with the USO. It is important. It's important for our country, and it's important for the world. And I want to thank you for coming so we can honor such a fine, fine organization.

I also want to thank Wayne Newton for being here. I appreciate so very much your leading the USO Celebrity Circle. I don't know whether or not you spent much time with Bob Hope before you took the assignment, but this job has got a 60-year term limit to it. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Dick Myers and the other members of the Joint Chiefs who are here. I am proud of the job you all are doing. I want to thank the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, for coming, as well. I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who are here. Senator Reed, thank you so very much. I don't know if Congressman Edwards is here—my congressman. He's the congressman for Crawford, Texas. Good to see you, sir. Answer my mail, will you? [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Norm Mineta, who is here. Part of our battle against terrorism is to have a strong homefront and to make sure our airlines are secure. And we've got a really good man running the Department of Transportation to make sure that happens. Norm, I'm proud of the work you're doing. I'm proud of your leadership.

I'm glad Joyce Rumsfeld is here. Thanks for coming, Joyce. Don is on his way overseas. And he, like the rest of the Pentagon, is doing a fabulous job, I mean a really good job, of defending our country. I look forward to getting him back. I'm looking forward to hearing how the trip went.

John Gottschalk, thank you very much for taking on this assignment. And General Tilelli, thank you, as well. I appreciate so very much your being here. I want to thank Neil McCoy. I want to thank Rob Schneider and Jessica Simpson, as well. These are some of the great talent who are going to entertain our troops and bring smiles to the faces of people who are a long way away from home. It's a noble cause, and I appreciate you all doing this.

Next week, when the tour begins, people are going to travel all around the globe. And there they will find young men and women of the highest caliber—of the highest caliber—some of whom will be facing extreme danger in the months to come, all of whom are proud to serve. In our war against terrorism, we can be thankful—all of us in America, and for that matter, all the people who have joined our vast coalition can be thankful that we are defended by men and women of such incredible character and such great courage.

Our USO performers are all a part of a very special American institution. For more than six decades, the USO has brought a touch of home to Americans in distant places. Millions of veterans still cherish memories of USO shows, hospitality centers, and the good folks who have traveled thousands of miles to show their support. The USO brought more than entertainment to the troops.

Here is what Harry Truman had to say. He said, "The USO lets our service men and women know the people of the United States are behind them." Well, that's still true at the beginning of this century, and for a very different kind of war, a war that is being fought on many fronts: a war that's being fought here in the homeland; a war that's being fought because of the relentless efforts of our law enforcement; a war that's being fought by a diplomatic front the likes of which the world has never seen before; a war that's being fought by cutting off funds to the evil ones; and a war that's being fought on the field of battle.

We face an enemy—an enemy the likes of which we've never seen before, an enemy without a government, an enemy that's tried to hijack a great religion, an enemy that is so evil that those of us in America can't possibly comprehend why they do what they do. But it will be an enemy that will be defeated.

This enemy will be defeated because this Nation is strong and this Nation is united. This enemy will be defeated because this Nation won't stand for evil. This enemy will be defeated because we understand we fight for our very freedoms. This enemy will be defeated because we understand that what we do today will determine whether our children and our grandchildren can grow up in a free society in a free world.

This enemy will be defeated because across the world, our soldiers, marines and sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen are the defenders of freedom. And once again, they will know that the American people stand squarely behind them.

This is a war that has required our military to adjust. It is a different kind of war. And we have got a strategy that meets this different kind of war. After all, these days we've got a B–2 bomber pilot who boards his aircraft in Missouri, delivers his ordnance, and comes back to Missouri. And the men and women of today's armed services also are different from the past. Most are likely to be married. Most are likely to have young children.

And the good news is, the USO has kept pace with these changes. It, too, has changed to reflect the nature of modern war and a modern military. And it, too, is directing its mission not just for those in the military but for their family members, as well.

The USO leadership is as diverse and talented as ever. And I want to thank you all very much, and so do the American people. Some of the members of the Celebrity Circle Executive Committee, including Tom Hanks and Quincy Jones, could not be here. But tell them I thanked them, and tell them we appreciate their hard work.

And for our troops abroad, USO's touch of home will mean even more—even more—as we head toward Thanksgiving and eventually the holiday seasons of the winter. And you can tell them they are greatly needed where they are and they are greatly missed back home. And you can tell them the American people and the President are proud of their service.

May God bless the USO, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Wayne Newton, Bob Hope, Neil McCoy, Rob Schneider, Jessica Simpson, Tom Hanks, and Quincy Jones; Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; John Gottschalk, chairman, USO World Board of Governors; and Gen. John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA (Ret.), president, USO.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 28

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

October 29

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh to congratulate her on her election victory and to discuss cooperation against terrorism. Also in the

morning, he had a separate telephone conversation with President Benjamin William Mkapa of Tanzania concerning cooperation against terrorism. He also met with his National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria to the White House on November 5.

The White House announced that the President will travel to New York to attend the General Debate of the U.N. General Assembly on November 10–11.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan in New York on November 10.

October 30

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Robert Kocharian of Armenia concerning cooperation against terrorism, peace efforts in the Caucasus region, and efforts to reach a settlement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Later, he met with his National Security Council.

During the day, the President met with Members of the House of Representatives to discuss aviation security legislation.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Rockville, MD, and later returned to Washington, DC. Later in the afternoon, he met with members of the Commission to Strengthen Social Security. He then traveled to New York City, arriving in the evening.

At Yankee Stadium, the President threw out the ceremonial first pitch for game 3 of the 2001 World Series between the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks. Later in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold D. Stratton to be a member and Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack Dyer Crouch, William Henry Lash, and Lorne W. Craner as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

October 31

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders. He also met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Republican congressional leaders concerning Congress' fall agenda.

During the day, the President met with U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios concerning U.S. humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan.

The President announced his nomination of R.L. Brownlee to be Under Secretary of the Army.

November 1

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel of Austria.

During the day, the President met with his Homeland Security Council. Also during the day, he met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss aviation security legislation.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jacques Chirac of France for a meeting and a working luncheon on November 6.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom for a meeting and a working dinner on November 7.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Price Moorefield to be Ambassador to Gabon.

November 2

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil to the White House for a meeting on November 8.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland for a meeting on November 8.

The President announced the appointment of Charles F. Connor as Special Assistant to the President for Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard Lee Espinosa as a member of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 30

R.L. Brownlee,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, vice Gregory Robert Dahlbert, resigned.

Christopher Bancroft Burnham,
of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Resource Management) (new position).

Darryl Norman Johnson,
of Washington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Peter B. Teets,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, vice Carol DiBattiste.

Submitted October 31

Richard Clarida,
of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice David W. Wilcox, resigned.

Kenneth Lawson,
of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Elizabeth Bresee, resigned.

James E. Newsome,
of Mississippi, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the term expiring June 19, 2006 (reappointment).

James E. Newsome,
of Mississippi, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, vice William J. Rainer, resigned.

Submitted November 1

Frederick R. Heebe,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Eddie J. Jordan, Jr., resigned.

Kenneth P. Moorefield,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Gabonese Republic.

David Preston York,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for the term of 4 years, vice J. Don Foster, resigned.

John D. Ong,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Norway.

Richard S. Williamson,
of Illinois, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Richard S. Williamson,
of Illinois, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

***Released October 26* ***

Transcript of remarks by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to the National Association of Counties

Released October 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, and Centers for Disease Control Emergency Environmental Services Director Pat Meehan on homeland security

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to New York

Statement by the Press Secretary on Japan's action to support combat operations in the war on terrorism

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Musharraf of Pakistan

Fact sheet: Organization and Operation of the Homeland Security Council

Fact sheet: Increasing Immigration Safeguards and Improving Vital Information Sharing

Fact sheet: U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1465

Announcement of appointments of Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security; Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security; Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for the Office of Homeland Security; Special Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary for the Office of Homeland Security; Special Assistant to the President and Public Liaison for the Office of Homeland Security; and Special Assistant to the President and Director of Communications for Homeland Security

Released October 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Centers for Disease Control Emergency Environmental Services Director Pat Meehan, Deputy Postmaster General John Nolan, and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci on the FBI alert

Released October 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming activities

Statement by the Press Secretary on action by Senators on a temporary limited program for terrorism risk insurance coverage

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Jacques Chirac of France

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama

* This item was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Released November 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, FBI Director Bob Mueller, Deputy Postmaster General John Nolan, and Centers for Disease Control Director of Bacterial and Mycotic Disease Mitch Cohen on investigations undertaken since September 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Cardoso of Brazil To Visit Washington

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 27

S. 1465 / Public Law 107–57
To authorize the President to exercise waivers of foreign assistance restrictions with respect to Pakistan through September 30, 2003, and for other purposes

Approved October 31

H.J. Res. 70 / Public Law 107–58
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

Proclamation 7492—National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, 2001

November 1, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By observing National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, we recognize the often devastating effects prostate cancer has on the lives of the more than 1 million American men currently suffering from it; and we commit ourselves to finding a cure for this disease. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in America, excepting skin cancer. And it is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States. This year, almost 200,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and over 31,000 will die from this disease.

Although the survival rate for those diagnosed with prostate cancer continues to rise, this disease nevertheless remains a serious threat to the health and well-being of all American men. Research shows that one out of every six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer sometime during their lifetime.

By increasing awareness about the causes and signs of prostate cancer and by expanding research into preventative, remedial, and curative therapies, we can save more lives, improve the lives of those suffering from this cancer, and reduce its incidence in America. All men of middle age, and particularly those above the age of 50, should learn the risk factors, symptoms, and diagnostic tools that can help with the early recognition of prostate cancer, when treatment is most successful. It is important to consult a physician about available screening for prostate cancer, including digital examinations and prostate specific antigen blood tests. These techniques aid doctors in the early diagnosis of prostate cancer, and they are essential to continuing the reduction of prostate cancer death rates.

As with most other forms of cancer, modern medical research has produced promising new treatment options for prostate cancer that have greatly increased the likelihood of survival after diagnosis. However, much still remains to be learned about the causes and cures of prostate cancer, and I applaud the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in this area. My Administration also supports increasing Federal funding for programs that promote awareness, improve prevention, and expand research by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

These research programs obtain important epidemiological data, develop prostate cancer awareness among the public and throughout the health care community, and serve as proving grounds for new prostate cancer treatments. Charitable organizations and the private sector also play important roles in advancing public awareness about the need for prostate cancer screening and research, and in serving as a therapeutic resource for those suffering from prostate cancer.

On this occasion, I commend the scientists, physicians, and other health professionals who are committed to achieving success in our struggle against prostate cancer. I call on all those potentially vulnerable to this disease to support this effort by taking preventative measures such as observing a healthy lifestyle, talking to your doctor about regular screenings, and building awareness of prostate cancer. By working together, we will find new therapies to aid those living with prostate cancer, increase awareness about its causes and symptoms, and, I hope, eventually find a cure for this deadly disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to control and cure prostate cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo

November 2, 2001

Dear _____ :

As required by section 1213 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106–398, I transmit herewith a semiannual report on the contributions of European nations and organizations to the peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

This report, prepared by the Department of State, concludes that the Europeans have carried a significant portion of the aid-sharing burden in the region and that their commitment to reconstruction, humanitarian relief, and institution and peace-building has been a strong one. Continued attention and commitments of assistance from all donors remains crucial for medium- and long-term development in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Carl Levin, chairman, and John W. Warner, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry L. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; Bob Stump, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 3, 2001

Good morning. As all Americans know, recent weeks have brought a second wave of terrorist attacks upon our country, deadly anthrax spores sent through the U.S. mail. There's no precedent for this type of biological attack, and I'm proud of the way our law enforcement officers, our health care and postal workers, and the American people are responding in the face of this new threat.

At this point in our investigation, we have identified several different letters that contained anthrax spores. Among them were the letters mailed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle on Capitol Hill, NBC News in New York, and the New York Post newspaper. Four Americans have died as a result of these acts of terrorism. At least 13 others have developed forms of anthrax disease, either in the lungs or, less severely, on the skin.

Public health officials have acted quickly to distribute antibiotics to people who may have been exposed to anthrax. When anthrax exposure is caught early, preventative treatment is effective. Anthrax can be treated with many antibiotics, and several pharmaceutical companies have offered medicine at reduced prices. The Government is swiftly testing post offices and other sites for anthrax spores and is closing them where potential threats to health are detected. We are working to protect people based on the best information available.

And as we deal with this new threat, we are learning new information every day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to control and cure prostate cancer.

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And as we deal with this new threat, we are learning new information every day.

Originally, experts believed the anthrax spores could not escape from sealed envelopes. We now know differently, because of cases where postal workers were exposed even though the envelopes they processed were not open.

Anthrax apparently can be transferred from one letter to another, or from a letter to mail sorting equipment. But anthrax is not contagious, so it does not spread from human to human the way a cold or a flu can. Anthrax can be killed by sterilization, and the Postal Service is purchasing sterilizing equipment to be installed across the country.

More than 30 billion pieces of mail have moved through the Postal Service since September the 11th, so we believe the odds of any one piece of mail being tainted are very low. But still, people should take appropriate precautions: look carefully at your mail before opening it; tell your doctor if you believe you may have been exposed to anthrax. An excellent summary of the symptoms of this disease can be found on the web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov.

Remember, doctors warn that you can put your health at risk by taking antibiotics when you don't need them, so use antibiotics only after consulting a health care professional. If you see anything suspicious or have useful information, please contact law enforcement authorities. The Postal Service and the FBI have offered a reward of up to $1 million for information leading to the arrest and the conviction of the anthrax terrorists.

And those who believe this is an opportunity for a prank should know that sending false alarms is a serious criminal offense. At least 20 individuals have already been arrested for anthrax hoaxes, and we will pursue anyone who tries to frighten their fellow Americans in this cruel way.

We do not yet know who sent the anthrax, whether it was the same terrorists who committed the attacks on September the 11th or whether it was the—other international or domestic terrorists. We do know that anyone who would try to infect other people with anthrax is guilty of an act of terror. We will solve these crimes, and we will punish those responsible. As we learn more about these anthrax attacks, the Government will share the confirmed and credible information we have with you. I'm proud of our citizens' calm and reasoned response to this ongoing terrorist attack.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:07 p.m. on November 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Statement on Signing the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

November 5, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2217, the "Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with:

- funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire and conserve lands in national parks, forests, refuges, and public lands, and assist States in promoting conservation and outdoor recreation;
- funding to reduce the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog and meet the growing demands on park facilities and resources;
- funding for Indian school construction to keep us on the 5-year path to eliminate the current school repair and maintenance backlog by 2006; and
- full funding for key energy programs, such as the Clean Coal Power initiative, to work in partnership with industry to direct research towards reducing the environmental impact of coal used for power generation in the United States.

I am disappointed that my initiative to increase the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program by $120 million was reduced by $43 million in the final version of this bill. This reduction will deny program benefits for over 17,000 low-income families, compared with my request.

Several provisions in the bill purport to require congressional approval before executive branch execution of aspects of the bill. I will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in INS v. Chadha.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 5, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2217, approved November 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107–63.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2002

November 5, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2904, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2002," which provides $10.5 billion for military construction and family housing programs administered by the Department of Defense.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The Act abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and funds the vast majority of my request for military construction projects, the military housing program, and other projects for our military personnel and their families. The requested projects are critical to supporting military readiness and the quality of life for our soldiers. My Administration showed its commitment to improving the quality of housing available to our military personnel and their families by including an additional $400 million in the FY 2002 Budget. I want to thank the Congress for including it in this bill. However, I am disappointed that the bill includes a 1.127 percent general reduction, and a rescission of $55 million from the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

As America battles terrorism, we must ensure that our men and women in uniform live in, train at, and deploy from adequate facilities. This bill shows our commitment to our service members by constructing and upgrading military installations, and military family housing in the United States and overseas.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and my Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 5, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2904, approved November 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107–64.

Proclamation 7493—National Adoption Month, 2001

November 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Children deserve to be raised in loving families with parents who protect and nurture them. For some children, adoption is their best chance for a healthy and happy life. Each year, American families adopt approximately 120,000 newborn or older children, providing them with a loving and supportive environment.

Despite this substantial number of annual adoptions, more than 134,000 children are currently waiting adoption. While our foster care system can provide a safe, temporary home for these children, adoption would give them the love and stability of a permanent family that would better enable them to develop to their full potential.

My Administration is working to help states promote and support adoptions. This year, 35 states and the District of Columbia received adoption incentive awards for increasing the number of children they placed

from foster care into permanent homes. States have reinvested these bonuses to enhance their adoption and child welfare programs, which has resulted in an unprecedented 79 percent increase in adoptions from 28,000 in 1996 to 50,000 in 2000.

Although we have made dramatic advances in encouraging adoption, we must strengthen our efforts to find a safe, loving, and permanent home for every child awaiting one. One important way to advance towards this goal is to ease the financial burden on families that adopt children. The tax relief bill that I signed into law earlier this year extends and increases the adoption tax credit for qualified expenses from $5,000 to $10,000 per child. The new law also increases the tax credit for adoptive parents of children with special needs from $6,000 to $10,000 per child, regardless of expenses. Parents who adopt children with special needs will benefit from this meaningful tax credit because it will help cover unique adoption costs.

Ensuring the provision of post-adoptive services also plays an important role in facilitating successful adoptions. I support the Promoting Safe and Stable Families proposal, currently before the Congress, which would improve post-adoptive services by prioritizing research and evaluation for these services and establishing systems to ensure that they are available to meet the needs of adoptive families. In addition, this proposal provides for education and training vouchers to children adopted after the age of 15.

Adoptive parents have a special calling—sharing a loving home with children in need, offering them hope for a brighter future. Federal, state, and local governments must continue supporting these quiet heroes as they make the considerable sacrifices and receive the countless blessings of parenthood that come from providing a child with the chance of a lifetime—an upbringing in a happy and healthy home.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001, as National Adoption Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 8.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Response Funding for the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

November 5, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I have authorized transfers from the Emergency Response Fund totaling $902 million for emergency recovery and response and national security activities listed in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As provided in Public Law 107–38, $900 million of these funds will be made available to agencies 15 days from the date of this transmittal and $2.3 million will be made available to the Department of the Treasury immediately.

These funds are in addition to the $8.8 billion that I previously authorized for transfer and will allow our Government to continue to address the consequences arising from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I urge the Congress to enact without delay the $20 billion in critical defense and domestic needs that I requested on October 17th. My Administration does not intend to seek additional supplemental funding for either domestic or defense needs for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Satellite Remarks to the Central European Counterterrorism Conference

November 6, 2001

Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. It is a real pleasure to be back in Warsaw, this time by telecast. I had a wonderful visit to the region in June, and I know I'm among friends today.

I thank all the nations of Central and Eastern Europe at this conference. You are our partners in the fight against terrorism, and we share an important moment in history.

For more than 50 years, the peoples of your region suffered under repressive ideologies that tried to trample human dignity. Today, our freedom is threatened once again. Like the Fascists and totalitarians before them, these terrorists—Al Qaida, the Taliban regime that supports them, and other terror groups across our world—try to impose their radical views through threats and violence. We see the same intolerance of dissent; the same mad, global ambitions; the same brutal determination to control every life and all of life.

We have seen the true nature of these terrorists in the nature of their attacks. They kill thousands of innocent people and then rejoice about it. They kill fellow Muslims, many of whom died in the World Trade Center that terrible morning, and then they gloat. They condone murder and claim to be doing so in the name of a peaceful religion.

We have also seen the true nature of these terrorists in the nature of the regime they support in Afghanistan, and it's terrifying. Women are imprisoned in their homes and are denied access to basic health care and education. Food sent to help starving people is stolen by their leaders. The religious monuments of other faiths are destroyed. Children are forbidden to fly kites or sing songs or build snowmen. A girl of 7 is beaten for wearing white shoes. Our enemies have brought only misery and terror to the people of Afghanistan, and now they are trying to export that terror throughout the world.

Al Qaida operates in more than 60 nations, including some in Central and Eastern Europe. These terrorist groups seek to destabilize entire nations and regions. They are seeking chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. Given the means, our enemies would be a threat to every nation and eventually to civilization, itself.

So we're determined to fight this evil and fight until we're rid of it. We will not wait for more innocent deaths. We will not wait for the authors of mass murder to gain the weapons of mass destruction. We act now because we must lift this dark threat from our age and save generations to come.

The people of my Nation are now fighting this war at home. We face a second wave of terrorist attacks in the form of deadly anthrax that has been sent through the U.S. mail. Our people are responding to this new threat with alertness and calm. Our Government is responding to treat the sick, provide antibiotics to those who have been exposed, and track down the guilty, whether abroad or at home.

And we fight abroad with our military, with the help of many nations, because the Taliban regime of Afghanistan refused to turn over the terrorists. And we're making good progress in a just cause. Our efforts are directed at terrorist and military targets because, unlike our enemies, we value human life. We do not target innocent people, and we grieve for the difficult times the Taliban have brought to the people of their own country.

Our military is systematically pursuing its mission. We've destroyed many terrorist training camps. We have severed communication links. We're taking out air defenses, and now we're attacking the Taliban's frontlines.

I've seen some news reports that many Afghan citizens wish the Taliban had never allowed the Al Qaida terrorists into their country. I don't blame them. And I hope those citizens will help us locate the terrorists, because the sooner we find them, the better the people's lives will be. It may take a long time, but no matter how long it takes, those who killed thousands of Americans and citizens from over 80 other nations will be brought to justice, and the misuse of Afghanistan as a training ground for terror will end.

As I've said from the start, this is a difficult struggle of uncertain duration. We hunt an enemy that hides in shadows and caves. We are at the beginning of our efforts in Afghanistan. And Afghanistan is the beginning of our efforts in the world. No group or nation should mistake America's intentions: We will not rest until terrorist groups of global reach have been found, have been stopped, and have been defeated. And this goal will not be achieved until all the world's nations stop harboring and supporting such terrorists within their borders.

The defeat of terror requires an international coalition of unprecedented scope and cooperation. It demands the sincere, sustained actions of many nations against the network of terrorist cells and bases and funding. Later this week, at the United Nations, I will set out my vision of our common responsibilities in the war on terror. I will put every nation on notice that these duties involve more than sympathy or words. No nation can be neutral in this conflict, because no civilized nation can be secure in a world threatened by terror.

I thank the many nations of Europe, including our NATO Allies, who have offered military help. I also thank the nations who are sharing intelligence and working to cut off terrorist financing. And I thank all of you for the important, practical work you are doing at this conference. The war against terrorism will be won only when we combine our strengths.

We have a vast coalition that is uniting the world and increasingly isolating the terrorists, a coalition that includes many Arab and Muslim countries. I am encouraged by what their leaders are saying. The head of the 22-nation Arab League rejected the claims of the terrorist leader and said, he—Usama bin Laden—"doesn't speak in the names of Arabs and Muslims." Increasingly, it is clear that this is not just a matter between the United States and the terror network. As the Egyptian Foreign Minister said, "There is a war between bin Laden and the whole world." All of us here today understand this: We do not fight against Islam; we fight against evil.

I thank all of our coalition partners and all of you for your steadfast support. The last time I was in Warsaw, I talked of our shared vision of a Europe that is whole and free and at peace. I said, we are building a house of freedom whose doors are open to all of Europe's people and whose windows look out to global opportunities beyond. Now that vision has been challenged, but it will not change. With your help, our vision of peace and freedom will be realized. And with your help, we will defend the values we hold in common.

Thank you for joining us. And may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 7:10 a.m. from the Blue Room at the White House to the conference meeting in Warsaw, Poland. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland; Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France and an Exchange With Reporters

November 6, 2001

President Bush. Good morning. It's my honor to welcome our close friend and my personal friend back to Washington, DC. President Chirac, thank you for being here, sir. We've had a good discussion about our common efforts to fight terror. I thank the French people, the French Government for their strong support. And I appreciate your help on the military front, Mr. President.

We recognize that our war against terror is more than just military action in Afghanistan, that we have an obligation to help feed the innocent people in Afghanistan, and that

we've got to make sure that there is a post-Taliban government that reflects the values of both our countries. And so we had a good discussion and it's—I value the advice of the President. I value his friendship. And I'm so glad he came back to the country.

Mr. President, welcome.

President Chirac. Well, thank you, Mr. President. I must say, it's always a pleasure and a delight to be here and to be at your side. And I must say that I admire you. I admire your calm and your determination in the difficult circumstances that we have to face together.

The ultimate responsibility of any political official, be he head of state or head of government, is to ensure the safety of his people. And that is exactly what President Bush is doing, what I am doing, what all our colleagues are doing. And to ensure the safety of the people, we have to use all the tools at our disposal, the domestic tools and also the international tools. And by "international tool," of course, I refer to the eradication of the current terrorism.

In this spirit, we talked about the military operations, about French support, about the political actions that we must take to establish in Afghanistan all the trappings of a modern state, and also the urgent need for humanitarian aid, both for refugees and all the people of Afghanistan. And also, we mentioned the crises across the world, crises that can fuel terrorism. And of course, by that I mean that we mentioned, amongst other things, the Middle East and the need for the peace process to be restored there.

And on all these issues, I wanted to contribute a few thoughts in the general debate, and that is what I did. And I'd like to thank him for welcoming me here.

President Bush. We'll take a couple of questions. I'll take two; the President's agreed to take two, starting with Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Al Qaida and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Sir, this morning you said that the terrorists—Al Qaida terrorists are seeking to obtain weapons of mass destruction. Can you tell us how close they are to getting a nuclear bomb, or even a bomb that would distribute deadly nuclear waste across the country?

And to President Chirac, your government says about 2,000 of your troops will be involved in the U.S.-led effort. How many of those will be on the ground in Afghanistan?

President Bush. This morning I did say that Usama bin Laden, Al Qaida were seeking to develop weaponry that—weapons of mass destruction. And the reason I said that is because I was using his own words. He announced that this was his intention. And I believe we need to take him seriously. We will do everything we can to make sure he does not acquire the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction. If he doesn't have them, we will work hard to make sure he doesn't; if he does, we'll make sure he doesn't deploy them. And that's why it is so important that we continue our search for Al Qaida in Afghanistan, to hunt them down, to get them on the run, and to bring them to justice.

But this is an evil man that we're dealing with. And I wouldn't put it past him to develop evil weapons to try to harm civilization as we know it. And that's why our coalition is—that's why I work hard to keep our coalition bound together. And that's why we're going to keep relentless military pressure on him in Afghanistan. And that's why we must prevail. That's why we must win.

And I told my friend the President, there's no doubt in my mind we will win.

The question to Mr. Chirac.

France's Role in the War on Terrorism

President Chirac. I didn't say that France was ready to put 2,000 men at the disposal of the military operation; on the contrary, I said that we already had 2,000 men of all three forces involved in the operation.

President Bush. Question from the French press. No, only one question, Mr. Fournier. This is the old two-question trick; you say you've got one question, and he has two questions.

Would you call on somebody from your press?

Future of Afghanistan

Q. We are—I'll ask the question in French, a question that is directed to both Presidents. And we are already involved in

the military phase. Have we already—have you already started thinking about the political phase and the possible increased involvement of the U.N. for the future in that phase?

President Chirac. Of course we have mentioned all this. And I must say that the military aspect is necessary, yes, but there are other aspects. And the U.S. and its allies are currently making efforts to speed up the political process and the quest for a political settlement in Afghanistan. And in this respect, we do support Mr. Brahimi and what he is doing. We are all also involved in increasing and stepping up the humanitarian aid, and we mentioned that this morning.

We spoke about all these issues because they are all closely intertwined, as are other issues that haven't yet been mentioned in front of you ladies and gentlemen: for instance, the financing of the fight against terrorism, or financial measures to fight against terrorism; and also the havens that are offered to terrorists in some countries because of national legislation; and also the fight against the opportunities that our democratic societies give these terrorists.

President Bush. Yes, I have nothing more to add to that. I'm in agreement with what the President said.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Mr. President, you said this morning that you wanted more than sympathy or words from other countries. What nations were you specifically talking about, and what do you want from them?

President Bush. I am going to the United Nations to give a speech on Saturday. And I am going to praise those nations who have joined our coalition. But a coalition partner must do more than just express sympathy; a coalition partner must perform. And our coalition partner here has performed; we work together.

And that means different things for different nations. Some nations don't want to contribute troops, and we understand that. Other nations can contribute intelligence sharing, and for that we're grateful. But all nations, if they want to fight terror, must do something. It is time for action. And that's going to be the message of my speech at the United Nations.

I have no specific nation in mind, at least as I stand here now. Everybody ought to be given the benefit of the doubt. But over time, it's going to be important for nations to know they will be held accountable for inactivity. You are either with us or you are against us in the fight against terror. And that's going to be part of my speech at the United Nations.

Last question.

President Chirac. Just one comment. I would just like to remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that through Resolution 1373, the Security Council of the United Nations acknowledged the legitimacy of U.S. action and also outlined the obligation for all countries to join the fight against terrorism. So, of course, all nations and countries contribute according to their capabilities. But there is no way they can get out of this commitment. It is the legitimacy and the legitimate reaction of the U.S. that was endorsed.

President Bush. The soup is getting cold. Do you want one more question from the French press?

President Chirac. You are the—you're the boss.

President Bush. I'm the boss? Well, let's go eat, then. [*Laughter*] Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. President Chirac referred to U.N. Special Representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in Vienna, Virginia

November 7, 2001

The United States is pressing the war against terror on every front, from the mountains of Afghanistan to the bank accounts of terrorist organizations. The first strike in the war against terror targeted the terrorists' financial support. We put the world's financial

institutions on notice: If you do business with terrorists, if you support them or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America.

Today we are taking another step in our fight against evil. We are shutting down two major elements of the terrorists international financial network, both at home and abroad. Ours is not a war just of soldiers and aircraft. It's a war fought with diplomacy, by the investigations of law enforcement, by gathering intelligence, and by cutting off the terrorists' money.

I want to thank Secretary Paul O'Neill for being here today and for being the leader of this fine organization. I want to thank the Director, Jim Sloan, as well. You're doing some imaginative work here at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and I want to thank all the fine Americans who are on the frontline of our war, the people who work here.

I want to thank Secretary Colin Powell for being here, as well. He's doing a magnificent job of stitching together one of the greatest coalitions ever, a coalition of nations that stands for freedom. And I want to thank our Attorney General for coming—the man whose job it is to make sure that any time we find anybody inside our country who will threaten an American, threaten our institutions, they will be brought to justice. And that's exactly what our Nation is doing.

Acting on solid and credible evidence, the Treasury Department of the United States today blocked the U.S. assets of 62 individuals and organizations connected with two terror-supporting financial networks, the Al Taqwa and the Al Barakaat. Their offices have been shut down in four U.S. States. And our G–8 partners and other friends, including the United Arab Emirates, have joined us in blocking assets and coordinating enforcement action.

Al Taqwa is an association of offshore banks and financial management firms that have helped Al Qaida shift money around the world. Al Barakaat is a group of money-wiring and communication companies owned by a friend and supporter of Usama bin Laden. Al Taqwa and Al Barakaat raise funds for Al Qaida; they manage, invest, and distribute those funds. They provide terrorist supporters with Internet service, secure telephone communications, and other ways of sending messages and sharing information. They even arrange for the shipment of weapons.

They present themselves as legitimate businesses. But they skim money from every transaction for the benefit of terrorist organizations. They enable the proceeds of crime in one country to be transferred to pay for terrorist acts in another.

The entry point to these networks may be a small storefront operation, but follow the network to its center and you discover wealthy banks and sophisticated technology, all at the service of mass murderers. By shutting these networks down, we disrupt the murderers' work. Today's action interrupts Al Qaida's communications; it blocks an important source of funds. It provides us with valuable information and sends a clear message to global financial institutions: You are with us, or you are with the terrorists. And if you're with the terrorists, you will face the consequences.

We fight an enemy who hides in caves in Afghanistan and in the shadows within in our own society. It's an enemy who can only survive in darkness. Today we've taken another important action to expose the enemy to the light and to disrupt its ability to threaten America and innocent life.

I'm proud of the actions of our agencies. We're making a difference. We're slowly but surely tightening the noose, and we will be victorious.

Now it's my honor to welcome the Secretary of Treasury, Paul O'Neill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. in the FinCEN office's Multimedia Room. In his remarks, he referred to Shaykh Ahme Nur Jimale, founder, Al Barakaat, and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters

November 7, 2001

President Bush. The last time we were standing here, I was getting ready to give an

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Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters

November 7, 2001

President Bush. The last time we were standing here, I was getting ready to give an

address to the United States Congress. And I knew then that the Prime Minister and the people he represents were going to be great friends of the United States in our mutual struggle against terrorism, and he has certainly proven that over the last weeks. We've got no better friend in the world than Great Britain. I've got no better person that I would like to talk to about our mutual concerns than Tony Blair. He brings a lot of wisdom and judgment as we fight evil.

He also is, like me, determined. Nothing will deter us in this all-important goal. We both recognize that we wage a fight to save civilization and that we must prevail and, not only must prevail, will prevail.

We've had a great discussion about progress in Afghanistan. I fully believe we're making great progress. I told the American people many times, and I've told the press corps many times that this is a struggle that's going to take a while, that it's not one of these Kodak moments. There is no moment to this; this is a long struggle and a different kind of war. But we're patient, and our close friends are patient, which is bad news for the Taliban and the people they harbor.

Secondly, we talked a lot about making sure that our great compassion for the innocents in Afghanistan is fulfilled. We must feed the people. And the Prime Minister has—every time I've talked to him, which is a lot, is constantly talking about how we make sure that we fulfill the mission, not only military but fulfill the mission of helping people in need. And also, we continue to discuss the vision of a post-Taliban Afghanistan, and how do we make sure that all parties involved in that part of the world have a stake in the future? He's got a clear vision; he is a strong friend; and I welcome him back to the White House.

Prime Minister Blair. First of all, can I say how pleased I am to be back at the White House in the company of President Bush and to have continued the discussions we've been having over these past weeks and continue them face to face. And can I thank him once again for his leadership and his strength at this time. And can I say to him, on behalf of the people of my country, but I believe people right across the world, that the determination to see that justice is done is every bit as strong today as it was on September the 11th.

The cause is just. The strategy is there. The determination is there, and there is a complete and total commitment to making sure that this is a battle in which we will prevail, and we will. I have no doubt about that at all.

What we've discussed already and will carry on discussing is, obviously, the military strategy in Afghanistan. We have discussed the humanitarian issues to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to help the plight of people in Afghanistan. And we should never forget that some 4½ million of them were refugees before the 11th of September.

We have discussed, also, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, how we make sure that after the present Taliban regime led by Mullah Omar is out of the way, that we construct a broad-based regime that is representative of all the different groupings in Afghanistan and offers some hope of stability and prosperity for that part of the world.

And we have, obviously, also discussed how important it is that at this moment in time, we carry on building that strong coalition against international terrorism in all its forms. And I believe that that coalition, if anything, is even stronger today.

Certainly, from the discussions I had with European leaders just a few days ago, their commitment is real, and their determination is also absolute to see this thing done. So can I once again thank President Bush very much for his kindness in welcoming me here.

President Bush. The Prime Minister has consented to take a couple of questions, as will I. We are going to enforce the one-question rule, however, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. And that is, you get to ask me or him a question. [*Laughter*]

Q. That's an Executive order?

President Bush. Well—[*laughter*].

Prime Minister Blair. It looks like it.

Are you going to go first, George, or what?

Progress in the War on Terrorism

Q. It has been 8 weeks since the September 11th attacks, and we don't know where Usama bin Laden is. It has been several weeks since the anthrax attacks, but we

don't know who sent the letters. What do you say to Americans who might be frustrated and impatient despite your admonition about the "Kodak moment"?

President Bush. Yes. I will say to them, we fight a new kind of war. Never would we dream that someone would use our own airplanes to attack us and/or the mail to attack us. I will tell them that we have put a sound strategy in place that has got Usama bin Laden and the Al Qaida thugs on the run. And I will tell them that we will bring them to justice.

I can't tell them exactly when. But I will tell them that we will prevail. There's no question in my mind. We know he hides in caves, and we're shutting down caves. We know he moves around at night, and we're looking for him.

We know that, slowly but surely, the Taliban is crumbling; its defenses are crumbling; its folks are defecting. We know that if you're on the frontline and if you're a Taliban soldier, you're likely to get injured, because we're relentless in our pursuit of the mission.

In terms of the anthrax, we don't know who did it yet. We do know it's a terrorist. Anybody who would use the mail to try to kill an American is a terrorist. But we do know this, Ron, that we've responded rapidly, that our health officials are performing really fine work. And I truly believe, as I've said many times, I believe they have saved a lot of lives. We know how to treat anthrax. And we now know we need sanitation machines in our post offices, machines to sanitize the mail, and we're putting those in.

We know that we're fighting evil. And the American people are patient. They've heard the call. And tomorrow night I'm going to put out an address that reminds the Nation that we're truly a great nation, that we've responded in ways that the enemy could never have imagined. And I'm so proud of the patience and steadfast nature of our people.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. [*Inaudible*]—say a word on that?

President Bush. No, you can call on somebody.

Prime Minister Blair. Yes.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, since we're limited to only one leader, can I ask you whether you think you can win this struggle against terrorism without a settlement in the Middle East? And in view of the rather strident notes struck by both sides on the Prime Minister's tour of the Middle East last week, what do you think the United States can do to bring that resolution about?

President Bush. Of course we can win the war against Al Qaida.

Q. Without a Middle East settlement?

President Bush. Oh, I believe we can. I believe we're going to—we are hunting them down as we speak, and we will bring them to justice.

But remember, the war is beyond just Afghanistan. There are over 60 Al Qaida organizations around the world. And today we struck a blow for freedom by cutting off their money—one of their money sources. And I'm absolutely convinced we can.

Having said that, however, we are both working hard to try to bring peace to the Middle East. My Secretary of State, who is here, spends enormous amounts of time on the phone with both parties, urging for there to be calm so that we can get into the Mitchell process. There is a process in place that will lead to peace, called Mitchell. It has been embraced by all or most of the nations of the world, and we are working hard to get us into the Mitchell process.

There is no doubt in my mind—no doubt in my mind—we will bring Al Qaida to justice, peace or no peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Blair. Can I just say a word on that? There is no way whatever in which our action in Afghanistan is conditional on progress in the Middle East. And indeed, one of the things that bin Laden wants to do is to try and hijack the Palestinian cause for his own purposes.

Now, we are taking the action in Afghanistan, and I believe, incidentally, people are patient about this. I think they understand this is not a conventional conflict; it is not fought in a conventional way. It takes a lot of strategy and planning and determination over a period of time to be successful. But be under no doubt at all: Our objectives, which is to close down that terrorist network

in Afghanistan, those objectives will be achieved.

Now, even though it is not conditional in any sense, of course we want to see progress in the Middle East. That's why we are devoting enormous amounts of time to it. And I believe it is possible to see how we can make progress in the Middle East. And I described some of the ways that could happen when I was in the Middle East last week. So be under no doubt, either, that, irrespective of the action in Afghanistan, it is in everybody's interest that we make progress in the Middle East, and we will strain every sinew we possibly can to do so.

Nuclear Arms Reduction/ABM Treaty

Q. Mr. President, have you decided on a figure for how far you can cut the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, and do you agree with President Putin who said that a common approach can be devised for interpreting the ABM Treaty to allow for missile defense without abandoning the treaty?

And if Mr. Blair could address the issue of, would a failure to reach an arms agreement undermine the momentum of the international coalition?

President Bush. So much for Executive orders. [*Laughter*]

Q. It was an umbrella question. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Oh, it was an umbrella question.

I think it's best that I share with Mr. Putin the acceptable level of offensive weapons with him, before I do with you. And so I'm going to reserve—I'm not going to tell you until I tell him. [*Laughter*]

Q. Have you reached a decision?

Prime Minister Blair. And then, I guess I had better not, either.

President Bush. I have reached a decision. And I've spent time thinking about the issue. I've told the American people that the United States will move to reduce our offensive weapons to a level commensurate with being able to keep the peace and, at the same time, much lower levels than have been negotiated in previous arms control agreements. We don't need an arms control agreement to convince us to reduce our nuclear weapons down substantially, and I'm going to do it. And I can't wait to share that information with the President. I will do so.

Listen, the ABM Treaty is outmoded and outdated, and we need to move beyond it. It's exactly what I've been telling the President ever since I've been meeting with him, and my position has not changed. And if he's got some interesting suggestions on how to make the ABM Treaty not outdated and not outmoded, I'm more than willing to listen.

But our Nation and this terrorist war says to me more than ever that we need to develop defenses to protect ourselves against weapons of mass destruction that might fall in the hands of terrorist nations. If Afghanistan or if the Taliban had a weapon that was able to deliver a weapon of mass destruction, we might be talking a little different tune about our progress against Al Qaida than we are today.

So it's important for us to be able to develop defenses that work. And the ABM Treaty prevents us from doing that.

Open Skies Agreements

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, I'd like to divert your attention a little bit away from military conflicts toward the economic side of things. I'd like to ask you if you've had a chance at all to ask the President if they would formally launch open skies agreements and, if not, if that means that the UK's position is now that the EU is going to be handling this matter?

Prime Minister Blair. No. I mean, no doubt we will discuss these issues, but we haven't yet.

President Bush. We haven't had dinner yet.

Q. But does that mean that the EU is going to be in charge of it now?

Prime Minister Blair. No, it doesn't mean that at all.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, could I ask a question of your guest? But feel free to jump in if you so desire.

President Bush. It depends on what the question is.

Q. Well, sir, it is a multiple-part question, for which I am famous. But anyway, Prime

Minister, as you know, the air war in Afghanistan is one month old today. There are many experts on both sides of the Atlantic who believe that the air war is limited in its ability to really inflict a decisive blow against the Taliban. Many say the only way you can defeat the Taliban is to put boots on the ground. One, do you agree? And two, are you willing to commit large numbers of British troops, beyond the SAS and the Royal Marines, to the effort to defeat the Taliban?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, first of all, let me say something to you I often say to our own media when I am asked a question about the precise nature of our military operations. And that is that I have learned in these situations that it is not a sensible thing to discuss in detail the types of military operation that you may undertake, for very obvious reasons.

But we are completely committed to seeing this thing through. I think people know that the strategy has to encompass more than airstrikes alone, although do not underestimate the enormous damage that is now being done to Taliban frontline troops, because that is where the air power is being concentrated.

But of course, there are other operations that we will mount, as well. And there are, obviously, the support and the assistance that we are giving to the Northern Alliance. There are the measures that we are taking of a political and diplomatic nature, as well.

And when you said a moment or two ago that the airstrikes were just—and the conflict was a month old, I think it is probably just as well to reflect upon that for a moment. It is simply a month old. And we have begun this action. We have taken it at a number of different levels. I think it is already having a huge impact.

Some of the information that I have seen—I think sometimes people don't always reflect on maybe enough when we state it to people—but literally, we have destroyed virtually all the terrorist training camps of Al Qaida; we have destroyed an enormous amount of the military infrastructure of the Taliban. Their air power, insofar as it exists, is completely taken out. We therefore have a very, very strong situation from which to move forward. And I think what is—what is different about this conflict is that every part of it has to come together; in other words, not just the military part but also the support for those parties in opposition to the Taliban, and the political and diplomatic aspects that help build a strong coalition that can secure the objectives we want to see. And I have absolutely no doubt at all that we will achieve the objectives that we want.

And those objectives are very simple. Sometimes people say to me, "Well, you know, clarify the military objectives." There's no difficulty about doing that at all. It's Al Qaida and the terrorist network shut down; it's the Taliban regime out; it's a new regime in that is broad-based; and it's a decent future for the people of Afghanistan, based on some stability and progress, not based on a regime that oppresses its people, treats its people appallingly, is a threat to regional stability, and basically thrives on the drugs trade.

Now, I think those are pretty clear objectives, and I've absolutely no doubt at all that we will achieve them in full, and we will not let up until we do.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Proposed "Armies of Compassion" Legislation

November 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Leader:

Since September 11, Americans have come together to help meet our national needs in this time of great crisis. They have given more than $1 billion to disaster relief efforts and many Americans have volunteered their time. Although individual generosity is evident everywhere, thousands of our Nation's charities, paradoxically, have been suffering. Donations to organizations not directly involved in disaster relief have

declined dramatically. Soup kitchens are low on food. Mentoring programs for needy children are low on dollars. America's charities have stood by America—it is now time for America to stand by her charities, as they suffer from the economic consequences of September 11.

I believe the Congress must address these issues now. We must pass and sign into law an "Armies of Compassion" bill this year that encourages and supports charitable giving, removes unneeded barriers to government support for community and faith-based groups, and authorizes important initiatives to help those in need. The House of Representatives has already advanced key elements of this agenda, and Senators Santorum and Lieberman have made great strides on consensus legislation. I believe the Congress needs to come together before recess to consider a bill that would:

- Provide incentives for charitable giving, such as the non-itemizers deduction for charitable contributions, tax-free distributions from IRAs, the charitable deduction for contributions of food, and Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to help low-income individuals save money;
- Provide for equal treatment of community and faith-based charities, an expedited process for grassroots groups to become 501(c)(3) organizations, and a Compassion Capital Fund to provide technical assistance and capacity building for community and faith-based groups; and
- Provide support to populations in need, such as the more than 2 million children with a parent in prison.

As you know, there is strong bipartisan support for these important measures. I hope that the Senate will find time to take up and pass these provisions before the Congress adjourns this year.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to Thomas A. Daschle, Senate majority leader; and Trent Lott, Senate minority leader. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks During a Tour of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and an Exchange With Reporters in Atlanta, Georgia

November 8, 2001

The President. You know, a lot of Americans never heard of the CDC. They're wondering what CDC means. And they have learned that the folks who work at CDC are part of a vast army to fight off the terrorist attacks in America. And I'm so fortunate to be able to come by and say hello to the people that are working endless hours to provide good public health information, remedies, a quick response to people who have been affected by this evil attack.

I believe—firmly believe that because of the good folks who work in this building and other buildings throughout Atlanta, Georgia, and throughout the country for CDC, that we've saved a lot of lives in America. And the very least I can do is come by and thank them for their hard work and their dedication to the country. So, for a group of folks that have made a difference in America, it's—and no one ever heard about, they're going to hear about—be heard about tonight. I'm going to talk about public health officials as part of being the new heroes of America. And that's why I've come by today, to thank them.

Resources for the Centers for Disease Control

Q. Mr. President, what sort of—[*inaudible*]—does the CDC need now from the administration?

The President. Well, one of the things that they need is for there to be an organization that allows for the free flow of information—that when the CDC finds something, gets information, they're able to pass it throughout our Government. And we're getting really well organized. The CDC's whole function is to help save lives, and the faster information can move, the more analysis can happen on a real-time basis, the more likely it is people will live.

In terms of the CDC budget, one of the jobs of Tom Ridge, the new Homeland Security Director, is to collect information. And we'll present a budget to Congress. And if we need to present a supplemental, we'll do

so next year. But we're collecting all the information to make sure that our strategy is seamless and the budget reflects a seamless strategy.

Smallpox Vaccines

Q. Mr. President, what's your take on the call for a universal application of smallpox vaccines for all Americans?

The President. We're in the process of—I'm looking at different options for smallpox. One thing is for certain, we need to make sure vaccines are available if there were to ever be an outbreak.

As to whether or not we ought to have mandatory vaccinations, I'm working with Tommy Thompson on that. One of my concerns is, if we were to have universal vaccination, some might lose their life. And I would be deeply concerned about a vaccination program that would cause people to lose their life. But I'm looking at all options, all possibilities, and we'll work with the smartest minds in America to develop the best strategies in how to deal with a potential smallpox attack.

Homeland Security

Q. Mr. President, do you think the Postal Service should be bailed out? The Postmaster General is suggesting billions may be needed.

The President. We are looking at all opportunities to spend money in our Government, and we're going to make sure that any supplemental that may or may not occur next year fits into an overall national strategy. I told the appropriators in Congress that we believe we've got ample money to make it through the holiday season and the beginning of next year, that the $40 billion that they appropriated in the supplemental is ample to meet our homeland security needs as well as our defense needs, and that before we spend more money, let's make sure we have a national strategy to deal with the homeland defense issue. And that's—the Postal Service is part of the homeland defense.

So we'll look at all opportunities to spend money. But I urge Congress not to break the budget agreement that we signed off to in early October. And I remind them that the $40 billion of supplemental is enough to meet the Nation's needs. We have hardly even begun to spend the $40 billion that they presented. But we're listening to all requests.

Thank you, everybody.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. My pleasure.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:25 p.m. in auditorium B of the CDC headquarters building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Address to the Nation on Homeland Security From Atlanta

November 8, 2001

Thank you so very much. We meet tonight after two of the most difficult and most inspiring months in our Nation's history. We have endured the shock of watching so many innocent lives ended in acts of unimaginable horror. We have endured the sadness of so many funerals. We have faced unprecedented bioterrorist attack, delivered in our mail.

Tonight many thousands of children are tragically learning to live without one of their parents. And the rest of us are learning to live in a world that seems very different than it was on September the 10th.

The moment the second plane hit the second building—when we knew it was a terrorist attack—many felt that our lives would never be the same. What we couldn't be sure of then and what the terrorists never expected was that America would emerge stronger, with a renewed spirit of pride and patriotism.

I said in my speech to a Joint Session of Congress that we are a nation awakened to danger. We're also a nation awakened to service and citizenship and compassion. None of us would ever wish the evil that has been done to our country, yet we have learned that out of evil can come great good.

During the last 2 months, we have shown the world America is a great nation. Americans have responded magnificently, with courage and caring. We've seen it in our children, who have sent in more than $1 million for the children of Afghanistan. We have seen it in the compassion of Jewish and Christian Americans who have reached out

to their Muslim neighbors. We have seen it as Americans have reassessed priorities, parents spending more time with their children and many people spending more time in prayer and in houses of worship.

We have gained new heroes: those who ran into burning buildings to save others, our police and our firefighters; those who battled their own fears to keep children calm and safe, America's teachers; those who voluntarily placed themselves in harm's way to defend our freedom, the men and women of the Armed Forces.

And tonight we join in thanking a whole new group of public servants who never enlisted to fight a war but find themselves on the frontlines of a battle nonetheless: those who deliver the mail, America's postal workers. We also thank those whose quick response provided preventative treatment that has no doubt saved thousands of lives, our health care workers.

We are a different country than we were on September the 10th, sadder and less innocent, stronger and more united, and in the face of ongoing threats, determined and courageous.

Our Nation faces a threat to our freedoms, and the stakes could not be higher. We are the target of enemies who boast they want to kill—kill all Americans, kill all Jews, and kill all Christians. We've seen that type of hate before, and the only possible response is to confront it and to defeat it.

This new enemy seeks to destroy our freedom and impose its views. We value life; the terrorists ruthlessly destroy it. We value education; the terrorists do not believe women should be educated or should have health care or should leave their homes. We value the right to speak our minds; for the terrorists, free expression can be grounds for execution. We respect people of all faiths and welcome the free practice of religion; our enemy wants to dictate how to think and how to worship, even to their fellow Muslims.

This enemy tries to hide behind a peaceful faith. But those who celebrate the murder of innocent men, women, and children have no religion, have no conscience, and have no mercy.

We wage a war to save civilization, itself. We did not seek it, but we will fight it, and we will prevail.

This is a different war from any our Nation has ever faced, a war on many fronts, against terrorists who operate in more than 60 different countries. And this is a war that must be fought not only overseas but also here at home. I recently spoke to high school students in Maryland and realized that for the first time ever, these seniors will graduate in the midst of a war in our own country. We have entered a new era, and this new era requires new responsibilities, both for the Government and for our people.

The Government has a responsibility to protect our citizens, and that starts with homeland security. The first attack against America came by plane, and we are now making our airports and airplanes safer. We have posted the National Guard in America's airports and placed undercover air marshals on many flights. I call on Congress to quickly send me legislation that makes cockpits more secure, baggage screening more thorough, and puts the Federal Government in charge of all airport screening and security.

The second attack against America came in the mail. We do not know whether this attack came from the same terrorists. We don't know the origin of the anthrax, but whoever did this unprecedented and uncivilized act is a terrorist.

Four Americans have now died from anthrax, out of a total of 17 people who have been infected. The Postal Service has processed more than 30 billion pieces of mail since September the 11th, and so far we've identified three different letters that contained anthrax. We can trace the source of infection for all but one of the individuals, and we are still trying to learn how a woman who died in New York was exposed.

I'm proud of the way our health care and postal workers—and the American people—are responding with calm in the face of this deadly new threat. Public health officials have acted quickly to distribute preventative antibiotics to thousands of people who may have been exposed. The Government is purchasing and storing medicines and vaccines as a precaution against future attacks. We are

cleaning facilities where anthrax has been detected and purchasing equipment to sanitize the mail. Thousands of law enforcement officials are aggressively investigating this bioterrorism attack, and public health officials are distributing the most accurate, up-to-date information we have to medical professionals and to the public.

To coordinate our efforts we've created the new Office of Homeland Security. Its Director, my good friend and former Governor Tom Ridge, reports directly to me and works with all our Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector on a national strategy to strengthen our homeland protections. For example, the Coast Guard has taken on expanded duties to protect our shores and our ports. The National Guard has increased—an increased role in surveillance at our border. We're imposing new licensing requirements for safer transportation of hazardous material.

We've passed a new antiterrorism law which gives our law enforcement officers the necessary tools to track terrorists before they harm Americans. A new terrorism task force is tightening immigration controls to make sure no one enters or stays in our country who would harm us. We are a welcoming country. We will always value freedom. Yet we will not allow those who plot against our country to abuse our freedoms and our protections.

Our enemies have threatened other acts of terror. We take each threat seriously, and when we have evidence of credible threats, we will issue appropriate alerts. A terrorism alert is not a signal to stop your life. It is a call to be vigilant, to know that your Government is on high alert, and to add your eyes and ears to our efforts to find and stop those who want to do us harm.

A lot of people are working really hard to protect America. But in the long run, the best way to defend our homeland, the best way to make sure our children can live in peace is to take the battle to the enemy and to stop them.

I have called our military into action to hunt down the members of the Al Qaida organization who murdered innocent Americans. I gave fair warning to the Government that harbors them in Afghanistan. The Taliban made a choice to continue hiding terrorists, and now they are paying a price.

I'm so proud of our military. Our military is pursuing its mission. We are destroying training camps, disrupting communications, and dismantling air defenses. We are now bombing Taliban frontlines. We are deliberately and systematically hunting down these murderers, and we will bring them to justice.

Throughout this battle, we adhere to our values. Unlike our enemy, we respect life. We do not target innocent civilians. We care for the innocent people of Afghanistan, so we continue to provide humanitarian aid, even while their Government tries to steal the food we send. When the terrorists and their supporters are gone, the people of Afghanistan will say with the rest of the world: Good riddance.

We are at the beginning of our efforts in Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is only the beginning of our efforts in the world. No group or nation should mistake Americans' intentions: Where terrorist groups exist of global reach, the United States and our friends and allies will seek it out, and we will destroy it.

After September the 11th, our Government assumed new responsibilities to strengthen security at home and track down our enemies abroad. And the American people are accepting new responsibilities, as well.

I recently received a letter from a fourth grade girl that seemed to say it all. "I don't know how to feel," she said, "sad, mad, angry. It has been different lately. I know the people in New York are scared because of the World Trade Center and all, but if we're scared, we are giving the terrorists all the power." In the face of this great tragedy, Americans are refusing to give terrorists the power. Our people have responded with courage and compassion, calm and reason, resolve and fierce determination. We have refused to live in a state of panic or a state of denial. There is a difference between being alert and being intimidated, and this great nation will never be intimidated.

People are going about their daily lives, working and shopping and playing, worshiping at churches and synagogues and

mosques, going to movies and to baseball games. [*Laughter*] Life in America is going forward, and as the fourth grader who wrote me knew, that is the ultimate repudiation of terrorism.

And something even more profound is happening across our country. The enormity of this tragedy has caused many Americans to focus on the things that have not changed, the things that matter most in life: our faith, our love for family and friends, our commitment to our country and to our freedoms and to our principles.

In my Inaugural Address, I asked our citizens to serve their Nation, beginning with their neighbors. This fall, I had planned a new initiative called Communities of Character, designed to spark a rebirth of citizenship and character and service. The events of September the 11th have caused that initiative to happen on its own, in ways we could never have imagined.

Flags are flying everywhere, on houses, in store windows, on cars and lapels. Financial donations to the victims' families have reached more than a billion dollars. Countless Americans gave blood in the aftermath of the attacks. New Yorkers opened their homes to evacuated neighbors. We are waiting patiently in long security lines. Children across America have organized lemonade and cookie sales for children in Afghanistan.

And we can do more. Since September the 11th, many Americans, especially young Americans, are rethinking their career choices. They're being drawn to careers of service, as police or firemen, emergency health workers, teachers, counselors, or in the military. And this is good for America.

Many ask, "What can I do to help in our fight?" The answer is simple. All of us can become a September-the-11th volunteer by making a commitment to service in our own communities. So you can serve your country by tutoring or mentoring a child, comforting the afflicted, housing those in need of shelter and a home. You can participate in your Neighborhood Watch or Crime Stoppers. You can become a volunteer in a hospital, emergency medical, fire, or rescue unit. You can support our troops in the field and, just as importantly, support their families here at home by becoming active in the USO or groups in communities near our military installations.

We also will encourage service to country by creating new opportunities within the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs for public safety and public health efforts. We'll ask State and local officials to create a new modern civil defense service similar to local volunteer fire departments, to respond to local emergencies when the manpower of governments is stretched thin. We will find ways to train and mobilize more volunteers to help when rescue and health emergencies arise.

Americans have a lot to offer, so I've created a task force to develop additional ways people can get directly involved in this war effort, by making our homes and neighborhoods and schools and workplaces safer. And I call on all Americans to serve by bettering our communities and, thereby, defy and defeat the terrorists.

Our great nation—national challenge is to hunt down the terrorists and strengthen our protection against future attacks. Our great national opportunity is to preserve forever the good that has resulted. Through this tragedy, we are renewing and reclaiming our strong American values.

Both Laura and I were touched by a recent newspaper article that quoted a little 4-year-old girl, who asked a telling and innocent question. Wondering how terrorists could hate a whole nation of people they don't even know, she asked, "Why don't we just tell them our names?" [*Laughter*] Well, we can't tell them all our names, but together we can show them our values.

Too many have the wrong idea of Americans as shallow, materialistic consumers who care only about getting rich or getting ahead. But this isn't the America I know. Ours is a wonderful nation, full of kind and loving people, people of faith who want freedom and opportunity for people everywhere. One way to defeat terrorism is to show the world the true values of America through the gathering momentum of a million acts of responsibility and decency and service.

I'm encouraging schoolchildren to write letters of friendship to Muslim children in different countries. Our college students and

those who travel abroad for business or vacation can all be ambassadors of American values. Ours is a great story, and we must tell it, through our words and through our deeds.

I came to Atlanta today to talk about an all-important question: How should we live in the light of what has happened? We all have new responsibilities.

Our Government has a responsibility to hunt down our enemies, and we will. Our Government has a responsibility to put needless partisanship behind us and meet new challenges: better security for our people, and help for those who have lost jobs and livelihoods in the attacks that claimed so many lives. I made some proposals to stimulate economic growth which will create new jobs and make America less dependent on foreign oil. And I ask Congress to work hard and put a stimulus plan into law to help the American people.

Our citizens have new responsibilities. We must be vigilant. Obviously, we must inspect our mail and stay informed on public health matters. We will not give in to exaggerated fears or passing rumors. We will rely on good judgment and good, old common sense. We will care for those who have lost loved ones and comfort those who might at times feel afraid.

We will not judge fellow Americans by appearance, ethnic background, or religious faith. We will defend the values of our country, and we will live by them. We will persevere in this struggle, no matter how long it takes to prevail.

Above all, we will live in a spirit of courage and optimism. Our Nation was born in that spirit, as immigrants yearning for freedom courageously risked their lives in search of greater opportunity. That spirit of optimism and courage still beckons people across the world who want to come here. And that spirit of optimism and courage must guide those of us fortunate enough to live here.

Courage and optimism led the passengers on Flight 93 to rush their murderers to save lives on the ground—led by a young man whose last known words were the Lord's Prayer and "Let's roll." He didn't know he had signed on for heroism when he boarded the plane that day. Some of our greatest moments have been acts of courage for which no one could have ever prepared.

We will always remember the words of that brave man, expressing the spirit of a great country. We will never forget all we have lost and all we are fighting for. Ours is the cause of freedom. We've defeated freedom enemies before, and we will defeat them again.

We cannot know every turn this battle will take. Yet we know our cause is just and our ultimate victory is assured. We will, no doubt, face new challenges. But we have our marching orders: My fellow Americans, "Let's roll."

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:03 p.m. at the World Congress Center. In his address, he referred to Kathy Nguyen, a New York City hospital worker who died October 31 of inhalation anthrax; and Todd Beamer, a passenger aboard United Airlines Flight 93 when it was hijacked and crashed in Somerset, PA, on September 11.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Reports of the Department of Transportation

November 8, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Department of Transportation's Calendar Year 1999 reports on Activities Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, the Highway Safety Act of 1966, and the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 8, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 9.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India and an Exchange With Reporters

November 9, 2001

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the United States. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of India to the

White House for a series of discussions. My Administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India, one based upon trust, one based upon mutual values. After all, the Prime Minister leads a nation that is the largest democratic nation in the world.

I look forward to working to foster ties that will help both our economies. Trade with India is going to be an important part of our growth in the future. India has got a fantastic ability to grow because her greatest export is intelligence and brainpower, as our country has learned over the last decades.

We lifted sanctions on India so that our relationship can prosper. We will fight terrorism together. Our initial discussions focused on the battle against terror, and the Prime Minister understands that we have no option but to win. And he understands that there is a commitment—there needs to be a commitment by all of us to do more than just talk. It's to achieve certain objectives: to cut off the finances; to put diplomatic pressure on the terrorists; in some cases, to help militarily; but, in any case, stand firm in the face of terror.

We also talked about the need to make sure humanitarian aid reaches those who hurt in Afghanistan. And we discussed a post-Taliban Afghanistan that enables the country to survive and move forward and one that represents all the interests of the people of Afghanistan.

Over lunch, I look forward to talking about a new joint cyberterrorism initiative and a civilian space cooperation program, as well as discussing our mutual concerns about energy and the ability to conserve it, as well as to have plentiful supplies as we go into the future.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, I am extremely optimistic about our relationship. It's an important relationship for our country. And I welcome you to the United States. Thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Vajpayee. Thank you, Mr. President, for your kind words. It is a pleasure to be here to continue the practice of regular dialog that India and the USA have established in recent years.

I was happy to be able to personally reiterate our sympathy, solidarity, and support for the American people in the aftermath of terrible events of September 11th.

We admire the decisive leadership of President Bush in the international coalition against terrorism. We also applaud the resilience and resolve of the American people in this hour of trial. This terrible tragedy has created the opportunity to fashion a determined global response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it exists and under whatever name. I assured President Bush of India's complete support in this.

At the same time, as material leaders, pluralist democracies, we should clearly spread the message that the war against terrorism is not against any religion but against terrorists whose propaganda misuses religion.

President Bush and I had a very good conversation, which we will continue over lunch. In the last few months, there has been an intensive interaction between our two countries on a wide range of bilateral subjects. We have moved forward on the dialog architecture and on defense cooperation. A resumption of the bilateral defense policy group should promote technical cooperation in defense and security.

The Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism has made good progress, and we have agreed to launch a joint cyberterrorism initiative. Economic and commercial relations are expanding. We have agreed to broaden the bilateral economic dialog to include new areas of cooperation. Both of us agree that the synergies and complementarities between our two countries should be more fully exploited.

We discussed the urgent need for a political order in Afghanistan which would be broad-based, representative, and friendly with all countries in its neighborhood. Equally important is sustained international assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction work in that country. We agreed that India and the USA, in partnership with other countries, would work towards these goals.

Today the President and I continued, face to face, the dialog which we have been conducting over the last 10 months on the phone and through letters. It has been an extremely rewarding experience. To sustain the momentum of the dialog, I have reiterated to

President Bush my invitation to visit India. I look forward to receiving him in New Delhi.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Hold on for a minute, please. The Prime Minister has agreed to take a couple of questions, and so have I. I think I will start, Mr. Prime Minister, with Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], Associated Press man.

War on Terrorism

Q. Thank you, sir. Before meeting with you today, the Prime Minister told the Washington Post that the U.S. was not prepared for the war in Afghanistan, which he said was "less than satisfactory" and "slackening." The Saudi Foreign Minister, who you are meeting with later today, told the New York Times that you can't be an honest broker in the Middle East peace process until you meet with Arafat. Is it helpful that your coalition members are airing their gripes in public? And what will you say to them about these charges, face to face?

President Bush. Well, the Prime Minister and I had a very good discussion about the progress we're making on this particular part of the war against terror. He understands what I understand, that we're just only beginning to fight terrorism in Afghanistan.

I assured him exactly what I've been assuring the American people, that I've got the patience necessary to achieve our objective in the Afghan theater, and the objective is to bring the Al Qaida to justice and to make sure that Afghanistan has got a stable form of government after we leave. I also told the Prime Minister that we're achieving our military objectives.

This is a different kind of war. It's a war that matches high-technology weapons with people on horseback. It's a war in which the enemy thinks they can hide in caves and we'll forget about them. It is a war that's going to take a deliberate, systematic effort to achieve our objectives. And our Nation has not only got the patience to achieve that objective, we've got the determination to achieve the objective. And we will achieve it.

I appreciate the candid discussions we have with our coalition partners. I think it's important that we have these discussions. And the Prime Minister and I had such a discussion, and I was glad to be able to make the case as to why we're going to be successful.

Having said all the newspaper stories and all that business, I will tell you, our coalition has never been stronger.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Excuse me for a minute, please. The coalition has never been stronger. I'll make the case tomorrow at the United Nations that the time of sympathy is over. We appreciate the condolences. Now is the time for action. Now is the time for coalition members to respond in their own way. And the Prime Minister of India understands that, and he is responding. And the Saudi Arabian Government understands that, and they are responding, as well.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Q. This is a question for President Bush. Sir, why are there two laws in this world, one for America and one for the rest of us?

President Bush. Why is there—excuse me, two?

Q. Two laws in this world—one for America and one for the rest of us? When terrorism hits America, you go halfway across the world and make war in Afghanistan. But when we suffer terrorism, you ask us to be restrained. Is an Indian life less precious than an American life?

President Bush. I think there is one universal law, and that's: Terrorism is evil, and all of us must work to reject evil. Murder is evil, and we must reject murder. When the terrorist attacks took place on October the 1st, I strongly condemned them, and I will continue to condemn them.

And that's—excuse me. Our coalition is strong because leaders such as the Prime Minister fully understand that we must reject terrorism in all its forms and murder in all its causes in order for the world to be peaceful.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Can we get a reaction from the Indian Prime Minister to that?

President Bush. Excuse me, please, sir.

Aviation Security

Q. Sir, with the aviation security bill still languishing on the Hill, why won't you agree to make the baggage screeners Federal employees? What's the holdup here?

President Bush. Steve, I think that I've asked for the Senate and the House to come up with a plan that will work—that will not only make sure that as we transition to a new system that there is security for the American people, that in the long run there is security for the American people. And I believe progress is being made.

Like yourself, or like your question implies, it would be nice to have had the bill done yesterday. But sometimes democracy doesn't work quite that fast. But the negotiators are working hard to come up with a bill that I can sign, and I believe they will come up with a bill that I can sign.

The House had a version; the Senate had a version; and now they're reconciling their differences. I don't believe they're that far apart, nor did I believe they were that far apart when the process began. And I think that, from what I'm told, progress is being made. And for that, I'm grateful.

Mr. Prime Minister.

War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, was India's concerns of cross-border terrorism specifically reflected in your endorsement of the American President? And have you achieved some headway in convincing him that countries that are part of the problem cannot be part of the solution today?

Prime Minister Vajpayee. This question of cross-border terrorism has been getting our attention in both the countries. Recently, a bomb attack was made on the Legislative Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir. Even Pakistan realized that it was a case of terrorism.

We have to fight terrorism in all its forms. We have to win this battle against terrorism. There is no other option.

President Bush. That's the two-question limit. Thank you all for coming.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Our food is getting cold. The Prime Minister is hungry, and so am I.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

Prime Minister Vajpayee. And the dividing line between hunger and anger——

Visit to India

Q. When are you going to India?

President Bush. As soon as possible, I am going to India.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of India

November 9, 2001

Since September 11, the people of the United States and India have been united as never before in the fight against terrorism. In so doing, they have together reaffirmed the enduring ties between both nations, and the importance of further transforming the U.S.-India relationship. In their meeting, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee discussed ways to accelerate progress towards these goals.

They noted that both countries are targets of terrorism, as seen in the barbaric attacks on September 11 in the United States and on October 1 in Kashmir. They agreed that terrorism threatens not only the security of the United States and India, but also our efforts to build freedom, democracy and international security and stability around the world. As leaders of the two largest multicultural democracies, they emphasized that those who equate terrorism with any religion are as wrong as those who invoke religion to commit, support or justify terrorist acts.

The two leaders remembered the victims of the many nationalities in the terrorist attacks on September 11 and agreed that all appropriate steps should be taken to bring the perpetrators to justice, while protecting the lives and welfare of the people affected by these efforts. They noted that both countries are providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

They affirmed the current campaign against the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban

in Afghanistan is an important step in a global war against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world. They recognized that the international community will have to wage a long and multi-faceted struggle against terrorism, with patience, determination and unwavering focus. They emphasized that there is only one choice and only one outcome: terrorism must be fought and it shall be defeated.

President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee agreed that success in this endeavor would depend heavily on building international cooperation and securing the unambiguous commitment of all nations to share information and intelligence on terrorists and deny them support, sustenance and safe havens. The two leaders agreed to consult regularly on the future of Afghanistan. They welcomed the measures outlined in the UNSCR 1373 and called on all nations to ratify and implement existing UN Conventions on counter-terrorism. They expressed support for India's draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and urged the resolution of outstanding issues to enable its adoption by the UNGA.

The leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction with the progress made in India-U.S. cooperation on counter-terrorism, including the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism established in January 2000. They reaffirmed their personal commitment, and that of their two countries, to intensify bilateral cooperation as a critical element in the global effort against terrorism. They also announced the establishment of a Joint Cyber-Terrorism Initiative.

Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Bush agreed that developments in Afghanistan have a direct impact on its entire neighborhood. They emphasized that the Taliban and the Al-Qaida network have turned Afghanistan into a center of terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking and have brought immense suffering to the Afghan people. They agreed that a peaceful, progressive, and prosperous Afghanistan requires a broad-based government, representing all ethnic and religious groups, friendly with all countries in the neighborhood and beyond, as well as sizeable and sustained international assistance for Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and development. The two leaders committed themselves to work together, and in partnership with other countries and international organizations, to achieve these goals.

President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee also affirmed their commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming U.S.-India relations in pursuit of their many common goals in Asia and beyond. They agreed that U.S.-India relations draw strength from the broad political support that exits in both democracies. They expressed satisfaction at the high level of engagement and progress in bilateral cooperation over the last ten months. In particular, they reiterated their support for the wide-ranging bilateral dialogue architecture established in March 2000. The two leaders agreed that recent lifting of economic, military and technology restrictions on India provides a further impetus to bilateral relations. They welcomed the resumption of the bilateral Defense Policy Group as a step towards increasing exchanges and technical cooperation in the defense and security areas. They noted that India's interest in purchasing arms from the United States would be discussed at the Defense Policy Group meetings in December 2001. The two leaders agreed to pursue policies to enhance the mutually beneficial—and growing—economic and commercial ties between their nations. They also agreed to expand the Bilateral Economic Dialogue and to broaden dialogue and cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, health, space, export controls, science and technology, including biotechnology and information technology. They agreed that the two sides should discuss ways to stimulate bilateral high technology commerce. They also agreed that we should begin a dialogue between the two governments with a view towards evaluating the processes by which we transfer dual-use and military items, with a view towards greater transparency and efficiency. In addition, the United States and India have a mutual interest in space and have agreed to initiate discussions on civil space cooperation.

The two leaders expressed confidence that enhancing their cooperation in all these areas will go far towards building a long-term partnership between the United States and India

that will greatly benefit citizens of both their nations.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at the Signing Ceremony for the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week Proclamation

November 9, 2001

Welcome to the White House. Thank you all for coming.

I am pleased to be here today to salute the national guardsmen and reservists and their employers for serving their country and to announce some important new measures to make air travel more secure over the holidays.

America is engaged in a long and difficult struggle. At a key moment in our history, an important moment in the history of freedom, members of the National Guard and Reserve are answering their country's call. They are performing their duty with skill and with courage. And by supporting their mobilization, many employers are demonstrating their own patriotism.

In a moment, I will sign a proclamation naming next week National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. It is a way to express our appreciation to these employers and to thank them for their selfless devotion to our great country.

I want to thank the Secretary of Transportation, who is here, Norm Mineta. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, for your hard work. I appreciate Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz for being here as well. Thank you, Paul. And of course, I want to thank John McHugh, Representative from New York. Thank you for coming, John.

America faces an evil and a determined enemy. They committed mass murder against innocent citizens, and they have brought misery and terror to the people of Afghanistan. They persecute women. They destroy great monuments of human culture and religious faith. They execute people who convert to other religions. They steal food that we send to help starving people.

They hope to spread their terror around the world, but we're not going to let them. The Al Qaida terrorist network and every nation that supports it are enemies of liberty and human dignity. We will oppose them. We'll find them. And we'll defeat them.

The American people have responded magnificently to this challenge. The terrorists thought they could break the spirit of this country. They really didn't understand America. Their attacks have had the opposite effect, for we're strong. We're united. We are patient. We're determined. And all of us are ready to serve the great cause of freedom.

The National Guard and Reserve are examples of this service. Since September the 11th, we have called to active duty nearly 53,000 Guard and Reserve personnel. They are guarding energy plants. They are meeting the military's intelligence, medical, and supply needs with specialized training. And they are securing our airports.

In order to increase security of airline travelers during the holiday season, we will increase by 25 percent the number of National Guard personnel who protect our airports and airlines and American travelers. We are calling up these guards men and women immediately. This increase in security will last through the busy holiday period, and it is in addition to more than the 6,000 members of the Guard already mobilized at airports since September the 11th. These are temporary measures, and we believe they'll help a lot. And we are making fundamental changes to airport security as well.

The Federal Government must take, and I believe will take, control of aviation security. I am pleased that both Houses of Congress have passed bills that do just that. And I urge Congress to work hard to resolve the differences between the two bills—they're not that far apart—and to get to my desk as quickly as possible a bill that will make air travel much safer for the American people.

While Congress finishes its business, I have instructed our good Secretary, Secretary of Transportation Mineta, to begin a series of high-level transition planning sessions with airport operators, security device

manufacturers, airline CEOs, and other parties that will play a direct role in the transition to the new airport security system.

There are additional steps we are taking to increase the public's safety and its confidence in air travel. The FAA is deploying a core team of security professionals to improve oversight of screening and other security functions at our airports. I am instructing the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to conduct undercover audits of security performance at airports nationwide, to ensure the strict compliance of FAA security standards. And in September, I announced a $300 million grant program to secure airport—secure cockpit doors on airplanes. And I commend the airlines for acting quickly. Major airlines have now fortified cockpit doors on 100 percent of their airplanes.

We're fighting a war on many fronts. It's a diplomatic war; it's a financial war. The military is performing brilliantly in Afghanistan, and we could not win the war without the help of the Guard and the reservists. And they, in turn, could not do their vital work without the support of their employers. Many employers are putting the national interests above their own self-interest, including the five recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employers Support Freedom Award. They have representatives with us today: Southwest Airlines, Boeing, EDS Electronic Data Systems, BAE Systems, and the City of Bedford, Virginia.

These employers are supporting the National Guard and Reserve in practical and important ways, including providing full pay, benefits, and job security to employees who are called to active service. Employers do these things because they recognize that their workers are fighting to keep America free. They recognize that we have such huge stakes. They also know that America's military forces are the best trained in the world. And when you hire a member of the Guard or Reserve, you bring that training to your workplace.

Since September the 11th, more than 1,000 State and local chambers of commerce have signed statements of support for employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

Well, the Federal Government, it turns out, is the largest employer of Guard and Reserve personnel in America. And I am proud to sign a statement of support on behalf of our Federal Government.

I am also pleased to sign the proclamation naming next week National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I would like to welcome up to the stage for the signing Paul Wolfowitz, who represents the Defense Department, and the five winners of the Secretary of Defense Employers Support Freedom Award.

I want to thank you all for your service to America. Thank you for coming to the White House. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7494—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our National Guard and Reserve forces play a vital role in helping America respond when our interests are threatened around the world. They are an indispensable part of our Nation's efforts to promote democracy, peace, and freedom, and, in the wake of the September 11 attacks, National Guard and Reserve units are deploying to help fight and win the war against terrorism.

Americans understand and appreciate the importance of our National Guard and Reserve forces, but many do not know the contributions their employers make in supporting these civilian soldiers. Employers share their greatest resource, their people; and, in so doing, they subordinate their own interests for the good of our country. Employers' willingness to sacrifice and bear the inevitable financial hardships and organizational disruptions that result are important contributions to our Nation's war against terrorism. By placing America's well-being above their own, they help our National Guard and Reserve units provide mission-

ready forces to help preserve our freedoms and protect our national interests.

Because this generosity enables Guard and Reserve troops to play an essential role in responding to the terrorist attacks, it is appropriate to honor the sacrifice American businesses are making in releasing their employees for military service. We express our heartfelt appreciation to these patriots for the burden they bear as their workers depart to serve our Nation and help keep America strong, secure, and free.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 11, 2001, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Executive Order 13234—Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism

November 9, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to support and enhance the efforts of the American public with respect to preparedness and volunteerism in the war on terrorism, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is hereby established the "Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War On Terrorism" (Task Force).

Sec. 2. *Membership.* (a) The Task Force shall be composed of the heads of the following executive branch entities, who may designate representatives from within their respective entities to assist them in their duties in connection with the Task Force: the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Homeland Security, the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The heads of other executive branch departments and agencies and other senior executive branch officials may participate in the work of the Task Force upon the invitation of the Co-Chairs.

(b) The heads of the Office of Homeland Security and the Domestic Policy Council, or their designated representatives, shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

Sec. 3. *Mission.* The Task Force shall identify, review, and recommend appropriate means by which the American public can:

(a) prepare in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and public places for the potential consequences of any possible terrorist attacks within the United States; and

(b) volunteer to assist or otherwise support State and local public health and safety officials and others engaged in the effort to prevent, prepare for, and respond to any possible terrorist attacks within the United States.

Sec. 4. *Reporting Requirement.* The Task Force shall submit its recommendations to the President within 40 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 5. *Termination of Task Force.* The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after submitting its report to the President.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Notice—Continuation of Iran Emergency

November 9, 2001

On November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the situation in Iran. Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2001. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year this national emergency with respect to Iran.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:54 a.m., November 9, 2001]

NOTE: This notice will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

Message to the Congress on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2001, to the Federal Register for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on November 13, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 68061).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with

respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 4

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

November 5

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with Jerry Colangelo, owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, to congratulate him on their victory in the 2001 Major League Baseball World Series.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria to discuss cooperation against terrorism.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait to the White House on November 7.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen at the White House on November 27.

November 6

In the morning, the President met with congressional leaders to discuss the legislative agenda, including aviation security.

In an afternoon ceremony at the White House, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Jose Brito of Cape Verde; Albert del Rosario of the Philippines; Allan Wagner of Peru; Ryozo Kato of Japan; Alan John Kyerematen of Ghana; Pascal Kokora of Cote d'Ivoire; and Seymour St. Edwards Mullings of Jamaica.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dennis P. Walsh to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rebecca W. Watson to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management.

November 7

In the morning, the President met with Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait to discuss cooperation against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Vienna, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC. He then met with House Democrats to discuss trade promotion authority.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden for a meeting in the White House on December 3.

November 8

In the morning, the President met with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil. In the afternoon, he met in the Oval Office with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret S.Y. Chu to be Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management at the Department of Energy.

November 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua to congratulate him on his November 4 electoral victory. Also in the morning, he met in the Oval Office with Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa of Morocco to discuss cooperation against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President met separately in the Oval Office with Prime Minister

Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

The White House announced that the President will welcome former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to the White House for a meeting on November 12.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward J. Fitzmaurice to be a member of the National Mediation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Beverly Cook to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety, and Health.

The President announced his intention to designate James Herbert as Acting Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 5

Randall S. Kroszner,
of Illinois, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Kathryn Shaw.

Jack Martin,
of Michigan, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, vice Donald Rappaport, resigned.

Josephine K. Olsen,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, vice Charles R. Baquet III, resigned.

Submitted November 7

John V. Hanford III,
of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, vice Robert A. Seiple.

Franz S. Leichter,
of New York, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2006, vice Daniel F. Evans, Jr., term expired.

Allan I. Mendelowitz,
of Connecticut, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2007, vice Bruce A. Morrison, term expired.

Dennis P. Walsh,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2004, vice Sarah McCracken Fox, resigned.

Rebecca W. Watson,
of Montana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Sylvia V. Baca, resigned.

Withdrawn November 7

W. Michael Cox,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Martin John Manley, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on October 18, 2001.

Submitted November 8

Ralph R. Beistline,
of Alaska, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska, vice H. Russel Holland, retired.

Claude M. Bolton, Jr.,
of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Paul J. Hoeper.

David W. McKeague,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Richard F. Suhrheinrich, retired.

Susan Bieke Neilson,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Cornelia G. Kennedy, retired.

Henry W. Saad,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice James L. Ryan, retired.

Submitted November 9

Margaret S.Y. Chu,
of New Mexico, to be Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy, vice Ivan Itkin, resigned.

Edward J. Fitzmaurice, Jr.,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2004, vice Ernest W. DuBester, resigned.

Adolfo A. Franco,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Mark L. Schneider.

Cheryl Feldman Halpern,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the remainder of the term expiring January 31, 2004, vice Diane D. Blair.

Collister Johnson, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2001, vice Lottie Lee Shackelford, term expired.

Collister Johnson, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2004 (reappointment).

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum on October 30

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al Sabah

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 146, H.R. 1000, H.R. 1161, and H.R. 1668

Released November 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an interview of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice by BBC's "Hard Talk India"

Released November 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden

Fact sheet: Shutting Down the Terrorist Financial Network

Released November 8

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit to the United Nations

Announcement of nomination for three U.S. Court of Appeals Judges for the Sixth Circuit and for U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska

Transcript of remarks by First Lady Laura Bush at the National Press Club

Released November 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Christine Todd Whitman on homeland security

Transcript of an interview of the Vice President by the London Sun

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Nelson Mandela

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Certifies Terms of China's Accession to World Trade Organization

Fact sheet: President Bush Acts To Make Holiday Travel Safer

Fact sheet: Official Working Visit of Prime Minister Vajpayee of India

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 5

H.R. 146 / Public Law 107–59
Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001

H.R. 1000 / Public Law 107–60
William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 2001

H.R. 1161 / Public Law 107–61
To authorize the Government of the Czech Republic to establish a memorial to honor Tomas G. Masaryk in the District of Columbia

H.R. 1668 / Public Law 107–62
To authorize the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams and his legacy

H.R. 2217 / Public Law 107–63
Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2904 / Public Law 107–64
Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2002

Approved November 6

H.R. 182 / Public Law 107–65
Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2001

Proclamation 7495—Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Approximately 16 million American adults suffer from a devastating disease for which there is no cure. The disease is called Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and it is a growing problem in this country and throughout the world. COPD claims more than 100,000 lives per year, drains the American economy of an estimated $30.4 billion each year, and is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States today, exceeded only by heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

COPD is a medical term for a group of respiratory conditions that includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD results in gradual, irreversible damage to the lungs. Since the symptoms progress gradually, COPD patients may not even realize in the early stages that they have the disease. Over the years, as the lung damage continues, breathing becomes increasingly difficult.

Although some patients have an inherited version of the disease, smoking is the most common cause of COPD. Exposure to toxic substances in the environment such as industrial pollutants, aerosol sprays, nontobacco smoke, and internal combustion engine exhaust may also aggravate or contribute to COPD. While our ultimate goal is to prevent this often-fatal disease, we now need better treatments. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month offers us the opportunity to increase our knowledge of this disease and to consider what we can do to reduce its occurrence.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness of COPD and its impact on communities and to improve the quality of life of those who suffer from the disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:34 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7496—National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Alcohol and drug addiction exacts a devastating toll on our Nation. Approximately 14 million adults are alcoholics or abusers of alcohol, and one in four of our children are exposed to alcoholism or alcohol abuse in their families before age 18. Three million children between the age of 14 and 17 drink regularly and face future problems with alcohol. And recent statistics show that more than 14 million Americans used illicit drugs last year.

The costs of these widespread addictions are staggering. More than 100,000 Americans

die each year from alcohol-related causes. Recent estimates suggest that the abuse of alcohol and drugs costs taxpayers more than $294 billion annually in preventable health care costs, extra law enforcement, automobile accidents, crime, and lost productivity. Addiction to nicotine adds an additional $138 billion to our country's financial burden.

My proposed budget provides assistance to those addicted to drugs. My Administration's proposal for enhanced treatment will increase funding for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institute on Drug Abuse and provides $111 million of additional funding to increase access to substance abuse treatment. The budget includes $74 million for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program, which provides formula grants supporting drug and alcohol treatment in State and local correctional facilities. This initiative is evidence-based and requires real accountability from recipients.

Scientific research also holds a great deal of promise in treating drug and alcohol addiction. Publicly funded biomedical research, supported by the National Institutes of Health, plays an important role in finding effective means of preventing and treating these disorders. These research efforts allow scientists to target optimal points for intervention. Through Federally supported clinical trials, new treatments can be developed for communities in need across our country.

Alcohol and drug addiction destroys lives and threatens the well-being of our country, and we must address it with concerted, sustained, and purposeful strategies. If we focus more of our Nation's attention, energy, and resources on fighting these addictions, we will rescue lives and restore hope.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001, as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Prevention Month. I call upon all public officials and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7497—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Approximately four million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease. It is a progressive degenerative disorder of the brain that robs those affected of their memory and much of their mental and physical function, leading to their total dependence on caregivers, and ultimately death. Slightly more than half of Alzheimer's disease patients receive care from their family and friends at home. Years of providing for the emotional, physical, and financial needs of a loved one with this difficult disease can be emotionally painful and exhausting for a caregiver.

The chance of having Alzheimer's disease rises significantly with age, and as older Americans become a larger percentage of our Nation's population, the number of people expected to develop Alzheimer's will rise dramatically. It has been estimated that 14 million Americans, mostly seniors, will suffer from Alzheimer's by the middle of this century.

My Administration is strongly committed to meeting the challenges of Alzheimer's disease by increasing funding for Federal medical research programs as well as providing improved support to Alzheimer's patients and their families and caregivers. Through

the efforts of scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and in the private sector, we are making great strides in defining genetic and environmental risks, diagnosing the disease in its earliest stages, and testing potential treatments. In addition, the NIH and the Department of Veterans Affairs are sponsoring research that focuses on improving care and easing the burden on those providing care at home and in nursing facilities. Finally, the Administration on Aging is working under the Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Project Grants to States Program to expand the availability of diagnostic and support services available for Alzheimer's disease patients, their families, and their caregivers.

Our Nation's medical research programs have produced significant advances in the delivery of health care for our older generations. In recent years, our seniors' retirement years have been fuller, more productive, and healthier. Despite this overall improvement in health care, Alzheimer's disease continues to take many of the best and most enjoyable years of life from millions of seniors. Much progress has been made in the study of Alzheimer's disease, but the fight to determine what causes it and to develop effective ways to treat and prevent the disease continues.

As we observe National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, I call on all Americans to learn more about the disease and to take time to honor and support Alzheimer's disease patients and their families. We should also acknowledge the scientists, physicians, nurses, and other medical and health professionals who are working diligently to advance knowledge and understanding of Alzheimer's disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001, as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7498—National Family Caregivers Month, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During November, we traditionally give thanks for our many blessings, which include the dedication and sacrifice of our Nation's many family caregivers who enhance the lives of loved ones by helping them live at home, despite challenges that hinder independent living.

More than 7 million Americans devote themselves to this noble responsibility. Family caregivers dedicate an average of 20 hours per week in care for their loved ones and, in some cases, fulfill their multiple responsibilities around the clock. Those who provide in-home care for the elderly and for persons with disabilities face many demands. In performing such challenging and compassionate duties, family caregivers must sacrifice considerable time, resources, and personal comfort.

But these caregivers allow many older Americans to remain at home who would otherwise have to live in nursing homes. Seniors who live at home usually live longer, enjoy a more active life, and spend more time with their families and communities. As they lead fuller lives, this great generation continues to enrich our country by sharing their valuable wisdom and experience with younger generations.

To support those who work to keep their loved ones at home, my Administration has begun to implement the "National Family

Caregiver Support Program." Through a national network of state and area agencies on aging, the program provides information to caregivers about available counseling, support groups, training, and other services. In addition, the program provides respite care to temporarily relieve caregivers.

Family caregivers deserve our support and respect. They tirelessly assume demanding responsibilities for the benefit of those they love. During this challenging time for our Nation, their selfless heroism demonstrates the quiet determination and courage of the American spirit.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to recognize the importance of the family, of our older citizens, and the millions of caregivers who work to keep their loved ones at home.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7499—World Freedom Day, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the Cold War, freedom and authoritarianism clashed. Countries and entire regions suffered under repressive ideologies that sought to trample human dignity. Today, freedom is again threatened. Like the fascists and totalitarians before them, Al Qaida, the Taliban regime that supports them, and other terrorist groups across the world seek to impose their radical views through threats and violence.

The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, stands as the turning point of the Cold War and a significant landmark in freedom's victory over tyranny. The Wall stood as a grim symbol of the separation of free people and those living under dictatorships. We honor the spirit and perseverance of those who strived for freedom in East Germany and under other repressive regimes. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, many countries have achieved freedom via the ballot box, through political pressure rising from their citizens, or as a result of the settlement of internal or regional conflicts. We celebrate the new freedom in which much of the world lives today.

On World Freedom Day, we also recognize that more than 2 billion people still live under authoritarian regimes. From Burma to Cuba, Belarus to Zimbabwe, citizens of many countries suffer under repressive governments. Our thoughts today especially turn to the people of Afghanistan. These men, women, and children suffer at the hands of the repressive Taliban regime, which, as we know, aids and abets terrorists.

In every oppressive nation, pro-democracy activists are working to stoke the fires of freedom, often at great personal risk. As we mark November 9, World Freedom Day, I encourage Americans to support those who seek to lead their people out of oppression.

On World Freedom Day, we also honor those who, at this moment, fight for freedom half a world away. On September 11, freedom was attacked, but liberty and justice will prevail. Like the fall of the Berlin Wall and the defeat of totalitarianism in Central and Eastern Europe, freedom will triumph in this war against terrorism.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2001, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their devotion to the

aspirations of all people for freedom and democracy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:34 a.m., November 14, 2001]

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Memorandum on Taiwan's Accession to the World Trade Organization

November 9, 2001

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Determinations under Section 1106(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988—Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu

Section 1106(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, (19 U.S.C. 2905(a)) (the "1988 Act"), requires the President to determine for any major trading country that is acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO) whether state trading enterprises account for a significant share of the exports of that major trading country or goods that compete with imports into that country and whether such state trading enterprises unduly burden and restrict, or adversely affect, the foreign trade of the United States or the United States economy, or are likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect.

Taiwan, known in the WTO as "the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu," is in the final stage of its accession to the WTO. Thus, pursuant to section 1106(a) of the 1988 Act, I determine that state trading enterprises do not account for a significant share of the exports of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu or of goods that compete with exports to the Separate Customs Territory. Further, I determine that such state trading enterprises do not unduly burden and restrict, or adversely affect, the foreign trade of the United States or the United States economy, and are not likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect.

You are directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on China's Accession to the World Trade Organization

November 9, 2001

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Determinations under Section 1106(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988—People's Republic of China

Pursuant to section 1106(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, (19 U.S.C. 2905(a)), I determine that state trading enterprises account for a significant share of the exports of the People's Republic of China (China) and goods that compete with imports into China. I further determine that such state trading enterprises unduly burden and restrict, or adversely affect, the foreign trade of the United States or the United States economy, or are likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect.

China is seeking to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The terms and conditions for China's accession to the WTO include China's commitments that it will ensure that all state-owned and state-invested enterprises will make purchases and sales based solely on commercial considerations, such as price, quality, marketability, and availability, and that U.S. business firms will have an adequate opportunity

to compete for sales to and purchases from these enterprises on nondiscriminatory terms and conditions. In addition, the Government of China will not influence, directly or indirectly, commercial decisions on the part of state-owned or state-invested enterprises, including on the quantity, value, or country of origin of any goods purchased or sold, except in a manner consistent with the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement). China has also confirmed that state trading enterprises will make purchases that are not for government use. The obligations that China will assume under the WTO Agreement, including China's protocol of accession, meet the requirements of section 1106(b)(2)(A), (19 U.S.C. 2905(b)(2)(A)), and thus my determinations under section 1106(a) do not require invocation of the nonapplication provisions of the WTO Agreement.

You are directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 14, 2001]

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Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on China's Accession to the World Trade Organization

November 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of Public Law 106–286, I hereby transmit the attached report certifying that the terms and conditions for the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization are at least equivalent to those agreed between the United States and the People's Republic of China on November 15, 1999.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 9, 2001

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, President Clinton declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. Because the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency first declared on November 14, 1994, and extended on November 14, 1995, November 12, 1996, November 13, 1997, November 12, 1998, November 10, 1999, and November 12, 2000, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2001. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:54 a.m., November 9, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Message to the Congress on the Continuation of the National Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication. The notice states that the national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons declared by Executive Order 12938 on November 14, 1994, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2001. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on November 13, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 68063).

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1994, regarding weapons of mass destruction, beyond November 14, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Response Funding for the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

November 9, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I have authorized transfers from the Emergency Response Fund totaling $9.3 billion for emergency recovery and response and national security activities listed in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As provided in Public Law 107–38, $1.7 billion will be made available immediately and $7.5 billion of these funds will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal.

These funds are in addition to the $9.7 billion that I previously authorized for transfer and will allow our Government to continue to address the consequences arising from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

With this action, I have transferred all but $1 billion of the funds that were made available to me. It is now time for the Congress to act without delay on the final $20 billion in critical defense and domestic needs that I requested on October 17. My Administration does not intend to seek additional supplemental funding for either domestic or defense needs for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly in New York City

November 10, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen. We meet in a hall devoted to peace, in a city scarred by violence, in a Nation awakened to danger, in a world uniting for a long struggle. Every civilized nation here today is resolved to keep the most basic commitment of civilization: We will defend ourselves and our future against terror and lawless violence.

The United Nations was founded in this cause. In a Second World War, we learned there is no isolation from evil. We affirmed that some crimes are so terrible they offend humanity, itself. And we resolved that the aggressions and ambitions of the wicked must be opposed early, decisively, and collectively, before they threaten us all. That evil has returned, and that cause is renewed.

A few miles from here, many thousands still lie in a tomb of rubble. Tomorrow the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, and I will visit that site, where the names of every nation and region that lost citizens will be read aloud. If we were to read the names of every person who died, it would take more than 3 hours.

Those names include a citizen of Gambia whose wife spent their fourth wedding anniversary, September the 12th, searching in vain for her husband. Those names include a man who supported his wife in Mexico, sending home money every week. Those names include a young Pakistani who prayed toward Mecca five times a day and died that day trying to save others.

The suffering of September the 11th was inflicted on people of many faiths and many nations. All of the victims, including Muslims, were killed with equal indifference and equal satisfaction by the terrorist leaders. The terrorists are violating the tenets of every religion, including the one they invoke.

Last week the Sheikh of Al-Azhar University, the world's oldest Islamic institution of higher learning, declared that terrorism is a disease and that Islam prohibits killing innocent civilians. The terrorists call their cause holy, yet they fund it with drug dealing. They encourage murder and suicide in the name of a great faith that forbids both. They dare to ask God's blessing as they set out to kill innocent men, women, and children. But the God of Isaac and Ishmael would never answer such a prayer. And a murderer is not a martyr; he is just a murderer.

Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children.

And the people of my country will remember those who have plotted against us. We are learning their names. We are coming to know their faces. There is no corner of the Earth distant or dark enough to protect them. However long it takes, their hour of justice will come.

Every nation has a stake in this cause. As we meet, the terrorists are planning more murder—perhaps in my country, or perhaps in yours. They kill because they aspire to dominate. They seek to overthrow governments and destabilize entire regions. Last week, anticipating this meeting of the General Assembly, they denounced the United Nations. They called our Secretary-General a criminal and condemned all Arab nations here as traitors to Islam.

Few countries meet their exacting standards of brutality and oppression. Every other country is a potential target. And all the world faces the most horrifying prospect of all: These same terrorists are searching for weapons of mass destruction, the tools to turn their hatred into holocaust. They can be expected to use chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons the moment they are capable of doing so. No hint of conscience would prevent it.

This threat cannot be ignored. This threat cannot be appeased. Civilization, itself, the civilization we share, is threatened. History will record our response and judge or justify every nation in this hall.

The civilized world is now responding. We act to defend ourselves and deliver our children from a future of fear. We choose the dignity of life over a culture of death. We choose lawful change and civil disagreement

over coercion, subversion, and chaos. These commitments—hope and order, law and life—unite people across cultures and continents. Upon these commitments depend all peace and progress. For these commitments, we are determined to fight.

The United Nations has risen to this responsibility. On the 12th of September, these buildings opened for emergency meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Before the Sun had set, these attacks on the world stood condemned by the world. And I want to thank you for this strong and principled stand.

I also thank the Arab and Islamic countries that have condemned terrorist murder. Many of you have seen the destruction of terror in your own lands. The terrorists are increasingly isolated by their own hatred and extremism. They cannot hide behind Islam. The authors of mass murder and their allies have no place in any culture and no home in any faith.

The conspiracies of terror are being answered by an expanding global coalition. Not every nation will be a part of every action against the enemy. But every nation in our coalition has duties. These duties can be demanding, as we in America are learning. We have already made adjustments in our laws and in our daily lives. We're taking new measures to investigate terror and to protect against threats.

The leaders of all nations must now carefully consider their responsibilities and their future. Terrorist groups like Al Qaida depend upon the aid or indifference of governments. They need the support of a financial infrastructure and safe havens to train and plan and hide.

Some nations want to play their part in the fight against terror, but tell us they lack the means to enforce their laws and control their borders. We stand ready to help. Some governments still turn a blind eye to the terrorists, hoping the threat will pass them by. They are mistaken. And some governments, while pledging to uphold the principles of the U.N., have cast their lot with the terrorists. They support them and harbor them, and they will find that their welcomed guests are parasites that will weaken them and eventually consume them.

For every regime that sponsors terror, there is a price to be paid. And it will be paid. The allies of terror are equally guilty of murder and equally accountable to justice.

The Taliban are now learning this lesson. That regime and the terrorists who support it are now virtually indistinguishable. Together, they promote terror abroad and impose a reign of terror on the Afghan people. Women are executed in Kabul's soccer stadium. They can be beaten for wearing socks that are too thin. Men are jailed for missing prayer meetings.

The United States, supported by many nations, is bringing justice to the terrorists in Afghanistan. We're making progress against military targets, and that is our objective. Unlike the enemy, we seek to minimize, not maximize, the loss of innocent life.

I'm proud of the honorable conduct of the American military. And my country grieves for all the suffering the Taliban have brought upon Afghanistan, including the terrible burden of war. The Afghan people do not deserve their present rulers. Years of Taliban misrule have brought nothing but misery and starvation. Even before this current crisis, 4 million Afghans depended on food from the United States and other nations, and millions of Afghans were refugees from Taliban oppression.

I make this promise to all the victims of that regime: The Taliban's days of harboring terrorists and dealing in heroin and brutalizing women are drawing to a close. And when that regime is gone, the people of Afghanistan will say with the rest of the world, "Good riddance."

I can promise, too, that America will join the world in helping the people of Afghanistan rebuild their country. Many nations, including mine, are sending food and medicine to help Afghans through the winter. America has airdropped over 1.3 million packages of rations into Afghanistan. Just this week, we airlifted 20,000 blankets and over 200 tons of provisions into the region. We continue to provide humanitarian aid, even while the Taliban try to steal the food we send.

More help eventually will be needed. The United States will work closely with the United Nations and development banks to reconstruct Afghanistan after hostilities there

have ceased and the Taliban are no longer in control. And the United States will work with the U.N. to support a post-Taliban Government that represents all of the Afghan people.

In this war of terror, each of us must answer for what we have done or what we have left undone. After tragedy, there is a time for sympathy and condolence. And my country has been very grateful for both. The memorials and vigils around the world will not be forgotten. But the time for sympathy has now passed; the time for action has now arrived.

The most basic obligations in this new conflict have already been defined by the United Nations. On September the 28th, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373. Its requirements are clear: Every United Nations member has a responsibility to crack down on terrorist financing. We must pass all necessary laws in our own countries to allow the confiscation of terrorist assets. We must apply those laws to every financial institution in every nation.

We have a responsibility to share intelligence and coordinate the efforts of law enforcement. If you know something, tell us. If we know something, we'll tell you. And when we find the terrorists, we must work together to bring them to justice. We have a responsibility to deny any sanctuary, safe haven, or transit to terrorists. Every known terrorist camp must be shut down, its operators apprehended, and evidence of their arrest presented to the United Nations. We have a responsibility to deny weapons to terrorists and to actively prevent private citizens from providing them.

These obligations are urgent, and they are binding on every nation with a place in this chamber. Many governments are taking these obligations seriously, and my country appreciates it. Yet, even beyond Resolution 1373, more is required, and more is expected of our coalition against terror.

We're asking for a comprehensive commitment to this fight. We must unite in opposing all terrorists, not just some of them. In this world, there are good causes and bad causes, and we may disagree on where that line is drawn. Yet, there is no such thing as a good terrorist. No national aspiration, no remembered wrong can ever justify the deliberate murder of the innocent. Any government that rejects this principle, trying to pick and choose its terrorist friends, will know the consequences.

We must speak the truth about terror. Let us never tolerate outrageous conspiracy theories concerning the attacks of September the 11th, malicious lies that attempt to shift the blame away from the terrorists, themselves, away from the guilty. To inflame ethnic hatred is to advance the cause of terror.

The war against terror must not serve as an excuse to persecute ethnic and religious minorities in any country. Innocent people must be allowed to live their own lives, by their own customs, under their own religion. And every nation must have avenues for the peaceful expression of opinion and dissent. When these avenues are closed, the temptation to speak through violence grows.

We must press on with our agenda for peace and prosperity in every land. My country is pledged to encouraging development and expanding trade. My country is pledged to investing in education and combating AIDS and other infectious diseases around the world. Following September 11th, these pledges are even more important. In our struggle against hateful groups that exploit poverty and despair, we must offer an alternative of opportunity and hope.

The American Government also stands by its commitment to a just peace in the Middle East. We are working toward a day when two states, Israel and Palestine, live peacefully together within secure and recognize borders as called for by the Security Council resolutions. We will do all in our power to bring both parties back into negotiations. But peace will only come when all have sworn off forever incitement, violence, and terror.

And finally, this struggle is a defining moment for the United Nations, itself. And the world needs its principled leadership. It undermines the credibility of this great institution, for example, when the Commission on Human Rights offers seats to the world's most persistent violators of human rights. The United Nations depends, above all, on its moral authority, and that authority must be preserved.

The steps I described will not be easy. For all nations, they will require effort. For some nations, they will require great courage. Yet, the cost of inaction is far greater. The only alternative to victory is a nightmare world where every city is a potential killing field.

As I've told the American people, freedom and fear are at war. We face enemies that hate not our policies but our existence, the tolerance of openness and creative culture that defines us. But the outcome of this conflict is certain: There is a current in history, and it runs toward freedom. Our enemies resent it and dismiss it. But the dreams of mankind are defined by liberty: the natural right to create and build and worship and live in dignity. When men and women are released from oppression and isolation, they find fulfillment and hope, and they leave poverty by the millions.

These aspirations are lifting up the peoples of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, and they can lift up all of the Islamic world.

We stand for the permanent hopes of humanity, and those hopes will not be denied. We're confident, too, that history has an author who fills time and eternity with His purpose. We know that evil is real, but good will prevail against it. This is the teaching of many faiths, and in that assurance we gain strength for a long journey.

It is our task, the task of this generation, to provide the response to aggression and terror. We have no other choice, because there is no other peace.

We did not ask for this mission, yet there is honor in history's call. We have a chance to write the story of our times, a story of courage defeating cruelty and light overcoming darkness. This calling is worthy of any life and worthy of every nation. So let us go forward, confident, determined, and unafraid.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Han Seung-soo of the United Nations; and Mohamed Sayed Tantawi, Sheikh of Al-Azhar University.

The President's Radio Address

November 10, 2001

Good morning. It's been a week of international progress in the war against terror. On Wednesday, our friends and allies around the world joined the U.S. Treasury to freeze the assets of two terrorist-supporting financial networks, one known as Al Barakaat and the other as Al Taqwa. We are taking aggressive measures to starve terrorists of their funding.

Throughout the week I have been meeting at the White House with world leaders who support our cause. At the beginning of the week I spoke via satellite to leaders of new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. Earlier today I addressed leaders from around the world at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

To every leader, I have delivered a consistent message: All civilized nations are threatened by terrorism, and all civilized nations have a responsibility to join in fighting it. The United States is grateful for the words of sympathy we have received from nations around the world since September the 11th.

Now the time for words has passed. And now the time for action has arrived. Some actions are already required by international law. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted soon after the September the 11th attack, every nation must crack down on terrorist financing. Every nation that possesses useful intelligence about terrorism must share it. Every nation must close down terrorist camps inside its borders. Every nation must deny weapons to terrorists.

These obligations are binding on every country, and many nations are meeting those obligations. Yet, we expect even more of the countries that wish to be counted as members of the global coalition against terror. We expect nations to oppose all terrorists, not just some of them. No political cause can justify the deliberate murder of civilians.

There is no such thing as a good terrorist. Any government that tries to pick and choose its terrorist friends will be regarded by us as a supporter of terrorism. We expect nations to speak the truth about terror. They

shouldn't encourage malicious lies and outrageous conspiracy theories concerning the attacks of September the 11th. No government should promote the propaganda of terrorists. We expect nations not to misuse the war against terror as an excuse to persecute ethnic and religious minorities in any country. When avenues for peaceful dissent are closed, the temptation to speak through violence grows. We expect nations to encourage development by expanding trade, investing in education, and combating AIDS and other infectious diseases around the world.

In our struggle against hateful groups that exploit poverty and despair, we must offer an alternative of opportunity and hope. These are some of the steps I've described today at the United Nations. For all nations, they will require effort. For some nations, they will require courage. Yet, the cost of inaction is far higher. The only alternative to victory is a future of terror, so we will fight for victory.

We are determined to defend ourselves and defend our children from lawless violence.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:55 p.m. on November 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 10. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York City

November 10, 2001

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished members of the United Nations community, excellencies, and ladies and gentlemen. It's a great honor to attend my first U.N. General Debate as President of the United States. It's a special pleasure for all of us this year to be in New York, a city whose strength, determination, and civility have been a powerful testament to the human spirit.

My country is very honored that for over half a century, New York has served as host to the United Nations. The United States and the United Nations have more in common than just a city; we also share a set of common values. Today those values are under attack, and the United Nations and the United States stand together to defend them. In this great cause, it is a special honor for me to have found a great partner in Kofi Annan.

Mr. Secretary-General, I appreciate the many times we have spoken, particularly over the last 2 months. These have been difficult and challenging days for my Nation, and I've benefited from your wisdom and your vision and your resolve and your optimism.

Mr. Secretary-General, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and the United Nations once again on your receipt of this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Secretary-General, you've been the leader of the United Nations at a time it needed leadership, at a time when your strong advocacy for peace and international public health and collective security was needed so badly. You've been a strong voice for human solidarity and vigilance against violence. And Americans deeply admire your strong defense of the universality of human rights.

We've been called to fight many times in the defense of human rights, and today we're called again, because today our very civilization is threatened. Mr. Secretary-General, we appreciate your support in this great struggle.

I offer you this toast: Mr. Secretary-General, to the continued success of your stewardship of the United Nations, to the institution you serve so ably, and to our common search for peace and justice in the world. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge at the United Nations Headquarters.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and an Exchange With Reporters in New York City

November 10, 2001

President Bush. Good evening. In our hour of need, just after the terrorist attacks on September the 11th, President Musharraf quickly condemned the evildoers. He's

shown even greater courage and vision and leadership in the weeks since.

Our nations share an urgent mission, which is to stop and defeat terrorism wherever it may exist. That mission is not directed against those who practice Islam. That mission is directed against evil people.

We discussed ways to accelerate our progress in Afghanistan against Al Qaida and the Taliban. We also discussed our humanitarian efforts to help Afghans through the winter. And we spent time on the need to work together for long-term reconstruction of Afghanistan, once the Taliban no longer hold power.

Pakistan's efforts against terror are benefiting the entire world and linking Pakistan more closely with the world. The United States wants to help build these linkages. I've authorized a lifting of sanctions and over $1 billion in U.S. support. I will also back debt relief for Pakistan.

I want to thank Senators Grassley and Baucus of our United States Congress for introducing legislation that will improve market access in the United States to Pakistan's products.

I'm pleased that the President is committed to restore democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan is a strong ally. President Musharraf is a strong leader, and the world is deeply appreciative for his leadership.

Mr. President.

President Musharraf. Thank you very much, Mr. President. It's my pleasure to be talking to all of you. Let me first of all say that I, myself, my government, and the people of Pakistan condemn in the strongest terms the wanton act of terrorism on the 11th of September against the United States. We condole with all the grieved.

Having said that, let me right away say that Pakistan has taken the considered decision to be a part of the coalition, to be with the United States, to fight terrorism in all its forms wherever it exists. And let me also assure the President that Pakistan will remain committed to this, to the fight against terrorism.

We also—or I also see now the start of or a dawn of a new era of relationship between Pakistan and United States. Pakistan will hope for a very sustainable and long-standing, futuristic relationship developing between Pakistan and United States—a relationship which we always have had in the past.

Having said that, let me say that I had very fruitful discussions with the President on Afghanistan and on the matter of fighting terrorism. On Afghanistan, we have unanimity of views on a political dispensation which needs to be encouraged through the people of Afghanistan, to be brought into Afghanistan; and a rehabilitation and a humanitarian relief strategy that needs to be worked out. We have total unanimity of views on these.

Lastly, I did apprise the President on Pakistan's concerns and Pakistan's difficulties from the fallout of whatever is happening in our region. And let me very gladly say that the President showed total concern for it and also assured us, assured Pakistan to help out in the maximum possible way. I remain extremely grateful to the President for his concern for Pakistan and for his desire to assist Pakistan through the difficulties that we are facing at the moment.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. The President has agreed to take some questions, and so have I. Both of us will take two questions from each side, starting with Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] of Associated Press.

Afghanistan Northern Alliance

Q. Thank you, sir. I'd like to ask both of you about the same topic. Secretary Powell suggested yesterday that the Northern Alliance shouldn't take control of Kabul. Does that mean you would discourage them from seizing the capital? And please explain what he meant when he said that Kabul should become an open city and used post-World War II Berlin as an example.

And to you, Mr. President, why don't you think Kabul should be taken by the Northern Alliance?

President Bush. Well, I think we share a common view that in order for there to be a country that is stable and peaceful on this good leader's western border, that any power arrangement must be shared with the different tribes within Afghanistan. And a key signal of that will be how the city of Kabul

is treated. We will encourage our friends to head south, across the Shamali Plains, but not into the city of Kabul, itself. And we believe we can accomplish our military missions by that strategy.

So it's a—the Secretary—I don't want to put words in the good Secretary's mouth, but we believe a strategy that makes sense for the long run is one that is all encompassing. And a signal of that strategy will be how the city of Kabul is treated.

President Musharraf. Well, I agree with the President totally. Why I have been recommending that Kabul should not be occupied by the Northern Alliance basically is because of the past experience that we've had when the various ethnic groups were in hold of Kabul after the Soviets left. There was total atrocities, killings, and mayhem within the city. And I think if the Northern Alliance enters Afghanistan—enters Kabul, we'll see the same kind of atrocities being perpetuated against the people there, against the populace there, which needs to be avoided.

Q. Do you agree with that rationale, President Bush?

President Bush. I said one question, now you're going with three. [*Laughter*]

Why don't you call on somebody, General?

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President——

President Musharraf. Ladies first.

President Bush. Which one? [*Laughter*]

Kashmir Conflict

Q. This is for President Bush. I ask my President questions at home. President Bush, your government and the U.S. Government, in the past and currently, has been proactively using the U.N. Security Council to solve problems in conflict areas. When will you invoke the U.N. Security Council to intervene on the issue of Kashmir, which is clearly an issue which is at the basis of conflict in South Asia?

President Bush. Well, we've had a very good discussion on this subject, and I assured the President that my country will do what we can to bring parties together, to have good, meaningful discussions on the subject so that we can come up with a solution.

Q. And United Nations involvement in it, Mr. President?

President Bush. I think our involvement is exactly how I described it to the President.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, Usama bin Laden says he already has nuclear and chemical weapons. Do you believe him, and where do you think he would get them from?

President Bush. The only thing I know certain about him is that he's evil. And I don't know what to believe about him, except that he wants to hurt Americans. I suspect he now wants to hurt the people of Pakistan. And we're not going to let him. We will do everything we can to stop him here at home, and we're doing everything we can to hunt him down, and we're going to bring him to justice.

Those kind of statements he utters reinforces the coalition's efforts to bring him to justice. And that's exactly what's going to happen with Mr. Usama bin Laden—all the more reason for us to pursue him diligently and to get him. And that's what we're going to do.

Q. It's Pakistan's turn now. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Fine by me. [*Laughter*]

Terrorism

Q. My question is addressed to President George Bush. Mr. President, United States of America, time and again, has said that it is against and it will eradicate all sort of terrorism. My question to you, Mr. President, is when you are going to deal with the question of state-sponsored terrorism? My question is in reference to the Kashmir situation, first. And the other part of my question is, how do you view the personal contribution and role of Pakistan's leader, General Pervez Musharraf, in countering global terrorism? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, thank you very much. My government strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on October the 1st—strongly condemned them—as did President Musharraf. He condemned those attacks, as well. We share the same vision about terror, that it should not exist anywhere in the world.

The President is working hard to strengthen Pakistan. He's got an education vision which I find to be enlightened. After all, he's

got a very brilliant woman running the education department of Pakistan. The reason I bring that up is both of us work hard to make our countries hopeful and optimistic. And we recognize that a terrorist attack on either one of us will disrupt the lives of ordinary citizens and disrupt our plans to bring prosperity and hope and opportunity for our respective countries.

Thank you all very much. Have a good evening tonight in New York City.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:21 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Minister for Education Zebeda Jalad of Pakistan.

Joint Statement for the Visit of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to New York

November 10, 2001

President George W. Bush and President Pervez Musharraf met in New York today and reaffirmed the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the United States. The two Presidents expressed the conviction that the global coalition against terrorism is essential for the elimination of the Taliban regime and the Al-Qaida network and those who harbor them. President Musharraf welcomed the clear commitments expressed by President Bush to continued active United States engagement in Pakistan and the entire South Asian sub-continent.

President Bush and President Musharraf reaffirmed the benefits of 50 years of friendship and close cooperation between Pakistan and the United States and recalled the pivotal role of the Pakistan-U.S. alliance in the triumph of the free world at the end of the cold war. They welcomed the revival of this longstanding partnership and expressed their conviction that it would constitute a vital element in the construction of a durable structure of peace, stability, economic growth and enhanced prosperity at the regional and global level. They also held wide-ranging discussions on the current anti-terrorism campaign and exchanged views on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

President Musharraf strongly condemned the terrorist attacks of September 11 and conveyed the sympathy and solidarity of the people and government of Pakistan to the people and government of the United States. President Bush recognized Pakistan's role as a front-line state in the global campaign against terrorism and expressed gratitude for Pakistan's vital support in the international campaign. Both leaders agreed to continue their ongoing excellent cooperation and to pursue a coherent and coordinated diplomatic, political, military, economic, financial and humanitarian strategy to eliminate terrorism.

President Bush stressed that the United States and Pakistan are friends of long-standing and that Pakistan is a great Islamic nation. He emphasized that the United States has great respect for Islam and noted the fast growth of the Islamic community in America. President Bush stated that our campaign is against those who pervert a great religion in the service of evil. President Bush and President Musharraf also discussed means of easing the plight of the Afghan refugees. President Bush recognized the leading role that Pakistan has played in receiving and caring for Afghan refugees and emphasized that the United States is the largest foreign donor of humanitarian aid. Even tonight, using our military resources, United States planes are dropping badly needed food supplies to the Afghan people.

The two presidents agreed that the international community will have to provide sizeable and sustained resources for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. They also affirmed their support for the efforts of the United Nations, Secretary General Annan, and Special Envoy Brahimi. They agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan can be achieved through the institution of a broad-based, multi-ethnic, representative government, established through consensus among Afghans, and evolved under the auspices of the United Nations. They also acknowledged that Afghanistan should enjoy friendly relations with all its neighbors and be a link between Central and South Asia, and free from the scourge of terrorism and drugs.

President Musharraf welcomed President Bush's decision to lift a number of sanctions

that allow the resumption of cooperation with Pakistan. They agreed that the bilateral relationship is built on the shared interests and values of the American and Pakistani peoples. President Bush welcomed the efforts that the Pakistani citizens are making to support the coalition against terrorism. Affirming their commitment to Pakistan's economic stabilization and revival program, President Bush pledged to promote economic assistance to Pakistan.

President Bush confirmed that he will extend support to enable Pakistan to respond to the economic challenges it confronts. The two presidents discussed ways to make good on the enormous potential for increased trade and investment between Pakistan and the United States and agreed to enter into extensive talks regarding economic issues. President Bush affirmed that the United States is committed to working with the international financial institutions to provide additional support for Pakistan. Financial assistance, debt relief, greater trade and investment opportunities, and sound Pakistani economic policies should assist Pakistan in its efforts to spur sustainable economic growth. Additionally, President Bush undertook to consider ways to respond to Pakistan's market access expectations.

President Bush and President Musharraf discussed a broad range of regional security issues. Both underscored the importance of Pakistan to have a successful transition to democracy in 2002. President Bush and President Musharraf agreed to continue and expand defense consultations. President Bush welcomed President Musharraf's commitment to hold elections by October 2002 and to build a stable, democratic and prosperous Pakistan, in which the rights of all Pakistanis are fully protected.

President Bush and President Musharraf expressed shared concern about the threat to global stability posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. They agreed on the need for a comprehensive approach to counter these threats, including enhanced non-proliferation measures at the global and regional level. President Musharraf looked forward to further discussions with the United States on these issues.

The two leaders discussed ways to promote stability in South Asia. President Bush praised President Musharraf's recent call to Prime Minister Vajpayee of India. President Bush and President Musharraf agreed that India and Pakistan should resolve the Kashmir issue through diplomacy and dialogue in mutually acceptable ways that take into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir.

President Bush and President Musharraf resolved to work together closely to expand bilateral and regional trade. They agreed that launching a new global trade round in Doha is a top priority for both nations. They confirmed their commitment to achieve open markets in South Asia, including using the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) full potential more effectively. The two leaders agreed that the United States will continue to take steps to strengthen Pakistan's economy. They agreed that the United States and Pakistan can accomplish great things together and that the American and Pakistani people look forward to building peace, stability and prosperity, both in South Asia and around the world.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at a Veterans Day Prayer Breakfast in New York City

November 11, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. At ease.

Audience member. Let's roll!

The President. Let's roll.

Thank you so much, Commissioner. I'm so pleased to be back in New York City to pay honor to our veterans, those from the New York State and New York City area, and those all around America. It's such an honor to say on behalf of the American people, thanks for your service.

It's such an honor to be in the presence of Cardinal Egan, a man who brings such comfort and solace to those who mourn and hope to those of us who live. So, Cardinal Egan, thank you so much for your leadership and your strength.

And also, I am so pleased and thrilled to be with my friend the Governor, who is doing a fabulous job for the people of New York.

And you know something, I'm going down to Crawford next Wednesday—that's Crawford, Texas, that is. There you go. [*Laughter*] And there's a new household name down there—Rudy. What a great job Rudy has done. He's done a fabulous job. And I agree with Rudy; he's being replaced by a really good man, Michael Bloomberg. Michael, good luck. Congratulations, and we appreciate you running.

Leo, thank you for being here. You represent the best of those who came from the private sector to serve our Government. I want to thank you for your leadership at the VA.

I also want to recognize a person who I became friends with in a very difficult moment, and that's Ms. Arlene Howard. Arlene, would you stand up for a second, please? [*Applause*] Good to see you, Arlene. Arlene is a veteran. She served in the United States Navy, as did her late husband, Robert. And she's a veteran of September the 11th in a sad way. Her son George was at the World Trade Center. She gave me something that I showed the Nation a while ago, the badge of George. It's a reminder of the wrong done to our country, Arlene. Thank you for that reminder. It is also a reminder of the great purpose of our great land, and that is to rid this world of evil and terror.

The evil ones have roused a mighty nation, a mighty land. And for however long it takes, I am determined that we will prevail. And prevail we must, because we fight for one thing, and that is the freedom of our people and the freedom of people everywhere.

And I want to thank the commissioner, who is a veteran, as well—a veteran in the military and a veteran of a new kind of war, one fought here on the homefront. He represents the fabulous men and women who wear the uniform of the police and fire and rescue units, the Port Authority here in New York City, people who serve with such distinction and such courage that whenever an American hears the word "police" or "fire," we think differently. We think differently about the job. We think differently about the character of those who serve on a daily basis. We think differently about those who go to work every single day to protect us and save us and comfort us. What a noble profession the commissioner represents, and what a great job he's done for New York City.

And in a time of war, we look a little differently at our veterans, too. We pay tributes on Veterans Day, today, and they're made with a little greater feeling, because Americans have seen the terrible harm that an enemy can inflict. And it has left us deeply grateful for the men and women who rise strongly in the defense of our Nation. We appreciate the sacrifices that our military is making today. We appreciate the sacrifices that their families make with them.

When the call comes to defend our country, our military is ready and is making us proud. Al Qaida and the Taliban have made a serious mistake. And because our military is brave and prepared and courageous, they will pay a serious price.

America has always needed such bravery and such people, and we have always found them amongst us. Generations of our service men and women have not only fought for our country in the past; they have upheld our honorable traditions and represented our country with courage and honor. And wherever our military has gone, they have brought pride to our own people and hope to millions of others.

One veteran of World War II recalled the spirit of the American military and the relief it brought to suffering peoples. "America," he said, "has sent the best of her young men around the world, not to conquer but to liberate, not to terrorize but to help."

And this is true in Afghanistan today. And this has always been true of the men and women who have served our Nation. This Nation is freedom's home and freedom's defender. And we owe so much—so much—to the men and women, our veterans, who step forward to protect those freedoms.

Our veterans gave America some of the best years of their lives and stood ready to give life itself. For all that, America's 25 million veterans have the deep respect of their fellow citizens and the enduring gratitude of a nation they so nobly served.

May God bless our veterans, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 a.m. at the Park Avenue Seventh Regiment Armory. In his remarks, he referred to Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik, NYPD; Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York; Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg of New York City; and Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Leo S. Mackay, Jr.

Statement on the Ministerial Decision To Admit the People's Republic of China and Taiwan Into the World Trade Organization

November 11, 2001

I welcome the unanimous decisions made this week by trade ministers meeting in Doha, Qatar, to admit the People's Republic of China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization (WTO). I believe that the entry of China and Taiwan into the WTO will strengthen the global trading system and expand world economic growth.

China, with more than 1.2 billion people and a one trillion dollar annual gross domestic product, is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Taiwan is the world's 16th largest economy. The decision in Doha—reached following many years of negotiations—marks a formal agreement by the 142 members of the WTO on the steps that China and Taiwan must take to open their markets as WTO members. Taking these steps will introduce greater competition into both economies and mean that both follow the same trade rules as the United States and other trading partners. This, in turn, will generate greater trade and investment that will bring benefits to businesses, consumers, and workers in all of our economies.

I am confident that China's entry into the WTO will bring other benefits to China beyond the expected economic benefits. WTO membership, for example, will require China to strengthen the rule of law and introduce certain civil reforms, such as the publication of rules. In the long run, an open, rules-based Chinese economy will be an important underpinning for Chinese democratic reforms.

China and Taiwan now face the challenge of implementing their WTO commitments. The United States stands ready to work constructively with both economies to assist them in meeting the challenges of implementation. We also look forward to the great benefits we know that greater trade will bring to all our peoples.

Remarks Following Discussions With Former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa

November 12, 2001

President Bush. It's been my honor to welcome a man whose name symbolizes freedom and courage, to the Oval Office. President Mandela is going to say a few words, and I will say some after he finishes.

Welcome.

President Mandela. Well, firstly, I would like to express my deepest sympathies for the crash that took place today. And it's unfortunate that that would happen at this time, when the United States lost so many people on the 11th of September. But I know that you have quite a strong leader, and the people of the United States of America can face disaster, and I'm sure that they will overcome this unfortunate incident.

I also want to say that one of the reasons for coming here is to be able to express my support for the President for his action in Afghanistan. The United States of America lost 5,000 people—innocent people—and it is quite correct for the President to ensure that the terrorists, those masterminds as well as those who have executed the action and survived, are to be punished heavily.

And it would be disastrous if the President gave in to the call that the Army must now withdraw, before he has actually flushed out the terrorists. That would be disaster. They will claim that they have defeated the United States of America, and they will continue doing the same thing. So I support him to continue until those terrorists have been tracked down.

President Bush. Mr. President, you don't have to worry about me. We are going to bring them to justice. And I want to thank you for your support. I also want to thank you for your wisdom and your leadership in Burundi. You made a huge difference.

The President said, why would I welcome a pensioner to the Oval Office? And the reason why is because he is such a strong man. And it's been my honor to greet you and welcome you. And thank you for your words of condolences.

American Airlines Flight 587 Crash

I, too, want to express my heartfelt sympathies for the citizens of New York, those on the airplane, those whose houses were damaged, those who were hurt on the ground, for the recent incident that took place. It is heartbreaking to have picked up the phone and called my friend, Rudy Giuliani, and Governor George Pataki and once again expressed our condolences, and at the same time, assured the people of New York our Federal Government will respond as quickly as possible.

We sent our FEMA teams over; the FBI is over there. And this investigation is being led by the National Transportation Safety Board to make sure that the facts are fully known to the American people.

The New York people have suffered mightily; they suffer again. But there's no doubt in my mind that the New Yorkers are resilient and strong and courageous people and will help their neighbors overcome this recent incident that took place.

May God bless the victims and their families.

Mr. President, welcome to Washington, and thank you for coming.

President Mandela. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York.

Proclamation 7500—National American Indian Heritage Month, 2001

November 12, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The strength of our Nation comes from its people. As the early inhabitants of this great land, the native peoples of North America played a unique role in the shaping of our Nation's history and culture. During this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving, we especially celebrate their heritage and the contributions of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples to this Nation.

Since our Nation's birth, pluralism and diversity have been hallmarks of the American experience and success. In 1782, the Founding Fathers chose as our national motto "E Pluribus Unum," which means "out of many, one." Today, America's unity, derived from a mix of many diverse cultures and people, grandly embodies the vision expressed by our Founders. American Indian and Alaska Native cultures have made remarkable contributions to our national identity. Their unique spiritual, artistic, and literary contributions, together with their vibrant customs and celebrations, enliven and enrich our land.

As we move into the 21st century, American Indians and Alaska Natives will play a vital role in maintaining our Nation's strength and prosperity. Almost half of America's Native American tribal leaders have served in the United States Armed Forces, following in the footsteps of their forebears who distinguished themselves during the World Wars and the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

Their patriotism again appeared after the September 11 attacks, as American Indian law enforcement officers volunteered to serve in air marshal programs. On the local level, American Indians and Alaska Natives are strengthening their communities through education and business development, opening the doors to opportunity, and contributing to a brighter future for all.

My Administration will continue to work with tribal governments on a sovereign to sovereign basis to provide Native Americans with new economic and educational opportunities. Indian education programs will remain a priority, so that no American child, including no Native American child, is left behind. We will protect and honor tribal sovereignty and help to stimulate economic development in reservation communities. We will work

with the American Indians and Alaska Natives to preserve their freedoms, as they practice their religion and culture.

During National American Indian Heritage Month, I call on all Americans to learn more about the history and heritage of the Native peoples of this great land. Such actions reaffirm our appreciation and respect for their traditions and way of life and can help to preserve an important part of our culture for generations yet to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:34 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2002

November 12, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2311, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion. It provides funding for several important programs with significant national benefits including:

- key research projects designed to develop new energy technologies and improve the efficiency of existing energy technologies, such as for solar and renewable energy production, as called for in the National Energy Policy report;
- nonproliferation programs that seek to prevent nuclear materials and other weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists and rogue states;
- stockpile stewardship, which is critical to maintaining the safety, reliability, and performance of our nuclear weapons stockpile; and
- water resources development and management projects, and programs for commercial navigation, flood damage reduction, and environmental restoration and enhancement.

Section 303 of the bill purports to require congressional approval before executive branch execution of aspects of the bill. I will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha.* Provisions of H.R. 2311 that purport to remove my authority to oversee the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers will be construed consistent with my constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2311, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107–66. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002

November 12, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2590, the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with funding for:

- the Prevention of Youth and Gang Violence Initiative, enabling the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to continue its two programs that focus on youth violence reduction;
- the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act Initiative, which will allow continued implementation of this Act by the United States Customs Service;
- the New Counterdrug Research and Technology Initiative, which doubles the FY 2000 request for the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center; and,
- the Drug Free Communities Initiative.

The Act funds the Department of the Treasury's law enforcement bureaus at $4.8 billion, which is comprised of $2.7 billion for the U.S. Customs Service to protect our Nation's borders and to facilitate the flow of legitimate trade and passengers, and $924 million for the protective operations of the United States Secret Service, including $45 million for additional special agents. The Act augments funding for Treasury's ongoing efforts to target, detect, and dismantle terrorist fund-raising and money laundering at home and abroad. In addition, the Act provides $139 million for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to train Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel.

I am pleased that the bill continues current law provisions that prohibit the use of Federal funds to pay for abortions in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, except in cases where the life of the mother is endangered, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

Unfortunately, the Act does not include my proposal to consolidate the eighteen separate appropriations into a single appropriation for the Executive Office of the President. The Congress' continued insistence on specifying in extraordinary detail the specific operations of the Executive Office of the President unnecessarily infringes on my ability to freely manage my own office to meet the Nation's needs.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2590, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107–67. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002

November 12, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2647, the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002."

The Act provides Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations for the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2647, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107–68. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia

November 13, 2001

President Bush. It's a great honor for me to welcome President Vladimir Putin to the White House and to welcome his wife, as well. This is a new day in the long history of Russian-American relations, a day of progress and a day of hope.

The United States and Russia are in the midst of a transformation of a relationship that will yield peace and progress. We're transforming our relationship from one of hostility and suspicion to one based on cooperation and trust that will enhance opportunities for peace and progress for our citizens and for people all around the world.

The challenge of terrorism makes our close cooperation on all issues even more urgent. Russia and America share the same threat and the same resolve. We will fight and defeat terrorist networks wherever they exist. Our highest priority is to keep terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Today we agreed that Russian and American experts will work together to share information and expertise to counter the threat from bioterrorism. We agreed that it is urgent that we improve the physical protection and accounting of nuclear materials and prevent illicit nuclear trafficking. And we will strengthen our efforts to cut off every possible source of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, materials, and expertise. Today we also agreed to work more closely to combat organized crime and drug trafficking, a leading source of terrorist financing.

Both nations are committed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, once hostilities there have ceased and the Taliban are no longer in control. We support the U.N.'s efforts to fashion a post-Taliban government that is broadly based and multiethnic. The new government must export neither terror nor drugs, and it must respect fundamental human rights.

As Russia and the United States work more closely to meet new 21st century threats, we're also working hard to put the threats of the 20th century behind us once and for all, and we can report great progress.

The current levels of our nuclear forces do not reflect today's strategic realities. I have informed President Putin that the United States will reduce our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads to a level between 1,700 and 2,200 over the next decade, a level fully consistent with American security.

Russia and the United States have also had vast discussions about our defensive capabilities, the ability to defend ourselves as we head into the 21st century. We have different points of view about the ABM Treaty, and we will continue dialog and discussions about the ABM Treaty, so that we may be able to develop a new strategic framework that enables both of us to meet the true threats of the 21st century as partners and friends, not as adversaries.

The spirit of partnership that now runs through our relationship is allowing the United States and Russia to form common approaches to important regional issues. In the Middle East, we agree that all parties must take practical actions to ease tensions so that peace talks can resume. We urge the parties to move without delay to implement the Tenet work plan and the Mitchell report recommendations.

In Europe, we share a vision of a European Atlantic community whole, free, and at peace, one that includes all of Europe's democracies, and where the independence and sovereignty of all nations are respected. Russia should be a part of this Europe.

We will work together with NATO and NATO members to build new avenues of cooperation and consultation between Russia and NATO. NATO members and Russia are increasingly allied against terrorism, regional instability, and other threats of our age. And NATO must reflect this alliance.

We're encouraged by President Putin's commitment to a political dialog in Chechnya. Russia has also made important strides on immigration and the protection of

religious and ethnic minorities, including Russia's Jewish community. On this issue, Russia is in a fundamentally different place than it was during the Soviet era. President Putin told me that these gains for freedom will be protected and expanded. Our Foreign Ministers have sealed this understanding in an exchange of letters. Because of this progress, my administration will work with Congress to end the application of Jackson-Vanik amendment to Russia.

Russia has set out to strengthen free market institutions and the rule of law. On this basis, our economic relationship is developing quickly, and we will look for further ways to expand it.

A strong, independent media is a vital part of a new Russia. We've agreed to launch a dialog on media entrepreneurship, so that American and Russian media representatives can meet and make practical recommendations to both our Governments, in order to advance our goal of free media and free exchange of ideas.

Russia and the United States will continue to face complex and difficult issues. Yet, we've made great progress in a very short period of time. Today, because we are working together, both our countries and the world are more secure and safe. I want to thank President Putin for the spirit of our meetings. Together, we're making history, as we make progress.

Laura and I are looking forward to welcoming the Putins to our ranch in Crawford, Texas. I can't wait to show you my State and where I live. In the meantime, I hope you have a fine stay here in Washington, DC. And it's my honor to welcome you to the White House, sir, and welcome you to the podium.

President Putin. Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether I would have an opportunity to address such a representative audience of the press and media. I would like to begin, anyway, with words of thanks to the President of the United States, not only for his kind invitation to visit the United States and Washington but also for his very informal initiation of our negotiations earlier today. Myself and my colleagues are very pleased to be here, this historic building of the White House. And President Bush deemed it appropriate not only to tour me, to guide me through the premises of this house where he lives, he—saw almost every picture hanging on the walls of this great building. But it is not only very interesting, but it also changes for the better the quality of our relationship.

I would like to once again thank the President and the American people, and I would like to express our condolences in connection with the recent plane crash in the United States. As they say in Russia, tragedy does not come alone, and tragedies always come in many numbers. I am confident that the U.S.—American people would face this tragedy very bravely.

I would like to inform you that the Washington part of our negotiations is being completed, and our discussions proved very constructive, interesting, and useful and will continue at Crawford. But the preliminary results we evaluate as extremely positive.

This is our fourth meeting with President Bush in the last few months. I believe this is a vivid demonstration of the dynamic nature of the Russian-American relations. We have come to understand each other better, and our positions are becoming closer on the key issues of bilateral and international relations. We are prepared now to seek solutions in all areas of our joint activities. We intend to dismantle conclusively the vestiges of the cold war and to develop new—entirely new partnership for long term.

Of course, we discussed in detail the subject matter of fight against terrorism. The tragic developments of September the 11th demonstrated vividly the need for a joint effort to counter this global threat. We consider this threat as a global threat, indeed, and the terrorists and those who help them should know that the justice is inescapable, and it will reach them wherever they try to hide.

Also, post-crisis political settlement in Afghanistan was discussed. The most important thing for today is to return peace and the life in honor to Afghanistan, so that no threat originate from Afghanistan to the international stability. Of course, we do not intend to force upon the Afghani people the solutions; it is for them to resolve those issues

with the active participation of the United Nations.

We discussed in detail our dialog related to strategic offensive and defensive weapons. Here, we managed to achieve certain progress. First of all, it has to do with the prospects of reaching a reliable and verifiable agreement on further reductions of the U.S. and Russian weapons.

Here I must say, we appreciate very much the decision by the President to reduce strategic offensive weapons to the limits indicated by him. And we, for our part, will try to respond in kind.

On the issues of missile defense, the position of Russia remains unchanged, and we agreed to continue dialog and consultations on this. I believe that it's too early now to draw the line under the discussions of these issues, and we will have an opportunity to continue the work on this—one of the very difficult issues—at the Crawford ranch.

We also exchanged on a number of topical issues of international importance, the Balkans, Iraq. And we reiterated in a joint statement the resolve of the United States and Russia to facilitate settlement in the Middle East and the early resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

We also discussed seriously the development of relations between Russia and NATO, including taking into account a changed international situation. We consider that there are opportunities for an entirely new mechanism, joint decisionmaking, and coordinated action in the area of security and stability.

We considered in detail a number of economic cooperation issues. The Russian-American dialog in this area has become recently more constructive and more tangible. Such major investment projects as Sakhalin I and Caspian Pipeline Consortium are gaining momentum. Successful is cooperation in the air-space, mining, chemistry, car building, and other industries. Direct contacts are expanding between entrepreneurs of the two countries, including within the Russian-American business dialog.

It is with satisfaction that we note a certain progress in issues related to the Russia's accession to the WTO, in recognizing Russia as a market economy country, and we've felt a great degree of understanding that such issues should be resolved, I mean, dealing with the Jackson-Vanik amendment, not de facto but in legal terms. And in this context, our Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State, Messrs. Ivanov and Powell, exchanged letters reiterating the resolve of Russia and the United States to observe human rights and religious freedoms.

Of course, the capabilities embedded in the bilateral relationship have not been fully implemented. The key—we have quite a lot of things to do, but we are confident that the success is, by and large, predetermined by our resolve to cooperate energetically and constructively. That, and I'm confident, would benefit both countries and which is reflected, also, in our visit to this country today.

Thank you.

Situation in Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, welcome to the White House, sir. Mr. President, the Northern Alliance forces took over Kabul, and there are reports of executions of POWs and other violent reprisals. Can the Alliance be trusted to form a broad-based government? If not, what should happen next to stabilize Afghanistan, and what role, if any, should U.S. troops play in that political phase?

President Bush. First of all, we're making great progress in our objective, and that is to tighten the net and eventually bring Al Qaida to justice, and at the same time, deal with the Government that has been harboring them.

President Putin and I spent a lot of time talking about the Northern Alliance and their relationship to Kabul, as well as Mazar-e Sharif and other cities that have now been liberated from the Taliban. I made it very clear to him that we would continue to work with the Northern Alliance to make sure they recognized that in order for there to be a stable Afghanistan, which is one of our objectives, after the Taliban leaves, that the country be a good neighbor, that they must recognize that a future government must include a representative from all of Afghanistan.

We listened very carefully to the comments coming out of the Northern Alliance today. And they made it very clear they had

no intention of occupying Kabul. That's what they said. I have seen reports, which you refer to, and I also saw a report that said, on their way out of town, the Taliban was wreaking havoc on the citizenry of Kabul. And if that be the case—I haven't had it verified one way or the other, but I wouldn't be the least bit surprised. After all, the Taliban has been wreaking havoc on the entire country for over a decade. This has been on of the most repressive regimes in the history of mankind. But we will continue to work with our Northern Alliance—with the Northern Alliance commanders to make sure they respect the human rights of the people that they are liberating.

I also saw reports—and I think President Putin mentioned this today, as well—that in some of the northern cities, there was great joyous—a wonderful, joyous occasion as the citizens were free, free from repression, free from a dictatorial government. But we are both mindful, particularly mindful of the need for us to work with our Northern Alliance friends to treat people with respect.

President Putin. All our actions were aimed at liberating the northern parts of Afghanistan and the capital of Afghanistan, liberate from the Taliban regime. And any military action is accompanied not only by the military resistance but also an information resistance, what we are witnessing right now, exactly.

We tend to forget now the destruction of the cultural heritage of humankind. We tend to forget now the atrocities by Taliban. And we are talking less than usual of the Taliban harboring international terrorism. The information that Northern Alliance are shooting—are shooting the prisoners of war was launched a few days ago. The Northern Alliance was not in Kabul a few days ago; they were liberating northern parts of the country.

And for those who do not know, I will tell, the northern part of the country is inhabited by the ethnic groups represented in the Northern Alliance; I mean, Uzbeks and Tajiks. It is very difficult for me to imagine them shooting their own population. I utterly exclude this. If there are any instances in the course of the military action of the violation of human rights and treatment of the prisoners of war, we must investigate and take action. But we need proof.

Talking of this, we should not forget the things that we see: the way people meet advancing Northern Alliance troops, liberating the cities and villages of the Taliban; the women getting rid of *chadors* and burning them. And this, I would like you, ladies and gentlemen of the press, to pay attention to.

Thank you.

Possible Visit to Russia/Nuclear Arms Reduction

Q. Specific numbers were mentioned here with regard to the reductions of offensive weapons. When, and if at all, one could expect that such specific numbers made public be substantiated by some papers, maybe during a possible visit by President Bush to Moscow? And by the way, when could this visit take place?

President Bush. Got to get invited first. [*Laughter*]

Do you want to start?

President Putin. President Bush is aware of that, and I would like to reiterate: He has an open invitation to visit the Russian Federation, with an official working or a private visit, in any format, at any time convenient for him. I mean, the best time would be during the time of the beginning of the year, White Nights in St. Petersburg. [*Laughter*] Of course, the official part would start in Moscow, in the capital of the Russian Federation.

But as for the business part, I think that before that time, our advisers will continue working. And we, for our part, for the Russian part, are prepared to present all our agreements in a treaty form, including the issues of verification and control.

President Bush. I think it's interesting to note that a new relationship based upon trust and cooperation is one that doesn't need endless hours of arms control discussions. I can remember watching the news years ago and seeing that people would sit at tables for hours and hours and hours trying to reach reduced levels of nuclear armament.

My attitude is: Here's what we can live with. And so I've announced a level that we're going to—that we'll stick by. To me, that's how you approach a relationship that

is changed and different. And we'd be glad to—and I looked the man in the eye and shook his hand, but if we need to write it down on a piece of paper, I'll be glad to do that. But that's what our Government is going to do over the next 10 years.

And we don't need an arms control agreement or an arms control—let me say this—we don't need arms control negotiations to reduce our weaponry in a significant way. And today you've now heard for the first time the level that I think is commensurate with the spirit of reducing our own weaponry, and at the same time, keeping the peace.

ABM Treaty

Q. You mentioned vast discussions on the ABM Treaty. What progress are you making? And are you convinced you won't have to withdraw from the treaty now?

President Bush. Well, I'm convinced that the treaty is outdated, and we need to move beyond it. And we're having discussions along those lines. We had good discussions today; we had good discussions in Shanghai; we had good discussions in Slovenia; and we'll have good discussions in Crawford. This is obviously a subject that's got a lot of ramifications to it. I clearly heard what the President has had to say and his view of the ABM Treaty. He's heard what I've had to say, and we'll continue working it.

But my position is, is that it is a piece of paper that's codified a relationship that no longer exists, codified a hateful relationship. And now we've got a friendly relationship. And I think we need to have a new strategic framework that reflects the new relationship, based upon trust and cooperation. But we'll continue to work it.

Freedom of the Press

Q. A question to President Bush. His advisers expressed concern over the situation with the freedom of speech in Russia. But after September 11th, it would seem to me that the situation is changing somewhat in the United States, too. There are special rules for covering anti-terrorist operation, bin Laden is denied any opportunity to present his views in the media—quite appropriately, in my view—and so on and so forth. The authority of the special services have been extended, and there have been rumors that some of your members of your administration went to Hollywood explaining to them a few things. Where is the line in the sand where—beyond which it is impossible to cross, delineating a voluntary restraint on the part of the media and——

President Bush. Yes. First of all, I have been trying to tame our press corps ever since I got into politics, and I've failed miserably. [*Laughter*] They get to express their opinions, sometimes in the form of news—[*laughter*]—any way they want to.

I asked them the other day, "Would it be okay if I cut a 30-minute tape, a piece of propaganda? No questions. Just here—here it is; here's 30 minutes of me talking. Please run it not only across your airwaves but run it internationally, if you don't mind. I've got something to say about the conflict and our fight against evil." They said, no, they're not going to do that. If I'm going to have to get on the news, they've got to ask me questions.

And so we extended the same courtesy to Usama bin Laden. He doesn't get to just cut a 30-minute tape, where he may be calling his soldiers to action, where he is definitely condemning all Jews, Christians, threatening individuals, to be able to put a 30-minute propaganda tape on the free airwaves. And we made that suggestion. We didn't dictate; we just suggested. And some of the news organizations—or all the news organizations readily agreed that was a responsible posture to take. And for that, I'm grateful.

But the press in America has never been stronger and never been freer and never been more vibrant—sometimes to my chagrin and a lot of times to my delight. But whoever thinks that I have the capability or my government has the capability of reining in this press corps simply doesn't understand the American way.

President Putin. I would also offer a couple of words. Today, giving a rostrum to international terrorists would be equal to giving an opportunity to—[*inaudible*]—newspapers of the Second World War times to—an opportunity to print Dr. Goebbels' articles. This question could be turned in the following way: What is the limit and what is the measure of giving an opportunity to the terrorists and destructive element to use

media in pursuit of their antihuman, inhuman objectives? Let's look at it this way.

Situation in Afghanistan

Q. Yes, sir, Mr. President, thank you. If I could return to the situation in Afghanistan, where the concern seems to be a potential breakdown in civil order and a possible dramatic increase in civil conflict between the tribes in the Northern Alliance and other groups, which President Putin's country has experience with, what specifically can be done in the next several days to ensure the safety of the citizens of Kabul? And does the Northern Alliance, now that they've taken that city, enjoy pride of place at the bargaining table in the future of Afghanistan?

President Bush. There is no preferential place at the bargaining table. All people will be treated the same. That's what we're working with our friends the Russians on. That's the concept we're working on with the U.N. And that's only fair. That's been the vision all along. That's been the vision we talked about in Shanghai. It's the vision we have shared again today.

Secondly, I repeat, the Northern Alliance, with whom President Putin has got some influence and I've got some influence, has told us both they have no intention of occupying—and they've said this publicly—they intend not to occupy Kabul, which is fine. That's the way it ought to be. And we will continue to work with their commanders. We've got troops there with their commanders, and we will continue to urge restraint.

Again, I think before we jump to conclusions, we want to make sure we understand what the facts are, because the evacuating army has been one that has held this country—has terrorized this country for a long period of time. But any—regardless of that, any—any—army, advancing or retreating, needs to treat people with respect. And we will continue to work that they do so.

President Putin. Well, the thing is that the Northern Alliance did not take Kabul by storm. The Northern Alliance is looming over—has been looming over Kabul for a long time. That was our mutual agreement with President Bush. And suddenly, they discovered, all of a sudden, that Kabul had been abandoned, and they had to insert there certain security elements to prevent looting and robberies and murders. There was complete lawlessness in that city, and the situation must be put under control, and it was very difficult. It would be very difficult for us if we—to meet with the Northern Alliance leaders to tell them that they've negated their obligation.

The city of Kabul was abandoned by Taliban. They were trying to preserve their manpower and their equipment, a very cunning move on the part of Taliban. Maybe, technically, their decision was right, but we should not be deluded on that score. Quite a serious amount of work is still ahead. They did not disappear; they just moved out of the city, a few kilometers from there. And I am absolutely in agreement with the President on the need to follow the developments with a view to preventing abuses of human rights and maltreatment of the POWs, although the line we agreed upon has not been yet reached.

Dear colleagues, the final question.

Pakistan/Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Q. Two questions to two Presidents. Mr. Bush, what is your evaluation of the situation in Pakistan, which was always in the sphere of influence of the United States, and whether there are any dangers that the forces up in opposition to General Musharraf would gain control of the nuclear weapons?

And to President Putin, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan made available their airbases and their air corridors to the United States Armed Forces, giving the green light. Can you tell us whether you gave a green light to that? Aren't you apprehensive of the struggle for power and influence in that area?

President Bush. I had a very good dinner with President Musharraf last Saturday night in New York City. It's the first time I had met him. My Secretary of State had met him in Pakistan, as had my Secretary of Defense and other officials in my administration. All of us came away with our respect for President Musharraf and our desire to make sure that his administration is successful in Pakistan.

The best way to make sure that terrorists do not end up with nuclear weaponry in that

part of the world is for President Musharraf to provide a stable government and to fulfill what he said he would do, which is to have elections in a short period of time. And I believe he is—he deserves our Nation's support, and so we are putting together a economic package that will help him with debt, help him with the expenses of the ongoing operations, help him with trade. And we will continue a dialog with the Pakistan leader, with the full intent of finding ways we can cooperate, in order to bring stability to that part of the world.

President Putin. With regard to the possible redrawing of the spheres of influence and the enhanced American influence in the central Asia, I would like to say the following: I am more concerned with the presence of the terrorist training camps in the northern Afghanistan, who send guerrillas to the Caucasus—have been sending in the recent years. After Ahmed Shah Massoud was killed, I had a very, very sad feeling. That was prior to September 11th. And I told President Bush at that time that perhaps some serious developments are in the making. And this is concerning—this concerns me very much.

If we look at the relationship between the Russian Federation and the United States from the old standpoint, distrust and the enmity, that's one thing. If we are looking through the prism of partnership and alliance, we have nothing to be afraid of. This is one thing. Secondly, one shouldn't forget that both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are independent states and decide, therefore, in policies independently, who cooperate with and at which level.

But focusing my attention at the following circumstance, and I related it to President Bush quite frankly—we've just mentioned President Musharraf. We all should support President Musharraf. This would be the right thing to do. And we agree with this, and we accept this. It is also true that American flags are being burned in the streets of the Pakistani cities; one should not leave that unnoticed.

In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Muslim countries, too, American flags are not being burned. Moreover, those countries cooperate, for the first time, so openly and so consistently with the United States and with the international alliance against terrorism. Being Muslim countries with their own problems, none of them are squeaking or crying foul; they are trying to address their own problems on their own.

And in these conditions, the continued application of Jackson-Vanik amendment to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and so on and so forth, one wouldn't call it justified and just. We need to and want to build a new relationship in the new 21st century.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Putin's wife, Lyudmila; Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov of Russia; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. The President also referred to the June 13 Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan negotiated by CIA Director George J. Tenet; and the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by George J. Mitchell. President Putin referred to Northern Alliance leader Ahmed Shah Massoud, victim of a September 9 attack by suicide bombers. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on a New Relationship Between the United States and Russia

November 13, 2001

Our countries are embarked on a new relationship for the 21st century, founded on a commitment to the values of democracy, the free market, and the rule of law. The United States and Russia have overcome the legacy of the Cold War. Neither country regards the other as an enemy or threat. Aware of our responsibility to contribute to international security, we are determined to work together, and with other nations and international organizations, including the United Nations, to promote security, economic well-being, and a peaceful, prosperous, free world.

We affirm our determination to meet the threats to peace in the 21st century. Among these threats are terrorism, the new horror of which was vividly demonstrated by the evil crimes of September 11, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, militant nationalism, ethnic and religious intolerance, and regional instability. These threats endanger the security of both countries and the world at large. Dealing with these challenges calls for the creation of a new strategic framework to ensure the mutual security of the United States and Russia, and the world community.

We have agreed that the current levels of our nuclear forces do not reflect the strategic realities of today. Therefore, we have confirmed our respective commitments to implement substantial reductions in strategic offensive weapons. On strategic defenses and the ABM Treaty, we have agreed, in light of the changing global security environment, to continue consultations within the broad framework of the new strategic relationship. On nonproliferation matters, we reaffirm our mutual commitment to the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, and endorse efforts to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Both sides agree that urgent attention must continue to be given to improving the physical protection and accounting of nuclear materials of all possessor states, and preventing illicit nuclear trafficking.

We support the building of a European-Atlantic community whole, free, and at peace, excluding no one, and respecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. To this end, the United States and Russia will work, together with NATO and other NATO members, to improve, strengthen, and enhance the relationship between NATO and Russia, with a view to developing new, effective mechanisms for consultation, cooperation, joint decision, and coordinated/joint action. We believe that these mechanisms should reflect the fact that the members of NATO and Russia are increasingly allied against terrorism, regional instability and other contemporary threats, and that the NATO-Russia relationship should therefore evolve accordingly. We will also work to strengthen our cooperation in OSCE as a broadly representative, inclusive organization for conducting consultations, taking decisions, and working together in the region.

We recognize a market economy, the freedom of economic choice and an open democratic society as the most effective means to provide for the welfare of our citizens. The United States and Russia will cooperate, including through the support of direct contacts between the business communities of our countries, to advance U.S.-Russian economic, trade, and investment relations. The achievement of these goals requires the removal of legislative and administrative barriers, a transparent, predictable investment climate, the rule of law, and market-based economic reforms. To this end, it is important to reduce bureaucratic constraints on the economy and to combat economic crime and corruption.

Reaffirming our commitment to advance common values, the United States and Russia will continue to work together to protect and advance human rights, tolerance, religious freedom, free speech and independent media, economic opportunity, and the rule of law. In keeping with these commitments, we welcome the initiative of Russian and American media executives, journalists, and independent organizations to convene a "Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue." We will promote intense people-to-people exchanges as an important factor for enhancing mutual understanding between the American and Russian peoples. We pledge ourselves to the principles and values that represent the best traditions of both our nations, and to cooperation in order to realize them now and in the future.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on the New Russian-American Economic Relationship

November 13, 2001

We confirm our determination to foster a new dynamic in American-Russian economic interaction. We seek to harness the forces

of global commerce in order to improve contacts between our people, increase their prosperity, and to further strengthen the integration of Russia into the world economy.

We are committed to creating conditions that will enhance our trade and investment relations and help Russia reach its economic potential as a fully integrated and leading member of the world economy. Russia has a role to play in this century as an engine of world growth and a center of innovative thinking.

We will work together to build confidence in the climate for trade and investment between our two countries. An important element of this activity is Russia's integration into the rules-based global trading system of the World Trade Organization. We confirm our commitment and place considerable priority to working together in an effort to accelerate Russia's WTO accession negotiations, based on standard conditions.

We emphasize our commitment to combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In line with our desire to enhance the role of the American and Russian business communities in developing our commercial relations, we note the successful visit to Russia of an American business delegation led by United States Commerce Secretary Donald Evans. We welcome as well progress to date of the newly-established Russian-American Business Dialogue. We look forward to the presentation of its initial recommendations to our two governments early in 2002. We encourage the Dialogue to continue to identify areas where our laws and regulations impede trade and investment, to pinpoint new opportunities for business, to strengthen the rule of law, and thus to attract new entrants to the commerce between our two countries.

We note that significant progress has been made in strengthening our economic relations since we met in Genoa. The first example is the completion and operationalization of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, the largest U.S.-Russian joint investment to date. The second is the recent breakthrough on the Sakhalin I oil and gas project, which opens the door to the single, largest private investment project in Russia, representing $12 billion in projected capital investment in the region and creating up to 10,000 new jobs. We declare support to other U.S.-Russian investment projects in various fields and, above all, in high-technology areas. In order to ensure the participation of American representatives in successful investment projects in the Russian Far East, the United States intends to officially present a request to open in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk a branch office of its Consulate General in Vladivostok.

We welcome the renewed efforts of the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Agency of the United States to promote bilateral trade and investment opportunities through project finance, risk insurance, and project assessment, as well as their readiness to expand financing in support of our growing economic relationship.

Small and medium businesses are important to the growth of both our economies. We are mindful of the tax, legal, regulatory and finance environment necessary for these entrepreneurs to flourish. As the foundations of the rule of law and free market economy strengthen in Russia, small and medium enterprise will expand. The United States is increasing funding to a number of programs, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Russia Small Business Fund, to provide financing and assistance to Russian entrepreneurs and to prepare Russian financial institutions to be able to carry out such financing independently through their access to such programs.

A sound, transparent and competitive banking sector is critical to sustained economic growth. To this end, we endorse the launch of a public-private dialogue among banks, businesses, financial institutions and financial authorities to identify actions that would promote the growth of the banking sector in Russia consistent with the needs of a modern free-market economy. We stand firmly in support of the principle of non-discrimination in our cooperation in the banking sector.

We reaffirm our resolve to seek practical solutions and achieve measurable results to even the most difficult issues.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Afghanistan

November 13, 2001

We express our continued support for the people of Afghanistan in their effort to establish a government that can bring peace and stability to Afghanistan, close down terrorist camps, and end Afghanistan's use as a platform for international terrorists. We agree that a new Afghan government should adhere to accepted international principles, respect human rights, including those of women and girls, facilitate delivery of aid to combat the current humanitarian crisis, and rebuild Afghanistan and the region economically.

The United States and Russia do not intend to, and cannot, create the future government of Afghanistan. It is up to the Afghans themselves to determine their future. We believe that, in order for any future government to bring peace to the people of Afghanistan and promote stability in the region, it must be broad-based, represent all Afghans, men and women, and be drawn from all ethnic groups. We agree that the Taliban as a movement should have no place in future bodies of state power in Afghanistan.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and underscore our support for his efforts to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and the region.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on the Middle East

November 13, 2001

We express our deep concern over the situation in the Middle East, which has led to untold suffering by Palestinians and Israelis during the past year. The violence and terror must end.

The United States and Russia, as cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, call upon the leadership of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to take urgent steps to ease tension, as well as to refrain from actions that are harmful to the other side and to resume the dialogue at a high political level. It is also necessary to proceed without delay towards the implementation of the Tenet workplan and the Mitchell Report recommendations: to end the violence, to set up stable cooperation in the area of security, to implement confidence-building measures, and to resume the substantive negotiating process.

Our two nations, acting in concert with other key parties, are stepping up their efforts aimed at facilitating early resolution of the crisis in the region and resuming negotiations on all tracks—Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese—in the interests of making progress toward a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, based on the Madrid principles, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and existing agreements and accords.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Cooperation Against Bioterrorism

November 13, 2001

At Shanghai, we resolved to enhance cooperation in combating new terrorist threats, including those involving weapons of mass destruction.

We agree that, as a key element of our cooperation to counter the threat of terrorist use of biological materials, officials and experts of the United States and Russia will work together on means for countering the threat of bioterrorism, now faced by all nations, and on related health measures, including preventive ones, treatment and possible consequence management. We will continue to work to enhance the security of materials, facilities, expertise, and technologies that can be exploited by bioterrorists. We also confirm our strong commitment to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological

(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

We have directed all of our officials and experts working on these critical matters to expand their cooperation and to consult on strengthening related international efforts.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Narcotics Trafficking

November 13, 2001

We note that illegal narcotics trafficking constitutes a serious threat to the health and well-being of individuals and to international security as a whole. The drug trade is one of the principle sources of financial support for international terrorism.

The United States and Russia are committed to intensifying cooperation on both a bilateral level and within the framework of international organizations and institutions, in order to combat this common threat.

We reaffirm the important role of the UN in strengthening anti-drug cooperation at the global level and reaffirm the two countries' intention to continue the efforts to implement the decisions of the 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the problem of narcotics. At the same time, we wish to continue and expand our regional counternarcotics cooperation with the countries of Central Asia.

We wish to underscore the importance of putting into effect, as soon as possible, the mechanism of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We intend to intensify the efforts of the Russian-U.S. Working Group on law enforcement, including the issues of combating illegal drug trafficking and the laundering of proceeds derived from criminal activities. We believe that early entry into the force of the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the United States on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Moscow on June 17, 1999, will promote the expansion of bilateral cooperation and the coordination of efforts against transnational organized crime and narcotics trafficking.

We agree to seek areas of expanded cooperation between the United States and Russia with the goal of more effectively stopping illegal trafficking in narcotics and preventing and treating drug addiction.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on Departure for Texas

November 13, 2001

Visit of Russian President Putin/Aviation Security and Economic Stimulus Legislation

Laura and I are looking forward to our meeting with the Putins in Crawford—spend a couple of days down in Texas, working on international affairs.

And I hope the Congress works hard on two issues. First, they must work day and night to get an airline security bill to my desk. We're making good progress, and the Members of Congress must continue to work hard to get a bill. And secondly, I've laid out some ideas on an economic stimulus package, one that encourages consumer spending. Part of it is to encourage business investment, and part of it is to take care of workers who have been affected by the September 11th tragedy.

I hope the Senate will be able to move a bill quickly and to get it into conference and work out the differences. I look forward to signing legislation on both airline security and economic stimulus. My administration is willing to work with the parties to forge the compromise necessary to get a piece of legislation. The American people expect progress. And I do, too, and so I hope we can get something done.

In the meantime, we're making great strides for making the world more peaceful, as we work closely with Russia for security for all the people of the world as well as our own Nation.

We'll see you down there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Arrival in Waco, Texas, and an Exchange With Reporters

November 13, 2001

[*The President's remarks were joined in progress.*]

The President. ——Texas. We haven't been back since the war began on September the 11th, and we're delighted to be home. I am also honored to be hosting Vladimir Putin tomorrow. He's going to start off in Houston, and then he's going to come over to Crawford, Texas. He has a—he's been a great—about how to improve our relations, about how to cooperate more—wide variety of issues, and we will continue the dialog tomorrow. I can't wait for him to get to see Texas.

I made the decision that we'd have formal things in Washington—we'd have formal meetings in Washington, but it's also very important for him to get to see the finest State of all 50, in my judgment. He'll also get a taste of rural life here in Texas. He'll get to see Houston, and he's also going to get to come to Crawford. And it's going to be such an honor for us to receive him here.

We're making great progress on the war. I have great confidence in the ability of the U.S. military, but I've even got greater confidence in the people of our country. We're united; we're strong; we're determined; and we will prevail. We're going to win this war. And we're glad to be home and looking forward to spending time here.

Humanitarian Aid Workers

Q. Mr. President, what about the two girls that are being detained in Afghanistan? What do you think about their current situation?

The President. Well, we're working. I know one of them is from this area.

Q. I think from Baylor?

The President. Yes. And we have made it clear to the Taliban that we expect them to be treated humanely. I hope they listen to our request. We're obviously very concerned about their safety. Our military is very aware that they're in that part of the world, and we are doing everything we can—gathering—to make sure they stay out of harm's way. It's up to the Taliban, however, to protect them. We expect them to do so.

Visit of Russian President Putin

Q. Mr. President, how important is this meeting tomorrow?

The President. Well, it's a continuation of a series of meetings I've had with him. I met with him in Slovenia and then Shanghai, and of course, today we had a long series of meetings, announced some major initiatives.

One initiative I announced is something I campaigned on. I said that we would—in order to get rid of the vestiges of the past—would reduce our nuclear arsenal, our offensive weapons, of nuclear warheads to a level commensurate with keeping the peace and at the same time signaling loud and clear that we need a new relationship with Russia. And I did that. We're also going to talk about missile defense, the ABM Treaty.

He has got some concerns about getting rid of the ABM Treaty. I've listened very carefully to him, but I've made the case to him that we need to move beyond the vestiges of the past in order to address the true threats facing our nation and his nation, and that is the ability of some terrorist nation to end up with a weapon of mass destruction, which could hold each of us hostage and/or cause serious harm to our people.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Well, we're going to be riding John Deere Gators. They're a little more compassionate than some horses. We're going to have a barbecue tomorrow night. A local resident, David Sibley, is coming and his wife, Pam. We've got a friend of ours from Buffalo Gap, Texas, who will be cooking the barbecue. Laura has ordered up a swing band.

And then Thursday morning we'll go for a—down, boy—that's Barney, by the way. [*Laughter*]

Mrs. Bush. And this is Spot.

The President. And Spot.

And we'll go for a couple of nice, long walks. The best diplomacy starts with getting to know each other. And I want him to know

my values, and I want to know his values. I want him to see things. One of the interesting things that happened in Slovenia—I said to him as we were walking to the press conference, I said, "I understand you've got two daughters." He said, "Yes." I said, "Who did you name your daughters after?" He said, "My mother and my mother-in-law." So did I. [*Laughter*]

So there's a lot we can find with these world leaders that you've got in common with them, if you just spend some time listening. So we'll have a good stay.

Q. Mr. President, is this going to be a breakthrough weekend?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. Is this going to be a breakthrough weekend?

The President. I don't think there's a particular moment where things—where a relationship breaks through. Obviously, it takes a while. It takes a while to build up the trust necessary for him to know that I intend to keep my word when I say I'm going to do something and vice versa.

It is very important for both of us to convince some parties in our countries that we should no longer harbor suspicions about each other. I will continue to make the case that it is in our nations' interest that Russia and the United States enter into a wide variety of agreements—offensive weapons, talk about the ABM, work on counterproliferation, work on counterterrorism measures. He's been very helpful, by the way, in our efforts in Afghanistan. It's a new day in a relationship that when I was growing up and when we were both growing up was one based upon hostility, mistrust, and anger. And now it's the exact opposite. We're finding ways to find areas where we can work together for the benefit of both of our countries.

Listen, thank you all very much. It's great to see some familiar faces——

Q. Will you be showing Mr. Putin some Texas dance steps, Mr. President? You'll be showing him some Texas dance steps out there, I'm sure.

The President. You know from following me as the Governor, I can cut a pretty mean rug. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. on the tarmac at the Texas State Technical College Waco airport. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his daughters, Katya and Masha; humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States; and Texas State Senator David Sibley and his wife, Pam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the President's opening remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

November 13, 2001

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is an important element of our Nation's energy security. To maximize long-term protection against oil supply disruptions, I am directing today the Secretary of Energy to fill the SPR up to its 700 million barrel capacity.

The SPR will be filled in a deliberate and cost-effective manner. This will be done principally through royalty-in-kind transfers to be implemented by the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior.

Our current oil inventories, and those of our allies who hold strategic stocks, are sufficient to meet any potential near-term disruption in supplies. Filling the SPR up to capacity will strengthen the long-term energy security of the United States.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Proclamation 7501—National Farm-City Week, 2001

November 13, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As fall harvesting occurs and Americans gather with family and friends during Thanksgiving to share holiday meals, we celebrate our Nation's farmers and ranchers who provide us with abundant agricultural products, and we recognize all of those who help

get those food products from the farm to our tables.

The American agricultural industry is the leading global provider of food. Its remarkable rates of production are a continuing tribute to the ingenuity, diligence, and creativity of our country's farmers and ranchers. But agriculture is not just one industry among many—it is the very heart of our economy. The aggregate output of our food industry is unparalleled in human history. This enormous production makes farmers and ranchers key contributors to the collective wealth of our country. Their extraordinary efforts produce foodstuffs not just for our land but for the world, and they are driven by the American virtues of independence, industry, innovation, and sacrifice.

Our Nation's farmers and ranchers depend upon a complex chain of interrelationships with urban workers to get their products to national and world markets. Shippers, processors, marketers, tradespeople, grocers, truck drivers, food service providers, inspectors, researchers, and scientists are all part of the formula that feeds our land and the world. These urban/agriculture partnerships serve as catalysts for our overall commercial success; and their continued development is essential to sustaining our prosperity.

As we reflect upon the important role these partnerships play in the strength and success of our great Nation, we remember those who devote their lives to meeting an essential national and worldwide need. We are blessed by our agricultural abundance, by the committed and caring farmers and ranchers who strive to provide all we need to feed our people and the people of the world, and by all of those who help accomplish this important undertaking.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 16 through November 22, 2001, as National Farm-City Week. I call upon all Americans, in rural and urban communities alike, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farms and ranches, and the hard-working individuals who produce an abundance of affordable, quality agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:35 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Military Order—Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism

November 13, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution (Public Law 107–40, 115 Stat. 224) and sections 821 and 836 of title 10, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Findings.*

(a) International terrorists, including members of al Qaida, have carried out attacks on United States diplomatic and military personnel and facilities abroad and on citizens and property within the United States on a scale that has created a state of armed conflict that requires the use of the United States Armed Forces.

(b) In light of grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, on the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense in the national capital region, on the World Trade Center in New York, and on civilian aircraft such as in Pennsylvania, I proclaimed a national emergency on September 14, 2001 (Proc. 7463, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks).

(c) Individuals acting alone and in concert involved in international terrorism possess

both the capability and the intention to undertake further terrorist attacks against the United States that, if not detected and prevented, will cause mass deaths, mass injuries, and massive destruction of property, and may place at risk the continuity of the operations of the United States Government.

(d) The ability of the United States to protect the United States and its citizens, and to help its allies and other cooperating nations protect their nations and their citizens, from such further terrorist attacks depends in significant part upon using the United States Armed Forces to identify terrorists and those who support them, to disrupt their activities, and to eliminate their ability to conduct or support such attacks.

(e) To protect the United States and its citizens, and for the effective conduct of military operations and prevention of terrorist attacks, it is necessary for individuals subject to this order pursuant to section 2 hereof to be detained, and, when tried, to be tried for violations of the laws of war and other applicable laws by military tribunals.

(f) Given the danger to the safety of the United States and the nature of international terrorism, and to the extent provided by and under this order, I find consistent with section 836 of title 10, United States Code, that it is not practicable to apply in military commissions under this order the principles of law and the rules of evidence generally recognized in the trial of criminal cases in the United States district courts.

(g) Having fully considered the magnitude of the potential deaths, injuries, and property destruction that would result from potential acts of terrorism against the United States, and the probability that such acts will occur, I have determined that an extraordinary emergency exists for national defense purposes, that this emergency constitutes an urgent and compelling government interest, and that issuance of this order is necessary to meet the emergency.

Sec. 2. *Definition and Policy.*

(a) The term "individual subject to this order" shall mean any individual who is not a United States citizen with respect to whom I determine from time to time in writing that:

(1) there is reason to believe that such individual, at the relevant times,

(i) is or was a member of the organization known as al Qaida;

(ii) has engaged in, aided or abetted, or conspired to commit, acts of international terrorism, or acts in preparation therefor, that have caused, threaten to cause, or have as their aim to cause, injury to or adverse effects on the United States, its citizens, national security, foreign policy, or economy; or

(iii) has knowingly harbored one or more individuals described in subparagraphs (i) or (ii) of subsection 2(a)(1) of this order; and

(2) it is in the interest of the United States that such individual be subject to this order.

(b) It is the policy of the United States that the Secretary of Defense shall take all necessary measures to ensure that any individual subject to this order is detained in accordance with section 3, and, if the individual is to be tried, that such individual is tried only in accordance with section 4.

(c) It is further the policy of the United States that any individual subject to this order who is not already under the control of the Secretary of Defense but who is under the control of any other officer or agent of the United States or any State shall, upon delivery of a copy of such written determination to such officer or agent, forthwith be placed under the control of the Secretary of Defense.

Sec. 3. *Detention Authority of the Secretary of Defense.* Any individual subject to this order shall be—

(a) detained at an appropriate location designated by the Secretary of Defense outside or within the United States;

(b) treated humanely, without any adverse distinction based on race, color, religion, gender, birth, wealth, or any similar criteria;

(c) afforded adequate food, drinking water, shelter, clothing, and medical treatment;

(d) allowed the free exercise of religion consistent with the requirements of such detention; and

(e) detained in accordance with such other conditions as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

Sec. 4. *Authority of the Secretary of Defense Regarding Trials of Individuals Subject to this Order.*

(a) Any individual subject to this order shall, when tried, be tried by military commission for any and all offenses triable by military commission that such individual is alleged to have committed, and may be punished in accordance with the penalties provided under applicable law, including life imprisonment or death.

(b) As a military function and in light of the findings in section 1, including subsection (f) thereof, the Secretary of Defense shall issue such orders and regulations, including orders for the appointment of one or more military commissions, as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Orders and regulations issued under subsection (b) of this section shall include, but not be limited to, rules for the conduct of the proceedings of military commissions, including pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures, modes of proof, issuance of process, and qualifications of attorneys, which shall at a minimum provide for—

(1) military commissions to sit at any time and any place, consistent with such guidance regarding time and place as the Secretary of Defense may provide;

(2) a full and fair trial, with the military commission sitting as the triers of both fact and law;

(3) admission of such evidence as would, in the opinion of the presiding officer of the military commission (or instead, if any other member of the commission so requests at the time the presiding officer renders that opinion, the opinion of the commission rendered at that time by a majority of the commission), have probative value to a reasonable person;

(4) in a manner consistent with the protection of information classified or classifiable under Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995, as amended, or any successor Executive Order, protected by statute or rule from unauthorized disclosure, or otherwise protected by law, (A) the handling of, admission into evidence of, and access to materials and information, and (B) the conduct, closure of, and access to proceedings;

(5) conduct of the prosecution by one or more attorneys designated by the Secretary of Defense and conduct of the defense by attorneys for the individual subject to this order;

(6) conviction only upon the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the commission present at the time of the vote, a majority being present;

(7) sentencing only upon the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the commission present at the time of the vote, a majority being present; and

(8) submission of the record of the trial, including any conviction or sentence, for review and final decision by me or by the Secretary of Defense if so designated by me for that purpose.

Sec. 5. *Obligation of Other Agencies to Assist the Secretary of Defense.*

Departments, agencies, entities, and officers of the United States shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law, provide to the Secretary of Defense such assistance as he may request to implement this order.

Sec. 6. *Additional Authorities of the Secretary of Defense.*

(a) As a military function and in light of the findings in section 1, the Secretary of Defense shall issue such orders and regulations as may be necessary to carry out any of the provisions of this order.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may perform any of his functions or duties, and may exercise any of the powers provided to him under this order (other than under section 4(c)(8) hereof) in accordance with section 113(d) of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 7. *Relationship to Other Law and Forums.*

(a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to—

(1) authorize the disclosure of state secrets to any person not otherwise authorized to have access to them;

(2) limit the authority of the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces or the power of the President to grant reprieves and pardons; or

(3) limit the lawful authority of the Secretary of Defense, any military commander, or any other officer or agent of the United States or of any State to

detain or try any person who is not an individual subject to this order.

(b) With respect to any individual subject to this order—

(1) military tribunals shall have exclusive jurisdiction with respect to offenses by the individual; and

(2) the individual shall not be privileged to seek any remedy or maintain any proceeding, directly or indirectly, or to have any such remedy or proceeding sought on the individual's behalf, in (i) any court of the United States, or any State thereof, (ii) any court of any foreign nation, or (iii) any international tribunal.

(c) This order is not intended to and does not create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any party, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

(d) For purposes of this order, the term "State" includes any State, district, territory, or possession of the United States.

(e) I reserve the authority to direct the Secretary of Defense, at any time hereafter, to transfer to a governmental authority control of any individual subject to this order. Nothing in this order shall be construed to limit the authority of any such governmental authority to prosecute any individual for whom control is transferred.

Sec. 8. *Publication.*

This order shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 13, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:56 a.m., November 15, 2001]

NOTE: This military order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 16.

Exchange With Reporters on the Arrival of President Putin in Crawford, Texas

November 14, 2001

Q. Are you going to tour today? Are you going to take him around today?

President Bush. Yes, we're going to take a tour.

Q. What are you going to do?

President Bush. Well, I want to show him some of my favorite spots on the ranch.

Q. Which are?

President Bush. Most of it. [*Laughter*]

Q. ——it's raining.

President Bush. Excuse me?

Q. It's raining.

President Bush. The President brought rain, for which we're always grateful in the State of Texas.

Q. Is it great to be back at the ranch?

President Bush. I'm thrilled to be here. There is no better gift than rain.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 3:15 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the World Trade Organization's Decision To Launch a New Round of Global Trade Negotiations

November 14, 2001

I commend the decision by the world's trading nations meeting in Qatar to launch a new round of global trade negotiations. This bold declaration of hope by the World Trade Organization (WTO) has the potential to expand prosperity and development throughout the world and revitalize the global economy. It also sends a powerful signal that the world's trading nations support peaceful and open exchange and reject the forces of fear and protectionism.

Today's action advances the United States agenda to liberalize world trade—something that will benefit all Americans. By promoting open trade, we expand export markets and create high-paying jobs for American workers and farmers, while providing more choices and lower prices for goods and services for American families.

Today's decision offers fresh hope for the world's developing nations, with whom the United States worked closely in crafting an agenda for trade negotiations. It reflects our common understanding that a new trade round can give developing countries greater access to world markets and lift the lives of

millions now living in poverty. In addition, the WTO meeting affirmed the commitment of all nations to help end the scourge of health pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by highlighting rules governing access to lifesaving medicines.

I also commend the historic decision to welcome into the WTO the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, united in their commitment to expand shared rules and opportunity to all members. I thank Ambassador Zoellick, Secretary Veneman, and Secretary Evans for their skill in helping WTO members reach this accord, as well as the select corps of U.S. Government negotiators who assisted them.

The WTO leadership, particularly Director-General Moore, did a superb job of laying the groundwork for the ministerial. I also thank the Government of Qatar, the WTO Ministerial chairman Finance Minister Kamal, and the people of Qatar for being model hosts and doing so much to achieve this successful outcome.

NOTE: The statement referred to WTO Director-General Mike Moore; and Finance Minister Youssef Hussein Kamal of Qatar.

Proclamation 7502—To Provide for the Termination of Action Taken With Regard to Imports of Lamb Meat

November 14, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Proclamation 7208 issued July 7, 1999, implemented action of a type described in section 203(a)(3) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)) (the "Trade Act"), with respect to imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen lamb meat, provided for in subheadings 0204.10.00, 0204.22.20, 0204.23.20, 0204.30.00, 0204.42.20, and 0204.43.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). Proclamation 7208 took effect on July 22, 1999.

2. Section 204(a)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2254(a)(1)) requires the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) to monitor developments with respect to the domestic industry while action taken under section 203 remains in effect. If the initial period of such action exceeds 3 years, then the Commission must submit to the President a report on the results of such monitoring not later than the date that is the midpoint of the initial period of the action. The USITC report in Investigation Number TA–204–2, issued on January 22, 2001, has been submitted.

3. Section 204(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2254(b)(1)(A)) authorizes the President to reduce, modify, or terminate a safeguard action if, after taking into account any report or advice submitted by the USITC and after seeking the advice of the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor, the President determines that changed circumstances warrant such reduction, modification, or termination. The President's determination may be made, *inter alia*, on the basis that the effectiveness of the action taken under section 203 has been impaired by changed economic circumstances.

4. In view of the information provided in the USITC's report, and having sought advice from the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor, I determine that the effectiveness of the action taken under section 203 with respect to lamb imports has been impaired by changed economic circumstances. Accordingly, I have determined, pursuant to section 204(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, that termination of the action taken under section 203 with respect to lamb meat imports is warranted.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to sections 204 and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) The HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, after the close of November 14, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex were published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Remarks on the Rescue of Humanitarian Aid Workers Imprisoned in Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford

November 14, 2001

The President. Good evening. Today we've got incredibly good news. Our United States military rescued eight humanitarian workers who had been in prison in Afghanistan.

I'm really proud of our Armed Forces, and I'm also thankful for the folks in Afghanistan who helped with this rescue. There have been a lot of people praying for the eight—eight innocent folks. Particularly interesting for me, since I'm here in Crawford and the two Americans were from Waco. And I know a lot of the Waco citizens have been in deep prayer that they be rescued, and their prayers were answered.

I'm thankful they're safe. I am pleased with the way our military has conducted its operations, and I am glad to report to the American people this chapter of the Afghan theater has ended in a very positive and constructive way.

Q. Sir, did the rescuers encounter any resistance?

The President. You're going to have to talk to the Secretary of Defense about that.

Q. Were they rescued or turned over by the Taliban?

The President. Well, I think Secretary Rumsfeld will be making a statement. We're calling it a rescue. They have been helped by—I know the International Red Cross have been involved, and they were flown to safety by U.S. troops.

Q. Where are they now?

The President. In Pakistan.

Q. Sir, is it your understanding that this was an operation where our forces had to go in and extricate them?

The President. No, I don't think it was a mission of that—it was set up, as I understand it. In other words, there was—people on the ground were—facilitated the ability of our troops to move in and put them on a chopper and bring them to safety.

I have been—I had spent a lot of time worrying about all eight, particularly the two young ladies. I was worried that—about the reports that perhaps the enemy would put them in a house and then, for whatever reason, would encourage that house to get bombed. I was worried for their safety. We had thought of different ways in which we could extricate them from the prison they were in. And there were some people on the ground that helped, including the International Red Cross, and our military responded. And it's great——

Q. How soon will you be able to speak to them or see them, sir?

The President. I'm not sure. The good news is they'll be home for Thanksgiving. And I would obviously—if they come back to the States or are in a position where I can call, I'd love to call them, and most of all, tell their parents that I can imagine how they feel, how thrilled they are that their daughters are safe.

Q. Other than the Red Cross, who else——

The President. I'm not sure yet, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. I think we

had—Secretary Rumsfeld is going to brief here in a second.

Q. Was it a handover to U.S. troops or——

The President. I think it was a—I don't think it was—I think it was, as I understand it—and again, the Secretary of Defense will be briefing, the Defense Department will be briefing—that it was a facilitated rescue. In other words, there were people—and I say "rescued" because it's a very unstable part of the world still, obviously, and you never know what the Taliban is going to do. They, first and foremost, detained these people against their will and imprisoned them. And I was deeply concerned for their safety. But the really incredibly positive news is that, thanks to help on the ground and thanks to our U.S. military, they're now safe in Pakistan.

I've got to go to dinner with my guests. I've got my guests. You'll have to talk to the Secretary of Defense.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Should the Taliban surrender now, sir?

The President. It's up to the Taliban to make that decision. But we're not going to end our mission until we accomplish the mission, and the mission is Al Qaida and terrorists and terrorist training camps.

One of the things I said in front of Congress was that one of the conditions were that these humanitarian aid workers be turned over. That part of the mission is complete. We still want Al Qaida, and we want to make sure that Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for terrorist activity. That has yet to be accomplished.

In the meantime, we're making substantial gains on the ground. But this is—I told the American people, this could take a while. And I'm patient, and I am steady. And our military is—and our troops on the ground are on the hunt to accomplish the objective. And we will stay there until we do accomplish the objective.

Thank you all. I've got to go have dinner——

Visit of Russian President Putin

Q. Are you going——

The President. I've got my guests waiting——

Q. Did the rain ruin the dinner?

The President. No, it's perfect. Listen, any time it rains in Texas, it enhances the dinner. [*Laughter*] Thank you all for bringing it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:18 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States, Peter Bunch and Diana Thomas of Australia, and George Taubmann, Margrit Stebnar, Kati Jelinek, and Silke Duerrkopf of Germany.

Remarks With President Putin and a Question-and-Answer Session With Crawford High School Students in Crawford

November 15, 2001

President Bush. Thank you all. Sit down, please. Thank you all for that warm welcome. This is a great day for central Texas. It's a great day because Laura and I have had the honor of welcoming the Putins to our beloved State. It's a great day because it's raining. [*Laughter*]

It's a great day, as well, because I just got off the telephone with two central Texas women: Heather Mercer, who used to live in Crawford, and Dayna Curry. They both said to say thanks to everybody for their prayers. They realize there is a good and gracious God. Their spirits were high, and they love America.

I remember clearly when I stood up in front of the Congress, and said we have three conditions to the Taliban: One, release those who are being detained; two, destroy terrorist training camps so that country can never be used for terror again, either against us or against Russia, for example; three, bring Al Qaida to justice.

Yesterday I was able to report to the Nation that one of those conditions had been met, with the release and rescue of the humanitarian aid workers. And make no mistake about it, the other two will be met—particularly bringing Al Qaida to justice.

I wanted to bring President Putin to Crawford. I wanted him to see a State that Laura and I love. I particularly wanted to be able to introduce him to the citizens of

Crawford, because this part of the State represents the independent-minded nature of Texans. It represents the hard-working Texans, people who have great values—faith and family. The people here, Mr. President, love their country, and they like countries that work with America to keep the peace.

We had a great dinner last night; we had a little Texas barbecue, pecan pie—[*laughter*]—a little Texas music. And I think the President really enjoyed himself. I told him he was welcome to come back next August—[*laughter*]—to get a true taste of Crawford. [*Laughter*] He said, "Fine, and maybe you'd like to go to Siberia in the winter." [*Laughter*]

It's my honor also to introduce President Putin to Crawford. I bet a lot of folks here, particularly the older folks, never dreamt that an American President would be bringing the Russian President to Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*] A lot of people never really dreamt that an American President and a Russian President could have established the friendship that we have.

We were enemies for a long period of time. When I was in high school, Russia was an enemy. Now, the high school students can know Russia as a friend; that we're working together to break the old ties, to establish a new spirit of cooperation and trust so that we can work together to make the world more peaceful.

Russia has been a strong partner in the fight against terrorism. It's an interesting story for me to report. I was on Air Force One the day of the attack, working my way back to Washington via Louisiana and Nebraska—[*laughter*]—making sure that the President was safe and secure. The first phone call I got from a foreign leader was President Putin. He told us that he recognized that I had put our troops on alert. I did so because, for the first time in a long period of time, America was under attack. It only happened once—twice, I guess—the War of 1812 and Pearl Harbor.

In the old days when America put their troops on attack, Russia would have responded and put her troops on alert, which would have caused the American President maybe to put a higher alert, and Russia a higher alert, and all of a sudden we would have had two conflicts instead of one. But not this President. This President recognized we're entering into a new era, and his call was, "Don't worry; we know what you're up against. We stand with you, and we will not put our troops on alert, for the good of the United States of America."

I brought him to my ranch because, as the good people in this part of the world know, that you only usually invite your friends into your house. Oh, occasionally, you let a salesman in, or two, but—[*laughter*]. But I wanted the Putins to see how we live. And even though we changed addresses, our hearts are right here in our home State.

We've got a lot to do together. We've had great discussions in Washington, as well as here in Texas. We're both pledging to reduce the amount of nuclear weapons, offensive weapons, we have in order to make the world more secure. We're talking about ways to cooperate in antiterrorism and antiproliferation. We're talking about ways to make sure our economies can grow together. What we're talking about is a new relationship—a relationship that will make your lives better when you get older, and it will make your kids' lives better as they grow up.

But in order to have a new relationship, it requires a new style of leader. And it's my honor to welcome to central Texas a new style of leader, a reformer, a man who loves his country as much as I love mine, a man who loves his wife as much as I love mine, a man who loves his daughters as much as I love my daughters, and a man who is going to make a huge difference in making the world more peaceful, by working closely with the United States. Please welcome Vladimir Putin. [*Applause*]

President Putin. Dear friends, when we were riding here in the Presidential car, I'll divulge to you a small secret of ours. The First Lady of the United States told me, "You know, some kind of special people live here. These are people with a special kind of pride of their position and of their heritage." And the more I come to know the President of the United States, the more I realize that the First Lady was right: He is right from the heart of Texas, and he is a Texan. And

herself, being a wise woman, she complimented her husband in an indirect and very sensible way. [*Laughter*]

My wife and myself are also trying to help ourselves as we go along this life. And it gives me pleasure to introduce my First Lady, my wife, Lyudmila Putin. [*Applause*]

And like President Bush did, I would also like to congratulate three Texans and two people from Waco, with the liberation by the U.S. special forces and their withdrawal from the land of Afghanistan.

Of course, it is very important to be born under a happy star and to have destiny facing your way. And indeed, I'm in agreement with the President: Perhaps God was looking quite positively on this.

But there are different approaches to addressing such kind of problem. There are people deeply religious who usually say that God knows what is to befall a nation, a people, or a person. But there are people no less devoted to God, but who still believe that the people, a person should also take care of their own destiny and lives. And it gives me great pleasure to deal and to work with President Bush, who is a person, a man who does what he says.

And I congratulate those who have been liberated by the Armed Forces, and their relatives. And also, I would like to congratulate on this, President Bush.

On our way here, we didn't expect at all that things would be so warm and homey as they were at the ranch of President Bush here. Yesterday we had a surprise, but today's meeting is yet another and very pleasant surprise, indeed, for us. Indeed, in any country, the backbone of any country is not only the people who live in the capitals but also and mostly the people who live hundreds and thousands of miles from the capital.

It is especially pleasant and pleasing for me to be here in your high school. And my being here brings me to remembering those distinguished Russian-Americans who contributed so much to the development and prosperity of this Nation, including a world-known composer and musician, Rachmaninoff; a well-known designer and inventor of aircraft, helicopters and airplanes, Sikorsky; and a world-renowned economist and Nobel Prize winner, Leontiev; and many others. And it is extremely pleasant for me to know that here in this room we have some people, boys and girls from Russia, who have come here to study.

Of course, serious people work in the capital cities, and much depends on them. But in any circumstances and in any situation, what they must do is to fulfill the will of their people. And being here, I can feel the will of these people, the will to cooperate with the Russian Federation, the will to cooperate with Russia. And I can assure you that the Russian people fully share this commitment and is also committed to fully cooperating with the American people.

Together, we can achieve quite a lot, especially if we are helped in this by such a young and active and beautiful generation as the one we are meeting with now.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Okay. The President and I have agreed to take a few questions from the students. I figured this would be a pretty good opportunity for you all to ask——

President Putin. Only questions. No math questions, please. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Good idea. Particularly no fuzzy math questions. [*Laughter*]

Anybody got any questions? Yes, ma'am. Hold on. We've got a mike coming so everybody gets to hear it, too. What is your name, and what grade are you in?

Student. I'm Amanda Lemmons. I'm a senior.

President Bush. Senior? Good.

Future Visit to Russia

Student. Have you decided on whether you're going to go to Russia or not?

President Bush. Well—[*laughter*]—the President invited me, and I accepted. We haven't figured out a time yet. But, in that I'm from Texas and kind of like the warm weather, I was hoping to wait a couple of months. [*Laughter*] I'm really looking forward to going to Russia. I would hope that I could not only go to Moscow but maybe go to the President's hometown of St. Petersburg, which they tell me is one of the most spectacular cities in Europe. But I look forward to going. I think it is going to be a very important trip.

We have met four times now. We have made a lot of progress on coming together on some key issues. There is more work to be done. I believe the U.S.-Russian relationship is one of the most important relationships that our country can have. And the stronger the relationship is, the more likely it is the world will be at peace, and the more likely it is that we'll be able to achieve a common objective, which is to defeat the evil ones that try to terrorize governments such as the United States and Russia. And we must defeat the evil ones in order for you all to grow up in a peaceful and prosperous world.

Okay. Wait for the mike. I'm kind of getting hard of hearing.

Visit of President Putin

Student. My name is Jana Heller, and I'm in the eighth grade. And I was wondering, what is President Putin's favorite thing about Texas?

President Bush. What does he think about Texas?

Student. Yes, sir.

President Bush. Oh, favorite thing. Favorite thing. Crawford, of course. [*Laughter*]

President Putin. We in Russia have known for a long time that Texas is the most important State in the United States. [*Laughter*] But seriously speaking, we in Russia somehow tend to know about Texas rather better than about the rest of the United States, somehow—except maybe for Alaska, which we sold to you. [*Laughter*]

In my view, first of all, because, like in Russia, here in Texas the oil business is quite well developed, and we have numerous contacts in this area. And we have very many contacts in such areas as high-tech and the exploration of space. And the fact that the parliament of the State of Texas declared April the 12th—the day when Yuri Gagarin, the first man to fly to space, accomplished this—as a State holiday, like it is a national holiday in Russia, is yet another testimony of the closeness of our outlook and achievements.

President Bush. Name and grade?

Student. I'm Brian Birch. I'm a senior here. In what ways has this summit helped bring Russia and the U.S. closer together?

President Bush. Well, first of all—his question is, in what ways has the summit brought us together? Well, in order for countries to come together, the first thing that must happen is, leaders must make up their mind that they want this to happen. And the more I get to know President Putin, the more I get to see his heart and soul, and the more I know we can work together in a positive way.

And so any time leaders can come together and sit down and talk about key issues in a very open and honest way, it will make relations stronger in the long run.

There's no doubt the United States and Russia won't agree on every issue. But you probably don't agree with your mother on every issue. [*Laughter*] You still love her, though, don't you? Well, even though we don't agree on every issue, I still respect him and like him as a person. The other thing is, is that the more we talk about key issues, the more likely it is we come to an understanding. And so the summit enabled us to continue a very personal dialog. As well, we agreed to some significant changes in our relationship.

I, after long consultations with people inside our Government, I announced that our Government was going to reduce our nuclear arsenal to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads over the next decade. That's a tangible accomplishment. I shared that information with President Putin. He, too, is going to make a declaration at some point in time.

In other words, this particular summit has made us closer because we've agreed on some concrete steps, as well, specific things we can do together. We're working on counterproliferation, which is an incredibly important issue, to make sure that arms and potential weapons of mass destruction do not end up in the hands of people who will be totally irresponsible, people that hate either one of our nations.

And so we made great progress. And I look forward to future meetings with the President because there's more to do to make sure the relationship outlives our term in office. It's one thing for he and me to have a personal relationship. The key is that we establish a relationship between our countries strong enough that will endure beyond our

Presidencies. And that's important so that in the long run, as you come up and as your kids grow up, that Russia and the United States will cooperate in ways that will make the world more stable and more peaceful, and ways in which we can address the common threats. And terrorism and evil are common threats to both our governments, and will be tomorrow, as well as today, unless we do something about it now. And that's exactly what we're doing.

Yes, ma'am. Ask the President a question. The other one.

Women's Rights

Student. We, as women in America, are very appreciative of all the rights we have. So, with the fall of the Taliban Government, how do you think that women's rights will affect Afghanistan?

President Bush. How do I think what?

Q. How do you think the fall of the Taliban Government will affect women's rights?

President Bush. Yes, I appreciate that. I'm going to answer it quickly, and then I want Vladimir to discuss that. He knows about women's rights and the importance of them because he's raising two teenage daughters. [*Laughter*] He and I share something in common.

I'll tell you an interesting story, and then I'm going to let him speak about it. First of all, there's no question the Taliban is the most repressive, backward group of people we have seen on the face of the Earth in a long period of time, including and particularly how they treat women. But President Putin, I think it would be interesting for him to discuss the concept of women's rights inside of Russia and his vision of how Afghanistan treats women. But I'll tell you an interesting story.

So, we are getting ready to have the first press conference we had together in Slovenia. And by the way, there was, I think, a thousand reporters there—it seemed like a thousand. [*Laughter*] And we were walking in. I said, "Say, I understand you've got two daughters." He said, "Yes." He said, "They're teenagers." I said, "I've been through that myself." [*Laughter*] I said, "Who did you name them for?" He said, "Well, we named them for our mothers, my mother and my mother-in-law." I said, "That's interesting. That's exactly what Laura and I did, too. We named our girls for our—my mother and Laura's mom." And I said, "Gosh, the thing I want most in life is for those girls to be able to grow up in a free world and prosper and realize their dreams." He said, "That's exactly what I hope, as well."

There's a lot in common, even though—between our countries, even though it's a long way away. And it all starts with the human element, the thing that matters most in life, and that is our faiths and our families and our respective loves as dads for our daughters.

But anyway, I think it would be appropriate for President Putin to talk about women in Russia and his keen desire, like mine, to free the women of Afghanistan, as well.

President Putin. I do agree with the President that, indeed, such a problem does exist in the world. And in Afghanistan this phenomenon has taken an extreme form, and the disrespect of human rights has acquired extreme dimensions. Overall, women in Afghanistan are basically not treated as people.

And the testimony of the people's attitude towards this problem, this issue in Afghanistan is, in the liberated areas, people burn their veils, or as they're called, *chadors*. This is the testimony of the attitude of the people to this in Afghanistan.

In many countries of the world, especially in the poor countries, this problem exists and has acquired quite dramatic dimensions. To overcome this, one needs to develop specific gender-oriented programs that would include, primarily and first of all, questions related to proper education for women. And I would like to reiterate, there are many programs and many people devoted to implementing such specific, special activities for the benefit of women.

And we should not allow any atrocities or violations of human rights to happen. But what we should avoid in the course of the implementation of such programs, and as an end result of their implementation, is that a lady would turn into a man. [*Laughter*]

Future of Afghanistan

Student. [*Inaudible*]—I'm a senior. At the end of the war, do you foresee the United States and Russia being involved in the new implementation of a government in Afghanistan?

President Bush. I do. I think—and it started yesterday, in my house in Crawford, where the President and I had a very long discussion about how to make sure that the post-Taliban Afghanistan accomplish some certain objectives: one, that it be a peaceful neighbor to everybody in the region; secondly, that it never harbor and serve as a training ground for terrorism again; and third, that it be a country that doesn't export drugs. I don't know if you know this or not, but the Taliban Government and Al Qaida—the evil ones—use heroin trafficking in order to fund their murder. And one of our objectives is to make sure that Afghanistan is never used for that purpose again.

And so we had a long discussion about a post-Taliban Afghanistan. The President understands, like I do, that any government, in order for it to achieve its objectives, must represent all the interests in Afghanistan—not only the Northern Alliance, which has been very effective fighters on the ground, but also the Pashtun tribes, which are generally in the southern part of the country. And we are working to figure out a strategy to make sure that that happens.

There's three phases to this battle in Afghanistan: One is bringing Al Qaida to justice, and we will not stop until we do that—that's what people need to know. Secondly is to make sure that the good hearts of the American people and the Russian people, and people all over the world, are affected. By that I mean that we get the aid to the starving folks in Afghanistan.

By the way, they were starving prior to September the 11th, because of the Taliban Government's neglect. And we're doing everything we can to make sure we get food and medicine into the regions. Part of the problem has been the Taliban. They've been stopping the shipments of food, believe it or not. It won't surprise the President, because he understands how evil they are. We're just learning how evil they are in America.

The other problem is to make sure that the distribution lines are now open, so that we can get food not only from places like Mazar-e-Sharif, that we have now liberated, but from there into the remote regions of northern Afghanistan, in particular. It's important that we do that. And so we're working hard to make sure that we accomplish that mission.

And the third objective is to make sure that, after we leave, that there is a stable government. As part of the way we built our coalition was to assure Russia—who has got a particular interest in this part of the world—and other countries that we weren't just going to come and achieve a military objective and disappear. We were going to come achieve a military objective, but also help this country become a reasonable partner in the world, a country that's able to foster peace and prosperity for its citizens. And that's an important part of this campaign. It's important.

It's also important that we stay the course and be strong, because the stronger we are as a coalition, the stronger we are in achieving our objective, it is less likely somebody else is going to try to harbor a terrorist. Our objective is not just Al Qaida and Afghanistan. Our objective is to root out terrorism wherever it may hide, wherever it may exist, so the world can be more free. And that's a common objective of the President and mine.

You've got a question for the President? We just call him "Red." [*Laughter*]

Student. My name is Danny White, and I'm a senior.

President Bush. Danny White or Danny Red? [*Laughter*]

Student. Danny White.

President Bush. Oh, Danny White.

Nuclear Weapons Reduction

Student. You say that we've reached an agreement to declare to reduce our nuclear weapons. In reducing our nuclear weapons, are we talking about de-alerting them and taking them off of alert status? Or are we actually talking about taking apart the warheads and destroying the weapon?

President Bush. We are talking about reducing and destroying the number of warheads to get down to specific levels, from significantly higher levels today to significantly lower levels tomorrow. And, as well, most of our weapons are de-alerted. They're not on alert. However, it doesn't take them long to fire up, if we need them. Our mission is to make sure we never need them on each other. We need to get beyond the notion that in order to keep the peace, we've got to destroy each other. That's an old way of thinking. Now we're working together to figure out ways to address the new threats of the 21st century.

I would like for the President to address that, as well.

President Putin. First of all, I would like to say that it gives me great pleasure to be here in this room. And it's not quite clear for me whether I am here in the school or at NASA. [*Laughter*] Looking at the questions of the 12th graders, it comes to my mind that everything is fine with this Nation and in this school.

President Bush. That's right.

President Putin. There indeed exists a number of scenarios of behavior in this situation. And the question was quite professionally put, mind you. You can just dismantle the warheads and rest them by the weapons, and to preserve the so-called strike-back capability, in order to be able to retaliate. But one may, on the other hand, destroy the arsenal. What do we do with those arsenals is subject to negotiations, with the result of those negotiations depending on the level of trust between the United States and Russia.

Yesterday we tasted steak and listened to music, and all of this with a single purpose and objective, to increase the level of confidence between the leaders and the people. And if we are to follow this road further, we will certainly arrive at a solution, decision acceptable both to Russia, to the United States, and indeed to the entire world.

Advice to Youth

Student. My name is Alicia Stanford. I'm a senior. As we go out into the world, do you have any advice for us?

President Bush. Yes, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] I do. I think, follow your dreams, would be my advice. Work hard; make the right choices, and follow your dreams. The other thing is, you never know where life is going to take you. I can assure you, when I was a senior in high school, I never sat in an audience saying, "Gosh, if I work hard, I'll be President of the United States." [*Laughter*] Didn't exactly fit into my vocabulary in those days. [*Laughter*] But you never know. You never know. Trust the Lord, too.

Visit of President Putin

Student. Did President Putin like the barbecue last night?

President Bush. Ask him. [*Laughter*]

President Putin. Just I had a hard time imagining how could a living person create such a masterpiece of cooking, a fantastic meal. And when I said so to the President, he said, "Indeed, this cannot be done except for in Texas." [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I think, Mr. President, we ought to ask one of the Russian high school students for a question. Please.

Student. My name is Maria Vasulkova.

President Bush. How old are you?

Russian-U.S. Economic Relations

Student. Eighteen. What do you think, how are the improved relations between the two countries would influence the Russian economy and the future prospects for the entire world? In general, what do you think of this?

President Putin. Russia has changed greatly recently. And today, the Russian economy is on the rise. The growth rates are considerably higher than the average for the world. Last year the growth rate was about 8.3 percent; this year we're expecting the growth rates close to 6 percent.

I would like to say that, unlike other economic negotiations and negotiators, Russia is not seeking and is not expecting any preferences or any free-buys. We even pay—return the debts of Russia to the international financial institutions ahead of schedule. Russia needs only one thing to develop normally. We need normal standards, conditions, and relations with all the leading economies of

the world, and primarily with the United States. And we have to get rid of the ideological barricades of the preceding decades. And the President is helping.

President Bush. Let me tell you an interesting story. We've sent teams of our economic people over to Russia. And Don Evans, who is a Texan, from Midland, Texas, who is now the Secretary of Commerce, came back and told me about an encounter her had. He met a guy, a young man in Russia who told him that 5 years ago he was really not a business guy, but he had a dream, and he realized that he could buy bread in Moscow and transport it to St. Petersburg, and make a little profit, which was a pretty new concept for the Russian Federation.

And as a result of working hard and having an environment which President Putin is working hard to create, which is an environment where there is a tax system that's fair—and, by the way, they've got a flat tax in Russia. [*Laughter*] He built his own business. He now owns a grocery-store-type business.

To me, that's an example of where the reforms that the President is putting in place are making sense, where people can own something—own their own business, own their own land, own the opportunity, if you work hard, to be able to have a future that you dream about. And the President understands that.

Our job as a country is to help where asked. If there's ways that we can work together for our mutual interest, we will do so. And so one of the areas where I think the average Russian will realize that the stereotypes of America have changed is that it's a spirit of cooperation, not one-upmanship; that we now understand one plus one can equal three, as opposed to us and Russia we hope to be zero. It's just a different attitude in a different era. It's time to get the past behind us, and it's time to move forward. And that's exactly why we're here in Crawford, to show the world we are moving forward.

A couple more questions, then I've got to go have lunch, and so does the President. Back there in the back.

National Missile Defense

Student. My name is Sean Law. I was wondering if you've come to a conclusion about whether or not to deploy a national missile defense system?

President Bush. Are you with the national press corps or—[*laughter*]? I noticed my friends in the national press corps are giving you a thumbs-up. [*Laughter*] Oh, you're a debater. That's okay, then. [*Laughter*]

This is an area that we've had a lot of discussions about. As you might remember, in the Presidential campaign I said, in very plain terms, that I felt the ABM Treaty signed in 1972 is outdated, that the treaty was signed during a period of time when we really hated each other, and we no longer hate each other; that I view the treaty as something we need to move beyond.

And I made this very clear to the President. He understands our position, that it is in our Nation's interest and, I think, in his nation's interest and other peaceful nations' interest to be able to explore the ability—to determine whether or not we can be able to deploy defensive systems to prevent people who might have weapons of mass destruction from hurting us or holding us hostage or being able to blackmail free nations.

He'll be glad to give you his position. We have a difference of opinion. But the great thing about our relationship is, our relationship is strong enough to endure this difference of opinion. And that's the positive development. We've found many areas in which we can cooperate, and we've found some areas where we disagree. But nevertheless, our disagreements will not divide us as nations that need to combine to make the world more peaceful and more prosperous.

So, Mr. President, if you'd like to address defenses, you're welcome to.

President Putin. I feel that time was not wasting by coming here. [*Laughter*] The President told me that we'll just limit ourselves to generalities, but he was mistaken. [*Laughter*] You are applauding yourselves. [*Laughter*]

Our objective is a common both for the United States and for Russia. The objective is to achieve security for our states, for our nations, and for the entire world. We share

the concerns of the President of the United States to the fact that we must think of the future threats. And here is a common ground for our further discussions.

What we differ in is that we differ in the ways and means we perceive that are suitable for reaching the same objective. And given the nature of the relationship between the United States and Russia, one can rest assured that whatever final solution is found, it will not threaten or put to threat the interests of both our countries and of the world. And we shall continue our discussions.

President Bush. This is the last question, and then what we're going to do is, we're going to walk around and say hello to everybody, and then we're going to go back to the ranch.

Yes, ma'am.

Student. My name is Judy Swinson, and I'm in seventh grade.

President Bush. Seventh grade. Good.

Future Visit to Russia

Student. And if you do go to Russia, are you going to be taking some kids from Crawford? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. No. [*Laughter*]

President Putin. I am extremely grateful for this question. The whole audience basically started on this note, and you finalized the whole thing with your question. [*Laughter*] This is not a mere coincidence, I believe. On our way here, the President invited to come here when it's plus-40 Celsius, more than 110, and he invited me to join a plus-40 club who jog when it is 110 and more. [*Laughter*] Well, I'll think about it. [*Laughter*]

Indeed, in our country, there are regions where people live, by the way, in Siberia, where for one—last year, for 2 weeks in a row, the temperatures were about around or below minus-50 Celsius—for 2 weeks running. My promise is, I will not terrorize your President with such low temperatures—[*laughter*]—and would be glad to see any of you present here in Russia.

But first of all, I would like to address here at this juncture our hosts, the schoolchildren, the young audience here. At the count of three, those who want your President to come to Russia, raise your hands and say, yes.

One, two——

Audience members. Yes!

President Bush. Thank you all. Very good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to President Putin's daughters, Masha and Katya; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Congressional Action on Aviation Security Legislation

November 15, 2001

I commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement that puts the Federal Government in charge of aviation security, making airline travel safer for the American people.

This agreement improves upon the Senate-passed legislation in several important ways, including putting responsibility for all modes of transportation security at the Department of Transportation, where it belongs. Today's agreement also gives the Federal Government the flexibility to ensure a safe transition to a new aviation security system and will ultimately offer local authorities an option to employ the highest quality workforce—public or private. In addition, the compromise will help ensure security by requiring that all screeners be U.S. citizens and by guaranteeing the screening of all checked bags.

Safety comes first. And when it comes to safety, we will set high standards and enforce them. I congratulate the conferees and look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

November 15, 2001

As the new moon signals the holy month of Ramadan, I extend warm greetings to Muslims throughout the United States and

around the world. The Islam that we know is a faith devoted to the worship of one God, as revealed through The Holy Qu'ran. It teaches the value and importance of charity, mercy, and peace. And it is one of the fastest growing religions in America, with millions of American believers today.

The American Muslim community is as varied as the many Muslim communities across the world. Muslims from diverse backgrounds pray together in mosques all across our great land. And American Muslims serve in every walk of life, including our armed forces.

The Holy Qu'ran says: "Piety does not lie in turning your face to the East or West. Piety lies in believing in God." (2:177). Americans now have turned to acts of charity, sending relief to the Afghan people, who have suffered for so many years. America is proud to play a leading role in the humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan, through airdrops and truck convoys of food, medicine, and other much-needed supplies. And today we are committed to working for the long-term reconstruction of that troubled land.

We send our sincerest wishes to Muslims in America and around the world for health, prosperity, and happiness during Ramadan and throughout the coming year.

Proclamation 7503—America Recycles Day, 2001

November 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We must preserve our natural heritage by serving as good stewards of our land. Recycling helps to serve this important function by conserving our natural resources as we reuse them where we can. Recycling safeguards our environment and helps keep America beautiful for present and future generations.

The United States generates more than 230 million tons of municipal solid waste every year, which amounts to four and a half pounds of trash per person per day. However, thanks to the efforts of the American people, we are now recovering more than 64 million tons of usable material annually, and that rate has doubled since 1990.

Successful recycling includes not only the collection of materials, but also the manufacture of new products and the purchase of recycled content products. Buying products made of recycled materials contributes to domestic energy conservation and ultimately, a cleaner environment. For example, recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television set for three hours. Recycling a ton of glass saves the equivalent of 9 gallons of fuel oil, and recycling solid waste prevents the release of 37 million tons of carbon into the air—roughly the amount emitted annually by 28 million cars.

As more products made with recycled materials reach the marketplace, individual consumers, corporations, and Federal agencies are purchasing these goods as cost-effective and responsible business solutions. Such items may range from recycled content paper, retread tires, and re-refined oil, to concrete and insulation containing recycled materials.

Our Nation is making great progress by recycling, but we can and must do better. America Recycles Day 2001 represents a partnership among Government, industry, and environmental organizations to promote recycling and to encourage the participation of all our citizens. As part of the event, the Federal Government hosted a poster contest for the children of Federal employees to help raise awareness in the Government, and across the Nation, of the need to continue protecting the environment by recycling. All Americans can help "Close the Recycling Circle," by recycling products in our homes, schools, offices, and communities, and also by purchasing products made from recycled materials. These recycling and remanufacturing activities help conserve resources and also stimulate our economy by creating jobs and revenue.

Last year, more than 3 million people in all 50 States and 2 U.S. territories committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle more and to buy recycled products. For America Recycles

Day 2001, I encourage all Americans to build on these achievements by recycling and by purchasing and using products made from recycled materials. These responsible actions can help protect our environment and conserve natural resources for the benefit of all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2001, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Revision of the United States Arctic Research Plan

November 15, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the seventh biennial revision (2002–2006) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 15, 2001.

Proclamation 7504—Thanksgiving Day, 2001

November 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly half a century ago, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed Thanksgiving as a time when Americans should celebrate "the plentiful yield of our soil . . . the beauty of our land . . . the preservation of those ideals of liberty and justice that form the basis of our national life, and the hope of international peace." Now, in the painful aftermath of the September 11 attacks and in the midst of our resolute war on terrorism, President Eisenhower's hopeful words point us to our collective obligation to defend the enduring principles of freedom that form the foundation of our Republic.

During these extraordinary times, we find particular assurance from our Thanksgiving tradition, which reminds us that we, as a people and individually, always have reason to hope and trust in God, despite great adversity. In 1621 in New England, the Pilgrims gave thanks to God, in whom they placed their hope, even though a bitter winter had taken many of their brethren. In the winter of 1777, General George Washington and his army, having just suffered great misfortune, stopped near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to give thanks to God. And there, in the throes of great difficulty, they found the hope they needed to persevere. That hope in freedom eventually inspired them to victory.

In 1789, President Washington, recollecting the countless blessings for which our new Nation should give thanks, declared the first National Day of Thanksgiving. And decades later, with the Nation embroiled in a bloody civil war, President Abraham Lincoln revived what is now an annual tradition of issuing a presidential proclamation of Thanksgiving. President Lincoln asked God to "heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and Union."

As we recover from the terrible tragedies of September 11, Americans of every belief

and heritage give thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy as a free, faithful, and fair-minded land. Let us particularly give thanks for the selfless sacrifices of those who responded in service to others after the terrorist attacks, setting aside their own safety as they reached out to help their neighbors. Let us also give thanks for our leaders at every level who have planned and coordinated the myriad of responses needed to address this unprecedented national crisis. And let us give thanks for the millions of people of faith who have opened their hearts to those in need with love and prayer, bringing us a deeper unity and stronger resolve.

In thankfulness and humility, we acknowledge, especially now, our dependence on One greater than ourselves. On this day of Thanksgiving, let our thanksgiving be revealed in the compassionate support we render to our fellow citizens who are grieving unimaginable loss; and let us reach out with care to those in need of food, shelter, and words of hope. May Almighty God, who is our refuge and our strength in this time of trouble, watch over our homeland, protect us, and grant us patience, resolve, and wisdom in all that is to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 22, 2001, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage Americans to assemble in their homes, places of worship, or community centers to reinforce ties of family and community, express our profound thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, and reach out in true gratitude and friendship to our friends around the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:18 a.m., November 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

Executive Order 13235—National Emergency Construction Authority

November 16, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I declared a national emergency that requires the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, by Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, because of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and because of the continuing and immediate threat to the national security of the United States of further terrorist attacks. To provide additional authority to the Department of Defense to respond to that threat, and in accordance with section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), I hereby order that the emergency construction authority at 10 U.S.C. 2808 is invoked and made available in accordance with its terms to the Secretary of Defense and, at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, to the Secretaries of the military departments.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 16, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:37 a.m., November 19, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 10

In the morning, the President traveled to New York City, NY.

November 11

In the morning, the President met separately in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, President Andres Pastrana of Colombia, and President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel with Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg of New York City. Later, he went to the site of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center to attend a ceremony honoring victims of those attacks. He then returned to Washington, DC.

November 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with President Jiang Zemin of China to congratulate him on China's accession to the World Trade Organization. He also met in the Oval Office with the Congressional Domestic Consequences Committee to discuss economic stimulus and aviation security legislation.

Later in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council in the Situation Room at the White House. During the meeting, the President received notice of the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 in Queens, NY. He then had telephone conversations with Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York to express his condolences and to inform them of Federal response efforts.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

November 13

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 14

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council by teleconference from the Bush Ranch.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner at the Bush Ranch for President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr., to be Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sean O'Keefe to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Southard Bryson to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vickers B. Meadows to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: John Willard Johnson, Jan Donnelly O'Neill, Donald Edward Vermeil, and Steven Joel Uhlfelder.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jennifer Cabranes Braceras as a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

November 15

The President announced his intention to nominate Randal Quarles to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 15

Michael A. Battle,
of New York, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York for a term of 4 years, vice Denise E. O'Donnell, resigned.

Beverly Cook,
of Idaho, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environment, Safety and Health), vice David Michaels, resigned.

Arthur E. Dewey,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration), vice Julia Taft.

J. Paul Gilman,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Norine E. Noonan, resigned.

Louis Kincannon,
of Virginia, to be Director of the Census, vice Kenneth Prewitt, resigned.

Edward Kingman, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, vice Lisa Gayle Ross, resigned.

Edward Kingman, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Lisa Gayle Ross, resigned.

Vickers B. Meadows,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Marilyn A. Davis.

Melanie Sabelhaus,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, vice Fred P. Hochberg.

Morris X. Winn,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., resigned.

Withdrawn November 15

Shirlee Bowne,
of Florida, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2004, vice J. Timothy O'Neill, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 14, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 13

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2925 on November 12

Fact sheet: New Strategic Framework with Russia

Fact sheet: Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue

Fact sheet: U.S. Government Nonproliferation and Threat Reduction Assistance to the Russian Federation

Fact sheet: Russian WTO Accession

Fact sheet: Russia and Counternarcotics

Fact sheet: Sakhalin I Project

Fact sheet: Caspian Pipeline Consortium

Fact sheet: Jackson-Vanik and Russia

Fact sheet: Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of the United States Activity in Russia

Fact sheet: Russian-American Banking Dialog

Fact sheet: Russia Small Business Fund (RSBF) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Fact sheet: Export-Import Bank of the United States in Russia

Fact sheet: Joint Statement on Cooperation Against Bioterrorism

Released November 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by the Vice President to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Released November 15

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action on economic legislation

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge on homeland security

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the visit of President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Transcript of an interview of the Vice President by the BBC

Announcement of nomination for a U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York

Released November 16

Transcript of remarks by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to the Fletcher Conference

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 12

H.R. 2311 / Public Law 107–66
Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2590 / Public Law 107–67
Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2647 / Public Law 107–68
Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes

H.R. 2925 / Public Law 107–69
To amend the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 in order to provide for the security of dams, facilities, and resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation

Remarks on Signing the Aviation and Transportation Security Act

November 19, 2001

Thank you all very much. Today we take permanent and aggressive steps to improve the security of our airways. The events of September the 11th were a call to action. And the Congress has now responded.

The law I will sign should give all Americans greater confidence when they fly. All Members of Congress care deeply about this issue. Despite divergent views, the Congress worked closely with my administration to develop a bipartisan conclusion that will help protect American air travelers.

I want to thank the House and Senate leadership for their patience in this issue. I want to thank the Speaker and the minority leader; the leader of the Senate, Senator Lott; for working hard to make sure this bill came to fruition.

I also want to thank Chairman Don Young and John Mica and Jim Oberstar who have joined us today from the House. I want to thank you for your hard work. And I want to thank Members of the United States Senate: Chairman Hollings and John McCain and Kay Bailey Hutchison for their hard work.

I appreciate so very much the Secretary of Transportation and his steadiness and his ability to bring confidence to the process. I picked a good man in Norm Mineta, who is rising to the occasion.

I also want to thank his deputy, Michael Jackson, for his hard work. As well, I appreciate Jane Garvey joining us up here today. I see other Members of Congress who are here. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you doing the right thing for America.

I also want to thank the pilots and flight attendants and the people of the airline industry who have joined us today. I want to thank you for your courage in the face of terror. I want to thank you for inspiring confidence amongst the American people.

The broad support for this bill shows that our country is united in this crisis. We have our political differences, but we're united to defend our country. And we're united to protect our people. For our airways, there is one supreme priority: security.

Since September the 11th, the Federal Government has taken action to raise safety standards. We've made funds available to the aviation industry to fortify cockpits. More Federal air marshals now ride on our airplanes. The Department of Transportation instituted a zero-tolerance crackdown on security breaches.

Our National Guard protects us in our airports. And I want to thank the National Guards men and women who will be working the holiday season. I want to thank them for being away from their families, thank them for providing more security for people who travel.

I appreciate the work the airlines have done with the Federal Aviation Administration. The airlines have started intense nighttime security sweeps of aircraft. They've tightened background checks for employees and implemented nondiscriminatory government-approved criterion for identifying passengers who require additional security.

Now, we take the next important step. For the first time, airport security will become a direct Federal responsibility overseen by a new Under Secretary of Transportation for Security. Additional funds will be provided for Federal air marshals, and a new team of Federal security managers, supervisors, law enforcement officers, and screeners will ensure all passengers and carry-on bags are inspected thoroughly and effectively. The new security force will be well trained, made up of U.S. citizens. And if any of its members do not perform, the new Under Secretary will have full authority to discipline or remove them.

At the same time, we will adopt strict new requirements to screen checked baggage, to tighten security in all other areas of airports, and to provide greater security for travelers by bus and by train. This bill sets a one-year deadline for the transition to the new system. It gives my administration the flexibility we need to make that transition work.

Ultimately, this bill offers local authorities the option to bring in outside experts—a method that's worked well in Israel and Western Europe—provided those outside experts can meet our rigorous new safety standards and requirements.

Security comes first. The Federal Government will set high standards, and we will enforce them. These have been difficult days for Americans who fly and for American aviation. A proud industry has been hit hard. But this Nation has seen the dedication and spirit of our pilots and flightcrews and the hundreds of thousands of hard-working people who keep America flying. We know they will endure. I'm confident this industry will grow and prosper.

The holidays will soon be here. Even after the last few months, we have much to be thankful for. We have a great country. We're a great people. We have our faith, our families, and our friends. And, thanks to this bill, we have a new commitment to security in the air. And that's good news, as Americans travel to celebrate this season with their loved ones.

It is now my honor to sign this important piece of legislation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the lobby of Terminal A at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. S. 1447, approved November 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107–71.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 19, 2001

Thank you all. Please be seated. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. I'm not going to speak too long, because our guest of honor looks a little nervous. Nobody's told him yet that I'm going to give him a pardon.

We're especially glad that so many of the young can come today. Thank you all for being here. In a few moments, you can come up and pet the turkey if you want to.

Nick Weaver and Stuart Proctor of the National Turkey Foundation are here, and I want to thank you both for being here—honored you're here. Actually, you probably don't know this, but there were two turkeys brought to Washington for this occasion. By custom, an alternate is always on hand to fill in if needed.

This one right here—his name is Liberty. And the other turkey, the alternate, his name is Freedom. Now, Freedom is not here because he's in a secure and undisclosed location. [*Laughter*]

This White House tradition dates back to Abraham Lincoln. Probably what you don't know is that Abraham Lincoln had a son named Tad who kept a turkey as a pet. I thought about trying to keep the turkey as a pet, but I don't think the two dogs and the cat would like it.

From our very beginnings, gratitude has been a part of our national character. Through the generations, our country has known its share of hardships. And we've been through some tough times, some testing moments during the last months. Yet, we've never lost sight of the blessings around us: the freedoms we enjoy, the people we love, and the many gifts of our prosperous land.

On this holiday, we give thanks for our many blessings and for life itself. Thanksgiving reminds us that the greatest gifts don't come from the hands of man, but from the Maker of heaven and Earth.

This week American families will gather in that spirit. We will remember, too, those who approach the holidays with a burden of sadness. We think especially of families that recently lost loved ones and of our men and women in the Armed Forces serving far away from home.

This is a Nation of many faiths. And this holiday season we'll all be joined in prayer that those who mourn will find comfort, that those in dangers will find protection, and that God will continue to watch over the land we love.

I now have the duty of ending the suspense of our feathery guest. For this turkey and

his traveling companion, this will not be their last Thanksgiving. They will live out their days in comfort and care of Kidwell Farm of Herndon, Virginia. By virtue of an unconditional Presidential pardon, they are safe from harm.

May God continue to bless America, and I hope everybody has a happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for coming. We'll go over and see the turkey.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:48 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nick Weaver, chairman, and Stuart Proctor, Jr., president, National Turkey Federation.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

November 19, 2001

Operation Enduring Freedom

The President. We just had a very productive Cabinet meeting. We discussed a variety of subjects, spent a fair amount of time on the war and the progress we're making in Afghanistan. We have made great progress there, but there's still a lot of work to do. And the degree of difficulty is increasing as we work hard to achieve our objectives, not the least of which is to bring the Al Qaida to justice.

They're running, and they're trying to hide, and we're in pursuit. And we will stay the course until we bring them to justice. The American people must know it may take longer than some anticipate. They also need to know that we're a very patient group.

Secondly, we've been briefed by Andrew Natsios of the USAID about the humanitarian aid mission. And that, too, is a tough mission. There are millions of Afghans who were starving prior to September the 11th as a result of drought. Obviously, to complicate matters, there has been a war in that land. And yet, this good Nation is doing everything we can to move enormous amounts of food into the areas where people are likely to starve. I'm talking about thousands of tons, metric tons, of food. There are over 2,000 trucks now in place that are able to move more freely now that the Northern Alliance and our military have liberated the northern part of Afghanistan, where the starvation is most likely to occur.

And so we've had a great discussion. And I'm proud of the way our Cabinet has been performing during these very difficult periods.

I'd be glad to answer a few questions. John [John Roberts, CBS News], have you got one?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, your Secretary of State a little while ago said that he would use U.S. influence to try to bring the two sides together and forge a Middle East peace. Wouldn't it be swifter, sir, if you used the power of your office to do it personally, by meeting with these individuals? And at what point would you do that?

The President. Well, John, first of all, this administration has been working the Middle East ever since we came into office. I've been on the phone with the Prime Minister of Israel, our longtime friend, a lot, as has the Secretary of State. We've been dealing with the Europeans—all kinds of people are interested in the Middle East—reminding them that it takes willing parties. It takes—people must say that they want to work for peace.

And so our objective is to convince both parties to make a conscious decision to come to the peace table. And when they do so, we're more than willing to help. But first things first—is to convince the parties that peace is necessary.

It also is important for us to remind Mr. Arafat that in order for the peace discussions to begin, that the level of violence must substantially be reduced. And so we're working hard with not only the Palestinians but as well as with others who have an interest in the area to work to reduce violence, so that peace discussions can begin in relative security.

Our mind is, of course, on the war in Afghanistan, but it hasn't diverted our attention away from the need to work hard to bring peace to the Middle East. And we would hope to be able to do so.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports out of Afghanistan that the U.S. military knows or thinks they know where bin Laden might be. Does that mean——

The President. I certainly hope so.

Q. Does that mean the fellow to your left knows? And how soon might America see bin Laden——

The President. Listen, if our military knew where Mr. bin Laden was, he would be brought to justice. We're hunting him down. He runs, and he hides. But as we've said repeatedly, the noose is beginning to narrow; the net is getting tighter. But this is a difficult assignment. Things happened very quickly in Afghanistan recently, as—went to show that our strategy was a well-thought-out strategy. But the objective is yet to be achieved, and we're not leaving until we do achieve the objective.

And the Secretary of Defense and General Tommy Franks, who is doing a magnificent job, understand the objective. We talk about it every single morning. And we will achieve the objective. But I've told the American people right from the get-go of this effort: It may take a month; it may take a year; or however long it takes, we'll succeed.

Economic Stimulus Legislation

Q. Sir, what can you do personally to jumpstart negotiations further on an economic stimulus package? And do you still need one?

The President. Well, I think we need an economic stimulus package. I've said so from the beginning. I'll be meeting a week from tomorrow with the leadership of the Senate and the House and urge the Senators to bring a bill to the floor and get it into conference, so we can resolve whatever differences there may be.

There was a period of time when people said we'd never get an airline security bill. And after a lot of hours of hard work, we got a good bill, which I signed today. And I hope I'll be able to sign an economic stimulus package; I think I will be able to do so. But it's going to require the Senators to come together and move a bill, and then we can reconcile the differences with the House version.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, you just said the noose is getting tighter. Without compromising the search, do you have evidence you're getting closer to bin Laden?

The President. Well, it's going to be hard for me to tell you that without compromising the search, except I can point to the map of Afghanistan where more and more territory are now in friendly hands. And the people of Afghanistan understand what Al Qaida and the Taliban Government have meant to their ordinary lives. Women are treated lower than low. There's no respect for human life. There's jubilation in the cities that we have liberated. And the sooner Al Qaida is brought to justice, the sooner Afghanistan will return to normal. People understand that.

And so we've got—let me put it to you this way—the more territory we gain, the more success there is on the ground, the more people we've got looking to help us in our mission. The Secretary of Defense is doing everything he can, as are our military, to bring these people to justice, and we will.

Press Assistant Reed Dickens. Thank you all. Lights. Thank you all.

The President. Go ahead, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Military Order

Q. On the subject of justice, what do you say to the Members of Congress and people in law schools and civil liberties——

The President. On what subject?

Q. On justice, that your order establishing military——

The President. Yes.

Q. ——to try terrorists, they argue, represents a retreat or an abandonment of traditional American principles.

The President. I say it's the absolute right thing to do. And it is—to set up the option to use a military tribunal in the time of war makes a lot of sense. We're fighting a war, Terry, against the most evil kinds of people. And I need to have that extraordinary option at my fingertips. I ought to be able to have that option available should we ever bring one of these Al Qaida members in alive. It's

our national interests; it's our national security interests we have a military tribunal available. It is in the interests of the safety of potential jurors that we have a military tribunal.

These are extraordinary times. And I would remind those who don't understand the decision I made, that Franklin Roosevelt made the same decision in World War II. Those were extraordinary times, as well.

This Government will do everything we can to defend the American people within the confines of our Constitution. And that's exactly how we're proceeding. And so, to the critics, I say, I made the absolute right decision.

Press Assistant Reed Dickens. Thank you all.

[*At this point, the President turned toward Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.*]

The President. Do you know where Al Qaida is? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks at an Iftaar Dinner

November 19, 2001

Good evening, and welcome to the White House. I'm so honored to welcome such distinguished guests and ambassadors during the holy month of Ramadan.

America is made better by millions of Muslim citizens. America has close and important relations with many Islamic nations. So it is fitting for America to honor your friendship and the traditions of a great faith by hosting this Iftaar at the White House.

I want to thank our Secretary of State for being here, as well as members of my administration. I want to thank the Ambassadors for taking time in this holy month to come to join us in this feast.

Ramadan is a time of fasting and prayer for the Muslim faithful. So tonight we are reminded of God's greatness and His Commandments to live in peace and to help neighbors in need. According to Muslim teachings, God first revealed His word in the Holy Koran to the Prophet Muhammad during the month of Ramadan. That word has guided billions of believers across the centuries, and those believers built a culture of learning and literature and science.

All the world continues to benefit from this faith and its achievements. Ramadan and the upcoming holiday season are a good time for people of different faiths to learn more about each other. And the more we learn, the more we find that many commitments are broadly shared. We share a commitment to family, to protect and love our children. We share a belief in God's justice and man's moral responsibility. And we share the same hope for a future of peace. We have much in common and much to learn from one another.

This evening we gather in a spirit of peace and cooperation. I appreciate your support of our objectives in the campaign against terrorism. Tonight that campaign continues in Afghanistan, so that the people of Afghanistan will soon know peace. The terrorists have no home in any faith. Evil has no holy days.

This evening we also gather in the spirit of generosity and charity. As this feast breaks the Ramadan fast, America is also sharing our table with the people of Afghanistan. We are proud to play a leading role in humanitarian relief efforts, with airdrops and truck convoys of food and medicine. America's children are donating their dollars to the Afghan children. And my administration is committed to help reconstruct that country and to support a stable government that represents all of the people of Afghanistan.

We are working for more opportunity and a better life for the people of Afghanistan and all the people of the Islamic world. America respects people of all faiths, and America seeks peace with people of all faiths.

I thank you for your friendship, and I wish you a blessed Ramadan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:50 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Remarks at So Others Might Eat

November 20, 2001

Thank you. Mel, thank you very much. I appreciate your leadership; I appreciate your vision; and I appreciate your heart. Father Adams referred to Mel—Mel's rescue from Cuba. He came over in a program called Pedro Pan, Peter Pan. And it's when his mother and dad decided that life in Cuba would be rough on young people, and they had great faith in America and great faith in a program that encouraged them to put their little boy on an airplane, and he flew to America.

When we swore in Mel, I'll never forget meeting his adoptive parents that provided a loving home. Mel's a perfect choice to understand what a loving home means. He saw one in a foreign land that enabled him to go from scared little boy to now Secretary of HUD. It's a marvelous story about America. It also helps me to be able to assure people that the Secretary who runs HUD has got a heart of gold and a deep compassion about all Americans, those newly arrived as well as those who have been here for a long period of time. I'm honored that Mel has agreed to serve our Government. And I'm absolutely confident America and the needs of America will be more easily met as a result of his leadership.

Oftentimes, when I speak around the Nation, I talk about the great strength of the Nation lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. I was using military terms at times even before the war began. I talked about armies of compassion. I truly believe that's one of the wonderful strengths of America, that we've got armies of compassion all across our country.

And Father Adams is a general in the army of compassion. He won't admit it. He'll say he's a lowly foot soldier. [*Laughter*] But I saw the way he got people snapping to when it came time to introduce people in the kitchen. [*Laughter*] I see everybody with green aprons on. I suspect the general ordered that to be the case. But anyway—[*laughter*]—but I want to thank Father Adams and everybody else who works here for really bringing out the best in our country by helping people in need.

The other thing that I'm most impressed about the vision of Father Adams, besides being a social entrepreneur, somebody willing to think as aggressively as possible to help people in need, is that this is a program that attracts people from all faiths. That's important for the world to see, that our country is a country of a variety of faiths, that we respect other faiths, and that we're bound by some common principles: Love a neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself. That's common to faith.

Last night we had an Iftaar dinner at the White House. That's a part of breaking the fast of Ramadan. I wanted to assure people that there are common values, even though we may have different ways to worship God. This program shows those common values. A neighbor in need needs to be helped. We need to constantly figure out ways to reach out and help somebody who may not be as fortunate as we are.

And as we come into the holiday season, the Thanksgiving season, the traditional holiday seasons of our country, we must always remember there are people who hurt in our society. And we will always remember, with blessings come the responsibility to help those in need. And so that's why I've come to So Others Might Eat, to highlight the successful programs that do make a difference in people's lives and to thank people for their concern and care for our fellow Americans who are in need.

There's no question that our country has been deeply wounded. We were attacked. After all, we're never used to being attacked. Never did we dream—I certainly never dreamt that I'd be the President where there is a war on our homefront.

But the evildoers never really—they must have not known who they were attacking. [*Laughter*] They must have thought we were soft and hateful. In fact, the attacks have united our country, have rallied a nation. And out of evil will come good, and part of my purpose as the President is to remind people of the good that can come out of these attacks.

No question that the outpouring of support for—in the direct aftermath of the September 11th attack was astounding. People gave: They gave blood; they gave money; they

gave time to help. And that's great, and I want to thank those Americans who have helped.

But in order to make sure the homefront is secure, in order to make sure that we don't allow the terrorists to achieve any objective, Americans must give generously to programs like SOME, community-based programs that help make their neighborhoods a better place for all.

I have been disturbed by reports that charitable giving has dropped off. I hope Americans will not substitute the gifts they've given in the aftermath of September 11th for neighborhood groups such as SOME or mentoring programs or programs that understand that when you change a person's heart, you can change their life for the better, that faith is such an integral part of our society and faith is such an integral part of helping people help themselves, and that as we think about ways to recognize the true blessings we have in America, that we must never forget the food banks and the hungry and the poor, and that the most effective programs are those that have sprung from the hearts and souls of social entrepreneurs such as Father Adams.

And so, I hope America—I encourage America—that as we head into Thanksgiving, to find a program that needs help. Or, if you have been helping a program in the past, continue your help. The generosity of this country will say to the world that we're a nation that will not be affected by terror and evil; that, in fact, we encourage good to overcome evil through our actions and deeds, not just our bravado, not just our waving of flag but true actions and true compassionate acts of giving, in order to make sure this Nation remains whole and strong and complete.

Government's got a responsibility, as well. There is a role for the Federal Government in making sure that charitable organizations thrive and flourish. Today I am pleased to announce that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is distributing more than $1 billion this year in grants to community charities which serve the homeless. It is the largest such grant in the history of the country. It is a grant program that will help provide food and shelter, drug treatment, job training, and other vital services. It is a part of our Government's desire to support the armies of compassion. We don't want Government to take the good Father's place. We want the Government to stand side by side with the good people of SOME and programs like it all around the country.

We must also promote more private-sector giving, besides just words of encouragement. And so I want to make sure that the Tax Code is changed, and we've got time to do so with the Congress. I've been working closely with Joe Lieberman and Rick Santorum to say that you can deduct—nonitemizers can deduct charitable giving, or that out of your IRA you should be allowed to give gifts to charitable organizations. It is a wise use of the Tax Code to encourage more charitable giving to programs that are positively affecting people's lives, and I think we can get a bill out of Congress to do just that.

I know that the House has responded; J.C. Watts and Tony Hall, Republican and Democrat, work closely together. Lieberman and Santorum are doing the same thing. And so why doesn't Congress, in order to help fight poverty and fight hopelessness, do something smart with legislation and bring it to my desk so I can sign it before Christmas? [*Laughter*] It makes a lot of sense.

I think, as well, we ought to have a tax incentive for food donation. I know that we ought to create what's called a Compassion Capital Fund that will give community-based organizations needed resources and training. I suspect that if we have kind of a capital fund that will encourage people to duplicate that which works, there will be a lot of people coming here to SOME to see why this program is so successful. And I suspect the good Father will be willing to share with others from different communities as to how to make a program like this work.

And the Federal Government ought to be in the process of encouraging the formation of community-based programs, and to that end, we need to simplify the process by which community-based organizations gain tax-exempt status.

The mindset of the Federal Government has been that only Government-sponsored programs should receive Federal money.

That's not my attitude. My attitude is, Government should be nondiscriminatory about how we use taxpayers' money. We ought to ask the question, does the program work? And if faith is the integral part of a program being successful, the Government ought to say, "Hallelujah." We ought to say, "We welcome the good work of faith in our society." We ought not to fear it. We ought to welcome it and encourage it.

And so the faith-based initiative that has passed the House and, hopefully, will pass the Senate recognizes the great power of faith in our society and says that Government ought to encourage the social entrepreneurship that we find here at SOME, and Government ought to encourage the armies of compassion to flourish all around our neighborhoods, that Government ought to welcome faith and not shy away from it.

And as well as in this piece of legislation, we recognize there are some specific tasks that the social entrepreneurial system can deal with, such as a son or daughter of a person in prison. I can't think of anything more profound than to have a national mentoring program, where somebody whose dad or mother is in prison will have somebody put their arm around them and say, "I love you; somebody loves you in our society." There's nothing more profound for a child than to be surrounded by love and care and compassion. So part of this initiative is to encourage the funding of a national mentoring program aimed at some of the most vulnerable in our society—those whose mom or dad may be sitting in prison right now.

The fundamental question is, can America address these problems? And certainly, we can't address them with money alone. But as I'm sure Father Adams will testify, money can help. [*Laughter*] It's part of how a program succeeds. [*Laughter*]

And so, therefore, I ask Americans to dig a little deeper in their pocket. In the aftermath of the tragedy that so deeply affected our Nation, I ask the American people to understand that in order to make America whole, that programs such as SOME make an enormous difference in people's lives; that we are a blessed nation, and as we go into Thanksgiving we ought to thank God for our blessings—for our families, for our fantastic country, for the greatest country on the face of the Earth—we ought to thank Him for the protection that we've received since the attack, thank Him for our blessings, but at the same time seek ways to help, seek ways to help our fellow human, seek ways to save a heart, seek ways to save a soul.

I am so honored to be able to come to this program and highlight the great successes that can take place in neighborhoods when loving Americans come together with the singular purpose of helping a neighbor in need.

May God bless SOME. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:23 a.m. in the dining room at SOME's 71 O St. NW location. In his remarks, he referred to Father John Adams, executive director, So Others Might Eat.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines and an Exchange With Reporters

November 20, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the President of the Philippines here to the Oval Office. I had the honor of not only meeting the President but having a great discussion with her in Shanghai, China. She is a highly intelligent, dedicated public servant, to not only better the Philippines but to work with us to make the world more peaceful.

I could tell the first time I talked to her that we had a great ally and friend in our cause. And I look forward to having a good, long discussion today about how we can work together—how to work together more. We've been working together a lot. We've been sharing intelligence; we've been talking strategies.

The United States has got a very close relationship with the Philippines, and I intend to keep it that way. The Philippines have been great allies and friends for a long period of time, and it's in our national interests that we maintain a very close and strong relationship. And so I've really been looking forward to this visit.

I'm so honored for your strong support and for your able leadership. I want to welcome you to the Oval Office.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. Thank you. Thank you.

President Bush. You're welcome to say a few words, if you'd like.

President Macapagal-Arroyo. It's my honor to be here, and the occasion is the 50th anniversary of our mutual defense treaty between our two countries. And this treaty just demonstrates how we've been allies for so long: allies in the Second World War, allies in the cold war, allies in the Korean war, allies in the Vietnam war, and now allies in the war against terrorism.

We're allies, too, in the economic front. The U.S. is our number one trading partner; cumulatively, our number one source of investments. And the Filipinos who live in America are number one in income earning and also number one in education. They are 3 million, and 1.5 of them are voters—1.5 million. So I know that they are very happy about this partnership.

President Bush. Thank you, Madam President.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

White House Tours

Q. Mr. President, why is it okay for the American public to return to normal and fly and travel in this country, but it is not okay for public tours to enter the White House?

President Bush. Well, Laura and I regret that the public tours aren't going on. It's—particularly during the Christmas holiday season, I know a lot of Americans look forward to touring the White House during this period of time. But we're in extraordinary times, and as I said yesterday, evil knows no holiday; evil knows no—it doesn't welcome a Thanksgiving or Christmas season. And in these extraordinary times, we're taking extraordinary measures.

It is a further reason why we must continue to wage a diligent and consistent fight against terror and to rid the world of terror, to make our country safe so that we can have tours at the White House.

Abu Sayyaf Group

Q. Mr. President, we have advisers on the ground helping the Filipino Army in tracking down and getting rid of Abu Sayyaf. Are you prepared to go the next step, sir? Are you willing to put American combat troops on the ground there?

And President Arroyo, would your Constitution allow that?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I'm willing to listen to President Arroyo; I'm willing to work with her in any way that she wants to. We've had a discussion about Abu Sayyaf. She's got a clear vision about how to fight Abu Sayyaf, and I'll let her speak for herself. But the Philippines are a great ally. They're close friends, and we will cooperate in any way she suggests in getting rid of Abu Sayyaf.

Q. Including combat troops, sir?

President Bush. That's going to be up to the President. It's up to the President to make those decisions. I have asked her point-blank, what help does she need. She says she's got a great military, a competent military; she's confident that her military can deal with Abu Sayyaf. And for that I applaud her and will wish her all the best. And we want to help her military deal with them.

Q. My question was, would your Constitution allow U.S. ground troops to join in an active engagement against Abu Sayyaf?

President Macapagal-Arroyo. We would have to check that. But in any case, as President Bush said, we have a framework on how to fight the Abu Sayyaf, how to fight terrorism in the southwestern part of the Philippines. And the framework covers what we need in terms of diplomatic assistance, technical assistance, assistance in winning hearts and minds, and military assistance. We have advisers from the U.S.; we have equipment from the U.S. All of these are part of our mutual defense treaty.

It just so happens that now the mutual defense treaty facilities are being used in the fight against terrorism. But we've had this pattern for many years now, and I think the pattern is going very well as it is.

President Bush. Let me say something just in general. Your question points up what I have been saying, that the front against terror is not just in Afghanistan, that we're going to fight terror wherever it exists. And we will

work with our allies and friends to use whatever resources we have to win the war against terror.

President Arroyo understands now is the time to make a stand against terrorist activity, whether it be in Afghanistan or in the Philippines or anywhere else Al Qaida exists. Because if we don't make a stand now, our children and grandchildren will not be able to grow up in a free world.

And so we are looking for opportunities to help friends and allies strike Al Qaida wherever they exist. There's a lot of focus, of course, on Afghanistan these days, and I can understand why. But I want people in America to understand that, first of all, the theater in Afghanistan is entering a difficult period of time. We could be there for quite a while, which is fine because we've got an objective in mind, and we'll stay there until we get our objective. But there's going to be other fronts in this theater; there will be other places where we need to work to rout out Al Qaida and other terrorist organizations. And the President and I are going to have a good discussion, a continued discussion, about how we can help the Philippines.

Robert F. Kennedy Building Dedication/ Education Legislation

Q. Sir, later today you're going to the Justice Department for a ceremony renaming it for Mr. Kennedy.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Why now? And do you hope that you get some help with the education bill out of this? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, I'm not quite that devious. I made the decision to name the Justice Department building after Robert Kennedy because he is deserving—his memory is—and his family are such a great part of American history. He was a wonderful Attorney General, and I think it's fitting to do such. I'll get an education bill based on its merits, not based upon renaming a building for a great American.

Today, interestingly enough, is Robert Kennedy's birthday. And you said, why today? I think it's fitting that we name the building for him on his birthday.

I look forward to the event. Mrs. Kennedy will be there, as are a lot of the Kennedy family. Senator Kennedy will be there; I presume that's who you were referring to about the education bill. I think Senator Kennedy wants to get a bill to my desk, and I feel good that we'll get a bill to the desk here pretty soon.

One from the Philippine press. Excuse me.

Philippines-U.S. Relations

Q. Mrs. President, are you signing any agreement with President Bush regarding our security?

President Macapagal-Arroyo. No, no, we're not. What we're going to talk about is how we can make our partnership against terrorism—both terrorism in the world and terrorism in southern Philippines—more useful, more efficient.

Q. Could you, sir, give more—elaborate on the assistance that will be given to the Philippines?

President Bush. I think the Philippine Government will make that announcement when the President feels comfortable making the announcement. There's been a lot of discussions about military items, discussions about trade, discussions about enhanced commerce, and we look forward to listening to our close friend and ally in ways that we can help. We've got no better friend in that part of the world than the Philippines.

And as the President has said, there are a lot of proud Filipinos living in America. And one of the things that's going to happen after this meeting, she has graciously agreed to have her picture taken with Filipino-Americans working here in the White House. And I've got a confession to make—they're looking forward to having—they're more looking forward to having their picture taken with her than with me. [*Laughter*]

Filipino Veterans Equity Legislation

Q. Did you ask the U.S. President to support the veterans equity bill?

President Bush. The what bill?

Q. The Filipino veterans equity bill.

President Bush. Oh, the veterans security. She did bring up the issue. And she strongly brought it up, and she was an advocate for the Filipino veterans bill, which has been an issue around here for a long period of time.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Bush. Good question. I hope by December 1st.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Abu Sayyaf Group, Muslim separatists operating in the southern Philippines.

Joint Statement Between President George W. Bush and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines on the 50th Anniversary of the U.S.-Philippine Alliance

November 20, 2001

The United States and the Republic of the Philippines today commemorated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U.S.-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty, during the visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Washington, D.C.

On this historic occasion, the two Presidents reaffirmed that U.S.-Philippine relations are based on shared history, common values, a commitment to freedom and democracy, and vigorous economic ties. They observed that our alliance is an alliance between two peoples, with 120,000 Americans resident in the Philippines and over two million Americans of Filipino descent living in the United States. Presidents Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo asserted that the strong historical, cultural and personal links between the Philippine and American people will continue to keep our alliance strong and vital in a changing world.

In commemorating the anniversary, President Bush acknowledged the brave contribution that Filipino Veterans of World War II have made to freedom and democracy, and stated that he will carefully consider all legislative proposals to ensure the sacrifices of these veterans are recognized.

President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed that the Mutual Defense Treaty has been vital in advancing peace and stability in the Asia Pacific for the past half a century. They noted that the alliance remains a pillar of the U.S. security presence in Asia, which helps preserve a strategic balance that favors freedom and promotes prosperity throughout the region. The two leaders further agreed that the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, and the terrorist activities of the Abu Sayyaf Group or ASG (which now hold both Filipino and American hostages in the southern Philippines), underscore the urgency of ensuring that the two countries maintain a robust defense partnership into the 21st century.

To further this goal, the two leaders underscored their determination to strengthen their military alliance on a sustained basis, through increased training, exercises, and other joint activities. President Bush thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for her uncompromising leadership in the global campaign against terror and expressed deep appreciation for the moral support and assistance her government has provided the United States in its time of need. The two Presidents declared that the American and Filipino people stand together in the global campaign against terrorism. Noting that the future peace and prosperity of the world are at stake in the current conflict, both leaders renewed their commitment to the U.S.-Philippine alliance and expressed confidence that the international coalition will emerge victorious over the forces of terror.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines

November 20, 2001

President George W. Bush and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo today reaffirmed the strength and warmth of bilateral relations and commemorated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U.S.-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty. While celebrating the achievements of half a century of defense cooperation, the two Presidents agreed that the alliance remains vital to both nations, particularly in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

President Bush conveyed his deep appreciation for President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership in the fight against terror, both within the southern Philippines and against

international terrorist networks. He specifically noted with appreciation Philippine offers of logistical and other support to the coalition, as well as President Arroyo's efforts to forge a regional ASEAN approach to combating terror. President Bush also welcomed passage of new anti-money laundering legislation as a concrete step in the global effort against terrorism, and offered to provide technical assistance to help the Philippines effectively implement the new law. Emphasizing U.S. support for a strong, united ASEAN, President Bush further offered all appropriate assistance to help ASEAN improve its capacity to combat transnational threats, including terrorism and the illegal narcotics trade.

The two Presidents agreed that the war against terrorism should be fought in parallel with the war against poverty, and that the most effective and least-costly anti-poverty bilateral cooperation measure would be to work together to open markets worldwide. The two Presidents, therefore, resolved to work closely to expand trade bilaterally, regionally and globally, particularly in the context of the Doha Development Agenda. President Bush agreed to work with the United States Congress to provide the Philippines over $1 billion in Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits. He also noted that the growth rate of quotas of U.S. imports of textiles and apparel from the Philippines would increase by 27 percent beginning in January 2002, in accordance with U.S. commitments to the WTO. The two leaders directed their Trade Ministers to reinvigorate and convene the U.S.-Philippine Trade and Investment Council within the first half of 2002.

Some long-standing issues are being resolved even before these missions, including approval of Philippine mangos for export to the United States. USDA and the Philippine Department of Agriculture further signed a Memorandum of Agreement on November 19 to renew and expand activities involving wide-ranging scientific, technological, and agribusiness cooperation. USDA will make available guarantee programs of $150 million for U.S. agricultural exports and equipment to the Philippines that support the modernization of Philippine agriculture and fisheries. Arrangements are also being made to provide up to $40 million in PL–480 food aid for fiscal year 2002, subject to budget allocations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo emphasized her government's commitment to fight poverty, accelerate economic reform, enhance transparency and promote good governance. In support of these objectives, President Bush announced that in addition to assistance for Mindanao, he is seeking $29 million from Congress in fiscal year 2002 monies to support poverty alleviation, economic growth, and anti-corruption efforts throughout the Philippines. As an expression of confidence in President Macapagal-Arroyo's strong leadership on economic reform, President Bush further announced that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) will extend a special line of credit of $200 million, building on its current substantial portfolio commitments for private sector investment in the Philippines, including in the housing sector. The two Presidents agreed to work to increase American investment in the Philippines, considering the close partnership between their countries.

The two Presidents affirmed their shared commitment to protecting the environment, pledging to continue the environmental activities, including technical cooperation, under the July 2000 Joint Statement of Cooperation on Environment and Public Health. President Bush also informed President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Philippines has been declared eligible to participate in debt treatment programs under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) of 1998. TFCA provides for the cancellation of a portion of concessional debt owed to the United States (which, in the case of the Philippines, currently totals approximately $430 million) in exchange for a commitment to make local currency payments to support domestic forest conservation activities.

The two Presidents discussed the situation in the southern Philippines, where separatist conflict and armed insurgency have raged for decades. President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed deep concern for the safety of Philippine and American hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in the southern Philippines and called

for their immediate and unconditional release. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to secure the safe return of all hostages and to put an end to the terrorist acts committed by the ASG.

They discussed the recent trip to the Philippines by a U.S. counterterrorism assistance team, which assessed the capabilities and needs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in their campaign against the ASG. The two leaders affirmed that they would continue to work on a vigorous, integrated plan to strengthen the Philippine security forces' capacity to combat terror and protect Philippine sovereignty. Such an integrated plan would include a robust training package, equipment needed for increased mobility, a maintenance program to enhance overall capabilities, specific targeted law enforcement and counterterrorism cooperation, and a new bilateral defense consultative mechanism. As a preliminary step to enhance Philippine military modernization, President Bush pledged to work with the Congress for at least a ten-fold increase in Foreign Military Financing (FMF), from $1.9 million to $19 million for fiscal year 2002, and to sustain heightened assistance levels in fiscal year 2003. He further announced his intent to provide an additional $10 million in Department of Defense goods and/or services to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines and another $10 million to support counterterrorism and law enforcement assistance. In total, security assistance from the Bush Administration to the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration, offered and/or delivered, is expected to be worth nearly $100 million for fiscal years 2001–2002.

While pledging military cooperation to end the terrorist activities of the ASG, both leaders agreed that sustainable peace in Mindanao in the southern Philippines requires addressing Mindanao's root economic and social problems. President Bush praised President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to pursue a political path to peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and welcomed the recent cease-fire signed between the MILF and the Government of the Philippines. To help consolidate the peace and to promote economic and social development in Muslim communities, President Bush announced that he is working with the United States Congress to more than double U.S. assistance to Mindanao with a fiscal year 2002 package worth over $38 million. Combined with fiscal year 2001 assistance, the United States will provide over $55 million to Mindanao.

This Mindanao Assistance Package will provide direct support for the nascent peace process by integrating the ex-combatants and their communities into the peacetime economy; creating an environment in Mindanao that is attractive for investment, job creation and economic progress; and providing improved public services in Mindanao, especially in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. This package will also include $825,000 in new educational and cultural exchanges, including a number of Fulbright scholarship grants, specifically targeted at Mindanao's Muslim community. This represents an almost 90 percent increase in educational exchange programming for Mindanao. The President further committed to work with Congress and other donors to secure additional resources for Mindanao, as the peace process moves forward in the years ahead.

To complement this assistance, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA) is taking a pro-active approach to encourage the U.S. private sector's involvement in Mindanao's infrastructure development. Both Presidents welcome TDA's signing of a $302,500 grant agreement to plan the development of a commercially sustainable solar-powered irrigation system for rural farming communities and look forward to future TDA projects that will further promote sustainable development for the people of Mindanao. President Bush expressed condolences for the victims of the severe typhoon that hit the Mindanao region earlier this month and noted that the United States contributed $100,000 in disaster relief assistance to help affected families. To help better prepare for, and respond to, future disasters, the two leaders welcomed the signing of a U.S.-Philippine protocol of intentions on cooperation on disaster prevention and management.

The meeting between President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo was characterized by unusual warmth and candor and heralded a new era of comprehensive cooperation and friendship between the United States and the Philippines.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on the Dedication of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building

November 20, 2001

Thank you all. Please be seated. Joe, thank you for those stirring words. There's nothing quite like the eloquence of a loyal son. I want to welcome you and all your brothers and sisters and your mom; Senator Kennedy. I want to thank the Attorneys General who are here. I want to thank our current Attorney General. Thank you for being here, Director. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here, the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives for coming, both Republicans and Democrats. I want to thank Administrator Perry; ladies and gentlemen.

I'm so very pleased to be with you in giving this building a great American name. Seventy-nine Americans have held the title of Attorney General, and 25 of them worked in this building. But in the history of this Department and in the memory of our country we hold a special place for Robert Francis Kennedy.

He first worked here 50 years ago, as Joe said. Just out of law school at the University of Virginia, he reported here every morning to the Criminal Division. He was 26, married, the father of one, a baby girl who is now the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland.

Ahead of him were many more accomplishments and a lot more children. [*Laughter*] There's no doubt in my mind that he would look upon his sons and daughters and his grandkids with such incredible pride.

America first saw him and heard his voice in the mid-fifties when he was minority counselor to the Senate committee investigating organized crime. There was something about him that no one could miss, an intense intelligence present, a voice that could quiet a room. As a friend has remembered him, Robert Kennedy was not a hard man, but he was a tough man. He valued bluntness and precision and truth. Those under investigation learned those qualities firsthand.

In the eyes of John F. Kennedy, no man ever had a more faithful brother. During his Presidential campaign, he said, "I don't know what Bobby does, but it always seems to turn out right." We are told that after the election the younger brother wasn't sure he wanted to join the Cabinet, and he said so to the President-elect. Robert tried to make the case explaining why he should not become Attorney General. There was no reply. The President-elect simply left the room and casually returned a few minutes later to say, "So that's it, General. Let's go." [*Laughter*]

To this day, visitors to the West Wing, seeing the Rose Garden and the Colonnade, instantly think of the pictures of the two brothers together. And from this day, his birthday, everyone who enters this building or passes by will think of Robert F. Kennedy and what he still means to this country.

He was not our longest serving Attorney General, yet none is more fondly remembered. And few have filled their time here with so much energy or seen events of such consequence. He was at his brother's side during the 13 days in October 1962, where he was firm and discerning and calm.

In this building, he set to work on what would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Here, he gave the orders sending 500 U.S. marshals to protect the Freedom Riders. He stood for racial desegregation. And to those on the other side of the issue, he said this: "My belief doesn't matter. It's the law. Some of you may believe the decision was wrong. That doesn't matter. It is the law."

With us today are some of the people who worked for our 64th Attorney General, each of whom counts it as an experience of a lifetime. They still look up to him. Time has done nothing to weaken their loyalty to the valiant and idealistic man they knew and followed. Robert Kennedy was a serious man, concerned with serious things. And he loved his friends. He was a strong man who understood weakness, a man who knew privilege

but also suffering. He fought to gain power, chose to use it in the defense of the powerless.

To millions who never knew him, he's still an example of kindness and courage. America today is passing through a time of incredible testing. And as we do so, we admire even more the spirit of Robert Kennedy, a spirit that tolerates no injustice and fears no evil. That's how this country sees him.

But today and every November 20th, a large and loving family thinks of the dad they miss. Some of you know your way around this building because he brought you here. As Joe said, the Attorney General's conference room was then his office and a playroom. And as the photos displayed here make it clear, he also enjoyed one of my favorite perks of office—you get to bring your dog to work. [*Laughter*]

Of all that he left behind, nothing brings Robert Kennedy more clearly to mind than his good wife. In the first year of their marriage, he recorded his feelings by quoting the Book of Ruth: "Whither thou goest, I will go, and we will be together forever."

For 33 years, Ethel Kennedy has walked with grace and dignity, faithful to God and to the memory of her husband. Any tribute to Robert Kennedy must also be a tribute to Mrs. Robert Kennedy. She shares in all his achievements; she's added many of her own. Mrs. Kennedy, America honors you as well.

This great building, and all who work here, serve the public in the cause of justice. It now bears the name of a good and decent man, truly devoted to justice. On behalf of the people of the United States, I proudly dedicate the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. in the Great Hall of the newly designated Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph P. Kennedy III, who introduced the President, and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend of Maryland.

Memorandum on the Naming of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building

November 20, 2001

Memorandum for the Administrator of General Services

Subject: Naming of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building

Today we mark the 76th anniversary of the birth of Robert F. Kennedy, who served this Nation with great distinction in the United States Navy, as a respected attorney, as a United States Senator, and as our 64th Attorney General. As Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy successfully led the Department of Justice in important struggles that have come to symbolize the Department's capacity to do good. Whether fighting against organized crime or for civil rights, Attorney General Kennedy brought out the best in the Department of Justice, working for a more just, free, and law-abiding society. It is fitting that the Main Justice building in our Nation's capital should be dedicated to Robert F. Kennedy's memory, so that generations of Americans yet to come will remember his contributions to preserving justice.

I hereby direct you to designate the Federal Building located at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building," and such facility shall be thereafter known and referred to by that name.

George W. Bush

Videotape Remarks for the "Thanks for Giving" Campaign

November 20, 2001

The President. This year, Thanksgiving will mean more than it ever has before.

The First Lady. So many have given their time, their talent——

The President. ——their bravery, their sacrifice, and courage to keep this country strong.

Some believe it's astonishing; I believe it's the American character.

The First Lady. As your family gathers, give thanks, and think of all that can be done in your community.

The President. Thanks for making such a difference. Thanks for giving.

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped during the afternoon on November 15 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for later broadcast. The public service announcement and the script were released on the White House Web site on November 20.

Remarks to the Community at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

November 21, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. At ease. Thank you all very much. Laura and I are proud, really proud, to be with the men and women of the finest army in the whole world. This Thanksgiving, Americans are especially thankful for our freedom, and we are especially thankful to you, the people who keep us free.

I want to thank your general, "Commander Cody," for his hospitality and for his leadership. I took a good look at him. I'm glad he's on my side, and I'm glad you are, as well. I want to thank General Ellis. General Ellis has got a huge job. We've called upon a good man to accomplish that job.

I want to thank Sergeant Major Clifford West. I want to thank the Governors from the States represented here at Fort Campbell: Governor Paul Patton and Governor Don Sundquist, from Kentucky and Tennessee.

I want to thank the Senators who are here with us from the two States: Senator Mitch McConnell, my good friend; I hope to see him in DC for a lot of years coming. And I want to thank Jim Bunning. He was telling me he thought my fastball, when I threw it at Yankee Stadium, had a little zip on it. Nothing like his fastballs. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Bill Frist, two fine United States Senators from Tennessee. I want to thank Congressman Ed Bryant from Tennessee for being here, as well. All of these men respect and support the United States military, and they represent the best of our country in the Halls of our Congress.

Congressman Ed Whitfield, who represents this district, wanted to be here today, but he's spending the holiday with the U.S. service men and women from Kentucky who are stationed in Kosovo. They're in our prayers this Thanksgiving, as are all the troops overseas.

And I want to thank Congressman Whitfield's dad, Mr. E.O. Whitfield, for coming here in his stead.

[*At this point, a woman cheered.*]

The President. Sounds like E.O. brought his wife. [*Laughter*]

We're honored to be at the home of the 101st Airborne. I've got two words I want to say to you: "Air assault!" I met some of you all when I visited Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, and some of you invited me to your home. I came, and I'm glad I'm here. I will always remember this as the day I ate turkey with the Screaming Eagles.

More than 3,000 soldiers from this post have been deployed to Kosovo for 6-month rotations. They kept supplies away from rebels in Macedonia, made the recent election in Kosovo possible. I'm glad to report that all of them from this base will be home by Thanksgiving.

And there are other fine units that call Fort Campbell home: the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the 5th Special Forces Group; other essential groups that shall remain nameless. [*Laughter*]

All Americans are especially grateful—especially grateful—for the sacrifice of our military families, the husbands and wives, the sons and daughters, the mothers and dads. Some of you have loved ones that are deployed or will be deployed far from home in a war against terror and evil. And our Nation and the world are counting on your loved ones. They're making us secure, and they are making us proud.

Men and women of Fort Campbell, your country and your President are proud of you, as well. The 101st Airborne—the 101st Airborne is living out its motto; once again, you have a "rendezvous with destiny." And so

does our country. We're freedom's home and defender. And today, we're the target of freedom's enemies.

Our enemies are evil, and they're ruthless. They have no conscience. They have no mercy. They have killed thousands of our citizens and seek to kill many more. They seek to overthrow friendly governments to force America to retreat from the world. They seek weapons of mass destruction. But we're seeking them. We're fighting them, and one by one, we're bringing them to justice.

We fight now—this great Nation fights now to save ourselves and our children from living in a world of fear. We fight now because we will not permit the terrorists, these vicious and evil men, to hijack a peaceful religion and to impose their will on America and the world. We fight now, and we will keep on fighting until our victory is complete.

We cannot know every turn this war will take. But I'm confident of the outcome. I believe in the strong resolve of the American people. I believe good triumphs over evil, and I believe in the fearless hearts of the United States military.

We fight the terrorists, and we fight all of those who give them aid. America has a message for the nations of the world: If you harbor terrorists, you are terrorists; if you train or arm a terrorist, you are a terrorist; if you feed a terrorist or fund a terrorist, you're a terrorist, and you will be held accountable by the United States and our friends.

The Taliban know that. Our military forces and the forces of our allies, and many Afghans seeking a better future, are liberating Afghanistan. And the Afghan people are celebrating. Today 27 of 30 Afghanistan provinces are no longer under Taliban control. We've cut the Taliban and terrorists' lines of communications, and they're on the run.

We've made a good start in Afghanistan; yet, there is still a lot to be done. There are still terrorists on the loose in Afghanistan, and we will find and destroy their network, piece by piece. The most difficult steps in this mission still lie ahead. Our enemies hide in sophisticated cave complexes, located in some of the most mountainous and rugged territory. These hideouts are heavily fortified and defended by fanatics who will fight to the death. Unlike efforts to liberate a town or destroy Taliban equipment, success against these cells may come more slowly. But we'll prevail. We'll prevail with a combination of good information, decisive action, and great military skill.

The enemy—the enemy hopes they can hide until we tire. But we're going to prove them wrong. We will never tire, and we will hunt them down.

The Afghan people deserve a just and stable government. And we will work with the United Nations to help them build it. Our diplomats in the region, in Europe, in New York, and in Washington, are in communications with all parties. We're urging them to move quickly toward a government that is broadly based, multiethnic, and protects the rights and dignity of all Afghan citizens, including women.

Winter is coming, and years of drought and Taliban misrule have placed many Afghans on the brink of starvation. We will work with the world to bring them food and medicine. While we fight evil, this great country will help those who suffer.

Afghanistan is just the beginning on the war against terror. There are other terrorists who threaten America and our friends, and there are other nations willing to sponsor them. We will not be secure as a nation until all of these threats are defeated. Across the world and across the years, we will fight these evil ones, and we will win.

Great causes are not easy causes. It was a long way from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. It was a long way for the 101st from Normandy to final victory over fascism in Europe. When wronged, our great Nation has always been patient and determined and relentless, and that's the way we are today. We have defeated enemies of freedom before, and we will defeat them again.

And this struggle must be won at home, in our own cities, on our own soil. A lot of good people—police officers, FBI agents, intelligence agents, and health officials—are working hard to protect Americans from new threats. And Americans are being vigilant, themselves. No matter what lies ahead, we'll be alert; we'll be careful; and we'll never be intimidated. We're proud Americans, and we'll live like Americans: We'll travel; we'll

build on our prosperity; we'll live the lives of free people.

Yet, make no mistake about it: Wars are not won on the homefront alone. Wars are won by taking the fight to the enemy. America is not waiting for terrorists to try to strike us again. Wherever they hide, wherever they plot, we will strike the terrorists.

This mission will require sacrifice by our men and women in uniform. America appreciates that sacrifice. And I make a promise in return: Our military will have everything you need to win in the long battle that lies ahead. You'll have every resource, every weapon, every possible tool to ensure full victory for the cause of freedom.

These have been hard months for Americans. Yet, this Thanksgiving we have so much to be thankful for. We're thankful for the love of our families. We're thankful for the goodness and generosity of our fellow citizens. We're thankful for the freedoms of our country. And we're so very thankful to you, the men and women who wear our uniform.

Thanks to you, the people of Afghanistan have the hope of a better life. Thanks to you, many Afghan women are walking in public again and walking with dignity. Thanks to you, eight humanitarian aid workers, including two Americans, are free today, instead of sitting in a Taliban jail. Thanks to you, every nation is seeing what will happen if you cast your lot with the terrorists. Thanks to you, there is less fear in the world and more freedom and more hope and a better chance for peace.

Every one of you is dedicated to something greater than yourself. You put your country ahead of your comfort. You live by a code, and you fight for a cause. And I'm honored to be your Commander in Chief.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I want to thank you all for such a warm greeting. I want to thank your service to a great nation.

May God bless the men and women who wear our uniform, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. at the parade grounds. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Richard A. Cody, USA, commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford R. West, USA, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell; Gen. Larry R. Ellis, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States, Peter Bunch and Diana Thomas of Australia, and George Taubmann, Margrit Stebnar, Kati Jelinek, and Silke Duerrkopf of Germany.

Proclamation 7505—To Modify the Tariff-Rate Quota Applicable to Imports of Steel Wire Rod

November 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On February 16, 2000, pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2253), President Clinton issued Proclamation 7273, which imposed a tariff-rate quota (TRQ) on certain steel wire rod imports provided for in subheadings 7213.91, 7213.99, 7227.20 and 7227.90.60 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) for a period of 3 years plus 1 day. Proclamation 7273 did not allocate the in-quota quantity of the TRQ among supplier countries.

2. Pursuant to section 203(g) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(g)), in order to provide for the efficient and fair administration of the TRQ, I have determined that the in-quota quantity of the TRQ should be allocated among supplier countries in the manner set forth in the Annex to this proclamation.

3. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to sections 203 and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to allocate the in-quota quantity of the TRQ on wire rod imports, subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as set forth in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) Effective at the close of March 1, 2004, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of this relief, the U.S. note and tariff provisions established in the Annex of this proclamation shall be deleted from the HTS.

(4) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation and the Annex hereto shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, after the close of November 23, 2001, and shall continue in effect through the close of March 1, 2003, unless such actions are earlier expressly modified or terminated.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 27, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 28.

Proclamation—National Family Week, 2001

November 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

American families are the bedrock of our society. They are the primary source of strength and health for both individuals and communities across our Nation. As we continue our recovery from the horrific acts committed by terrorists against the United States on September 11, our families provide us with a vital source of comfort and reassurance.

Americans grieve with those who suffered the loss of a family member in the brutal and cowardly terrorist attacks. The September 11 tragedy has allowed America to see firsthand the profound bonds of love that characterize the American family. Parents, children, spouses, and siblings mourned their lost loved ones, cared for the injured, and prayed for protection and health for all Americans. In the midst of great loss, we saw great love flowing from the hearts of America's families.

My Administration is committed to strengthening the American family. Many one-parent families are also a source of comfort and reassurance, yet a family with a mom and dad who are committed to marriage and devote themselves to their children helps provide children a sound foundation for success. Government can support families by promoting policies that help strengthen the institution of marriage and help parents rear their children in positive and healthy environments.

My proposed budget includes initiatives that encourage family cohesion. It provides over $60 million for grants that encourage responsible fatherhood. Grants would be awarded to groups that promote successful parenting and strong marriages and to faith-based and community organizations that help unemployed or low-income parents and their children avoid or leave welfare. This initiative will help spur new community-level approaches to aid low-income families.

To strengthen States' ability to promote child safety, stability, and well-being, my budget also proposes a substantial increase in funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program. These additional resources will help States keep children with their biological families, when safe and appropriate, or place children with loving adoptive families. By undertaking more preventative efforts to help families in crisis, the prospects for children to live in a permanent home are enhanced.

As we observe National Family Week, we must work to strengthen families in America as individuals and through Government and

community-based organizations. This week serves to remind us of the values, security, and love that we give and receive in our families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 18 through November 24, 2001, as "National Family Week." I invite the States, communities, and people of the United States to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Memorandum on Fiscal Year 2002 Refugee Admissions

November 21, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2002–04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on FY 2002 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status Pursuant to Sections 207 and 101(a)(42), Respectively, of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and Determination Pursuant to Section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, as Amended

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 70,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2002 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2002 with Federal resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2002 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100–202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa	22,000
East Asia	4,000
Eastern Europe	9,000
Former Soviet Union	17,000
Latin America/Caribbean	3,000
Near East/South Asia	15,000

Unused admissions numbers allocated to a particular region may be transferred to one or more other regions if there is an overriding need for greater numbers for the region or regions to which the numbers are being transferred. You are hereby authorized and directed to consult with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress prior to reallocation of numbers from one region to another.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

An additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers shall be made available during FY 2002 for the adjustment to permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(b)) of aliens who have been granted asylum in the United States under section 208 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as this is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

In accordance with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2002, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

a. Persons in Vietnam
b. Persons in Cuba
c. Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

November 21, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 18

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

November 19

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council. Later, he traveled to Arlington, VA, and then returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway for a meeting in the White House on December 5.

November 20

In the morning, the President met with his Homeland Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia to the White House on December 6.

November 21

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Fort Campbell, KY. Later, they traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel for a working visit on December 3–4, 2001.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Toner to be a member of the Federal Election Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 17

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 74

Released November 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway

Fact sheet: The U.S. Commitment to the Afghan People

Released November 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Quiroga of Bolivia To Visit Washington

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes, Ad Council CEO Peggy Conlon, and Corporation for National and Community Service CEO Leslie Lenkowsky on announcement of the "Thanks for Giving" PSA

Fact sheet: President Urges Support for America's Charities

Released November 21

Statement by the Press Secretary: Israeli Prime Minister Sharon To Visit Washington

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 17

H.J. Res. 74 / Public Law 107–70
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

Approved November 19

S. 1447 / Public Law 107–71
Aviation and Transportation Security Act

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Military Personnel as Part of the Kosovo International Security Force

November 18, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of May 18, 2001, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of combat-equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide a military presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is approximately 5,500 U.S. military personnel. An additional 500 U.S. military personnel are deployed as the National Support Element in Macedonia, with an occasional presence in Albania and Greece. In the last 6 months, all 19 NATO nations and 19 others, including Russia, have provided military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR in Kosovo and other countries in the region.

In Kosovo, the U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered upon Gnjilane in the eastern portion of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 79 percent of KFOR soldiers are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo, including through adoption of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government, and preparations for Kosovo-wide elections scheduled to occur on November 17, 2001. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, and is represented at the Joint Implementation Commission. Also, KFOR support includes providing a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizing checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Finally, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. The most recent 6-month review will be completed this month, and presented to the North Atlantic Council in December 2001. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. The KFOR

has transferred full responsibility for its public safety and policing responsibilities to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 24, 2001

Good morning. Thanksgiving this year comes 72 days after a terrible national shock, an act of evil that caused, and continues to cause, so much suffering. Yet, the evil the terrorists intended has resulted in good they never expected. And this holiday season, Americans have much to be thankful for.

We're thankful for the character of our fellow citizens who are flying flags and donating to charity and comforting those who grieve. Americans have aided the families of victims and the starving children of Afghanistan, half a world away. This country has a good and generous heart.

We're thankful for the decency of the American people who have stood for the American tradition of tolerance and religious liberty, a tradition that has welcomed and protected generations of immigrants from every faith and background.

We are thankful for new heroes, police officers and firefighters and emergency workers, who have renewed our respect for public service and provided lasting lessons in courage.

We're thankful for the men and women of our military, who are defending our lives and liberty with such skill, honor, and success.

We're thankful, this year even more intensely, for our lives and our families and the love of those around us. Americans are remembering what really matters—holding our children more closely, giving them more time.

And we're thankful to God, who turned suffering into strength and grief into grace. Offering thanks in the midst of tragedy is an American tradition, perhaps because in times of testing, our dependence on God is so clear.

The Pilgrims gave thanks even after the many deaths of a bitter winter. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed days of national thanksgiving even during a bloody Civil War. Lincoln asked God to heal the wounds of the Nation and to restore it, as soon as it may be consistent with the divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility. We pray for this goal, and we work for it.

In America, blessings are meant to be shared, and our Thanksgiving is revealed in concern for others. At this season, Laura and I hope you'll find ways to reach out and share your blessings and talents in your own communities: Tutor or mentor a child; volunteer in a hospital; support our troops by becoming active in the USO; comfort those who feel afraid; show your kindness to a Muslim neighbor; help someone in need of shelter or food or words of hope; and continue to pray for America.

We will face difficult times ahead. The fight we have begun will not be quickly or easily finished. Our enemies hide and plot in many nations. They are devious and ruthless. Yet we are confident in the justice of our cause. We will fight for as long as it takes, and we will prevail.

May God grant us patience, resolve, and wisdom in all that is to come. Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:50 a.m. on November 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Humanitarian Aid Workers Rescued From Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters

November 26, 2001

The President. Good morning. I'm so honored to welcome two courageous souls to the Rose Garden to celebrate a story of joy and a story of hope, a story of two women who were rescued, a story about the faith that sustained them and a family that clearly loves them.

Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry decided to go to help people who needed help. Their faith led them to Afghanistan. One woman who knows them best put it this way: They had a calling to serve the poorest of the poor, and Afghanistan is where that calling took them.

And Heather and Dayna's faith in God sustained them throughout their ordeal. It's a wonderful story about prayer, about a faith that can sustain people in good times and in bad times. Their faith was a source of hope that kept them from becoming discouraged.

I talked to them right after their release, their freedom, and I sensed no bitterness in their voice, no fatigue, just joy. It was an uplifting experience for me to talk to these courageous souls.

Theirs is also a story about people who—in our country—who rallied for them. People prayed all around the country. I was particularly struck by the fact that Heather's dad offered to take her place in prison. I was struck by the fact that a country preacher out of central Texas flew to Afghanistan to lend his presence in any way that would help. I know there are a lot of people right outside of Crawford that were praying for these girls' release. And when they were, people all across Baylor University cheered. Something besides football became more important in their lives: life, itself.

This is a story of a military that is committed to achieving certain objectives. In my speech in front of the United States Congress, I said to the Taliban that one of the objectives was to release the humanitarian aid workers that were being detained against their will. We've achieved that objective. And I want to thank our military for rescuing these girls. And I want to thank those on the ground in Afghanistan who helped with their rescue, as well.

So it's a joyous day to welcome two good souls to the Rose Garden. I'll ask them to say a few comments, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions, if you have any.

[*At this point, Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry made brief remarks.*]

The President. Good job.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, following up on the talk of the military's role in rescuing these two ladies, can you tell us why you have deployed 1,000 marines, at least 1,000 marines this weekend on the ground, what their mission is? How many more are coming? And how much more risky has their mission become with this advancement of the troops?

The President. Well, first, I'll let the Defense Department explain the mission. Well, first of all, we know the mission. The mission is to bring Al Qaida to justice and to make sure Afghanistan no longer serves as a haven for terrorists. And we've got a military strategy that we're implementing. I'll let the Secretary of Defense, in his daily briefing, go into the operational details as he sees fit.

But this is a dangerous period of time. This is a period of time in which we're now hunting down the people who are responsible for bombing America. I said a long time ago, one of our objectives is to smoke them out and get them running and to bring them to justice. We're smoking them out; they're running; and now we're going to bring them to justice. I also said we'll use whatever means is necessary to achieve that objective. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

The American people must understand that we've got a long way to go in order to achieve our objective in this theater. But we're patient; we're resolved; and we will stay the course until we achieve our objective.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction, sir, to news that the U.S. economy has been in a recession since March?

The President. My reaction that—since March? Well, I knew that the economy was

not in good shape right after I took office; that's why I urged that we pass a tax relief plan. I remember the debate clearly, about people saying, well, the economy is strong. But it wasn't. It was flagging; it was weakening.

And that tax relief plan is going to be part of an economic recovery package that will make sense for the long term of the country. We've got low interest rates. We've got reasonable energy prices. We've got good tax policy in place. We've got the framework for economic recovery. I hope Congress moves quickly on an economic stimulus package. The Senate needs to get a bill and get it into conference, so we can resolve differences and I can sign it before Christmas. But I am, obviously, aware that our economy is slow. And we will do everything we can to enhance recovery.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, getting back to the earlier question, aside from September 11th, which cannot be forgotten, the war on terrorism has been truly relatively American-casualty free. And in recent years, Americans have been generally casualty-averse in its military operations.

Are you concerned that Americans may suddenly start getting back into that pattern where they're less accepting of American casualties?

The President. Well, first of all, obviously, no President or Commander in Chief hopes anybody loses life in the theater. But it's going to happen. I said this early on, as the campaign began: America must be prepared for loss of life. I believe the American people understand that we've got a mighty struggle on our hands and that there will be sacrifice. After all, some people made the greatest sacrifice possible on September the 11th, and that is those who took the airplane down. They said the Lord's Prayer on the phone to their loved ones; the loved ones heard, "Let's roll"; and they took a plane down so that it might not kill others, such as people working in the White House or at the Capitol.

No, I think the American people understand we're in for a long, long struggle in order to rid the world of terrorism and that there might be loss of life. I pray that not be the case. But our brave men and women who signed up for the military understand the risk inherent with being in the military.

Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

Q. Mr. President, at Fort Campbell, you said, "Across the world and across the years, we will fight the evil ones, and we will win"——

The President. Yes.

Future Counterterrorism Efforts

Q. ——suggesting very strongly that Afghanistan is only the first step. What would you say about Iraq, as you begin to look at the next steps in the campaign against global terrorism? What message would you like to send to them now?

The President. Well, my message is, is that if you harbor a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you feed a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you develop weapons of mass destruction that you want to terrorize the world, you'll be held accountable. And I also have said, as I recall, at the White House, we're going to make sure that we accomplish each mission that we tackle. First things first.

Now having said that, we—the coalition has arrested over 300 people. I can't wait to thank my friend President Aznar of Spain for having arrested eight terrorists in Spain. In other words, there is an international drag—international effort to bring people to justice. And over 300 people that have been involved with Al Qaida have been brought to justice. Terrorism is terrorism. In this country, we'll deal with it.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Q. Sir, you mentioned President Aznar of Spain. Spain says that they don't want to extradite those people unless they can be tried under our standard court system and not by a military tribunal. Are you concerned with the amount of dissent over your decision to establish military tribunals?

The President. Not the least bit concerned. I made the right decision. A President must have the option of using a military tribunal in times of war. I look forward to explaining to my friend the President of Spain why I made that decision. It makes eminent sense to have the military tribunal

option available. It makes sense for national security purposes. It makes sense for the protection of potential jurors. It makes sense for homeland security. It is the right decision to make, and I will explain that to any leader who asks.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Human Cloning

Q. Mr. President, it seems an important line has been crossed with the attempt to clone a human being by a private laboratory. What's your reaction to that? Do you think there's any way to put this genie back in the bottle?

The President. My reaction, Terry, is that the use of embryos to clone is wrong. We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it. And that's exactly what's taking place. And I have made that position very clear. I haven't changed my mind. And this evidence today that they're trying to achieve that objective, to grow an embryo in order to extract a stem cell, in order for that embryo to die, is bad public policy. Not only that, it's morally wrong, in my opinion.

Yes.

The Vice President

Q. Mr. President, does the current threat justify the Vice President remaining in an undisclosed location? And even though he's not——

The President. I just ate breakfast with him. It's no longer undisclosed. [*Laughter*] And he looks great. I think my adjective was "swell." He still looks swell.

Q. How long is this separation going to go on? Do you think that——

The President. I had breakfast with him. I mean, I shouldn't say that. Right after I had breakfast, I met with him. I spent the morning with him. As a matter of fact, he was here to welcome these families into the White House.

Q. But do you still consider him, even though he's not as visible and doesn't, in terms of visibility, appear to be playing the same kind of role we saw before September 11th——

The President. No, the Vice President is very much engaged in the administration, and I value his advice. I trust his judgment. I talk to him every single day. And today I was visiting with him face to face. As I say, he looks swell.

Stretch. [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Iraq

Q. To follow up on Major's question.

The President. What was his question?

Q. Whether Iraq could be the next target of the antiterror campaign.

The President. Oh, okay.

Q. Does Saddam Hussein have to agree to allow weapons inspectors back into Iraq? Is that an unconditional demand of yours?

The President. Saddam Hussein agreed to allow inspectors in his country. And in order to prove to the world he's not developing weapons of mass destruction, he ought to let the inspectors back in.

Yes.

Q. And if he does not do that, sir, what will be the consequence? If he does not do that, what will be the consequences?

The President. That's up for—he'll find out.

Q. Sir, what is your thinking right now about taking the war to Iraq? You suggested that on Wednesday, when you said Afghanistan was just the beginning.

The President. I stand by those words. Afghanistan is still just the beginning. If anybody harbors a terrorist, they're a terrorist. If they fund a terrorist, they're a terrorist. If they house terrorists, they're terrorists. I mean, I can't make it any more clearly to other nations around the world. If they develop weapons of mass destruction that will be used to terrorize nations, they will be held accountable. And as for Mr. Saddam Hussein, he needs to let inspectors back in his country to show us that he is not developing weapons of mass destruction.

Yes, David [David Gregory, NBC News].

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Mr. President, following up on that thought, when you initially made—defined terrorism in your speech before Congress, you did not include the weapons of mass destruction. Are you now extending this to countries like North Korea, other places where we have had evidence over the years

that there's been development of such weapons?

The President. Well, clearly, in terms of North Korea, we want North Korea to allow inspectors in, to determine whether or not they are. We've had that discussion with North Korea. I made it very clear to North Korea that in order for us to have relations with them, that we want to know, are they developing weapons of mass destruction? And they ought to stop proliferating.

So part of the war on terror is to deny terrorist weapons getting—I mean, weapons to be used for means of terror getting in the hands of nations that will use them. And so I'm not quite sure of the——

Q. I'm just asking if you've expanded your definition to countries who don't just harbor terrorists but also develop such weapons.

The President. Have I expanded the definition? I've always had that definition, as far as I'm concerned.

Yes, ma'am.

Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, you've said a number of times you will go to all lengths to get members of Al Qaida. There's now news that Pakistan has airlifted some of its citizens back to Pakistan. Are you concerned that they may be taking members of Al Qaida and will not turn them over?

The President. No, I'm not. We've had good discussions with Pakistan. They understand the objective is to bring Al Qaida to justice, and they've indicated they'll help us do so.

All right, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ms. Mercer's father, John Mercer; Danny Mulkey, assistant pastor, Antioch Community Church, Waco, TX; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Signing the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

November 26, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2620, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The Act abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with:

- $955 million for the Veterans Affairs Duty to Assist initiative to improve performance in claims processing and assist veterans with their claims;
- $160 million for the National Science Foundation Math and Science Partnerships initiative, which provides funds for States to join with institutions of higher education in strengthening math and science education in grades K–12; and
- $50 million for the Housing and Urban Development Down Payment Assistance initiative that assists low-income families with the down payment on their first home.

Several additional initiatives I have proposed were worthy of funding but are not part of this bill: the Community Technology Centers and Improving Access programs in HUD, the Silver Scholarships and Veterans Mission for Youth programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the VA/DOD Medical Care Choice initiative.

The Silver Scholarship Program would have provided Silver Scholarships to 10,000 older Americans who volunteer 500 hours of service tutoring and mentoring students in after-school programs. Each $1,000 scholarship could be deposited in an education savings account for use by seniors' children,

grandchildren, or another child. The Veterans Mission for Youth program would have provided matching grants to community organizations that connect veterans and retired military personnel with America's youth through mentoring, tutoring, after-school, and other programs.

The VA/DoD Medical Care Choice initiative would ensure that all military retirees annually choose either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs as their health care provider. This would enhance quality and continuity of care and prevent duplication of services and costs.

Several provisions in the Act purport to require congressional approval before executive branch execution of aspects of the bill. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 26, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2620, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107–73.

Remarks Honoring the United States Nobel Laureates

November 27, 2001

Ambassador, thank you very much. Welcome. Dr. Marburger, thanks for putting this on. We're so honored that so many great Americans have shown up today. Laura and I are thrilled to not only greet you but host a reception after this brief dialog.

I want to welcome all the Nobel laureates, past and present. I want to thank Members of the Congress for being here. I want to thank members of my Cabinet for coming. And I am grateful that family and friends have joined such a distinguished crowd.

As the Ambassador said, for a century now the Nobel Prize has recognized human striving and accomplishment. Since 1901 more than 700 Nobel Prizes have been awarded, and a third of those to Americans.

Standing with me are seven of those who have been selected this year. Among their achievements are pathbreaking discoveries in physics, helpful insights in the workings of the market economies, and a new treatment for Parkinson's disease. And all of America congratulates them.

Each Nobel laureate here today belongs to a incredibly select group of people. It includes the names of Martin Luther King, Jr.; George C. Marshall; T.S. Eliot; Albert Einstein; Vice President Charles Dawes; and President Theodore Roosevelt, the first American Nobel laureate, whose Peace Prize today occupies a place of honor in the West Wing of the White House.

Tomorrow I'll meet with the newest recipient of that prize, Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Several other Nobel laureates have visited the White House this year: Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Shimon Peres.

These folks come from different regions of the world, but the Nobel Foundation is never limited by region or culture. The standard is a universal one. It is awarded to men and women who have served the highest aspirations of humanity and have done so with success. Many awards recognize excellence; the Nobel Foundation recognizes greatness.

So much of human progress depends on achievements in medicine, physics, chemistry, economics, literature, and peace. The annual selection of the laureates expresses a profound optimism about humanity and our prospects for improvement. This optimism was captured by William Faulkner, when accepting his Nobel Prize a half century ago. "I believe," he said, "that man will not merely endure, he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone amongst creatures has an inexhaustible voice but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion, sacrifice, and endurance."

Each of you, in your own field of excellence, has carried forward that same belief in human progress. You've achieved greatness through service to others. You have been given great gifts, and you've used them to your fullest.

Our Nation is proud of the work each of you have done. We're proud to count you as fellow citizens. We thank you for bringing credit to our country and great benefit to mankind.

And now, Laura and I would like to invite you all into the foyer for a reception.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. Jan Eliasson; John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; 2001 Nobel laureates Eric A. Cornell, Wolfgang Ketterle, and Carl E. Wieman (Physics), William S. Knowles (Chemistry), Leland H. Hartwell (Physiology or Medicine), George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence, and Joseph E. Stiglitz (Economic Sciences), and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (Peace); former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, 1993 Nobel Peace laureate; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, 1994 Nobel Peace laureate.

Executive Order 13236—Waiver of Dual Compensation Provisions of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1964

November 27, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 292 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1964, as amended (50 U.S.C. 2141), and in order to conform the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Director of Central Intelligence may waive the application of the dual compensation reduction provisions of sections 271 and 273 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2111 and 2113) for an employee serving on a temporary basis, but only if, and for so long as, the authority is necessary due to an emergency involving a direct threat to life or property or other unusual circumstances. Employees who receive both salary and annuity pursuant to this authority may not earn additional retirement benefits during this period of employment. This authority may be delegated as appropriate.

Sec. 2. Nothing contained in this order is intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 27, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 28, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 29.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations

November 28, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome back to the White House our friend Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Today we've had a valuable discussion about how to make sure that the good intentions of America and others around the world are met, and those intentions have to do with feeding people who starve in Afghanistan.

Prior to September the 11th, there was a lot of hunger in that country, primarily because it was run by a government that didn't really care about the human condition. After September the 11th, obviously, the war has aggravated the situation, and as I declared to the American people, our good Government and our great Nation is going to do something about it.

And around the table today are people who are responsible to making sure, as best as they possibly can, food is delivered and medicine is delivered and clothing is delivered to innocent, hurting people of Afghanistan. And the Secretary-General has been so great on this issue, and he's assembled a wonderful team who are here to brief the Secretary of State and myself about the efforts.

The degree of difficulty is high. There's no question we've got a large task ahead of ourselves. We've got ample money, and the United States Government has been a major contributor of that money. We've got the food. The fundamental question is, in an environment that is not very secure, how do we get the food to the people? And that's

what we're working on. And I'm convinced that we can do a very good job of meeting that objective.

So, Mr. General, thanks for coming. It's an honor to have you back. I appreciate you bringing your team with you.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for the discussions this morning with my team.

The Afghan people have suffered for quite a long time through a series of wars and, recently, drought. And we've been trying to get food to them, and as the President said, it's not always been easy. Even sometimes when we have the food in the country, we cannot always get it to the needy.

We are now, with the help of the U.S. and other donors, able to get in as much food as we think we will need. But because of the insecurity, we have difficulties reaching the needy and the people, and we are working on that. And I hope the situation will clarify in the not-too-distant future to allow us to reach all those in need.

I think it is important for the public to know the numbers we are dealing with, and here I'm talking about refugees, Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan and Iran, and the internally displaced people. We are talking about 6 million needy people—between 6 million to 7.5 million. We are going to do our best, with the support that we are getting.

And I think, on the political front, if I may say a word, we are meeting the Afghan parties in Bonn. Mr. Brahimi is discussing with them as we sit here. And so far, they're off to a good start. The parties seem to want a broadbased government, and I hope they will be able to settle this—the establishment of the government—before they leave Bonn.

The willingness of the U.S. and other donor countries and the international community is clear, to work with them in rebuilding their society. But we need a partner, and the partner has to be an effective Afghan Government that is cohesive, that is stable, that will work with the donor community to ensure that the resources that are being applied to rehabilitation and reconstruction is used effectively.

The challenge is theirs. They have an historic opportunity to put the past behind them and form a broadbased government that will be loyal to the Afghan people and respect its international obligations. And if they do that, from all the commitments that I have heard from the President and other leaders, the resources will be there over the period, in a sustained manner, to help rebuild Afghanistan.

So I urge them to seize the moment for the sake of their people and for the sake of their country.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. General.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:51 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the Secretary-General referred to U.N. Special Representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and an Exchange With Reporters

November 28, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome a friend of mine and a friend of our country, the President of Spain, to the White House. Jose Maria was on the phone early, right after September the 11th. He assured me that he would cooperate in any way possible in our mutual desire to fight terror. And he has lived up to his word, and for that, I am grateful.

I asked nations to join us in bringing people to justice who are evil, who don't respect the law, and this President responded. Recently, Spain has arrested Al Qaida members and has shared information about those Al Qaida members, and it's incredibly helpful. And for that, Mr. President, the American people are very grateful. And in our meetings today I assured the President that our Nation would help Spain in any way possible to fight terror. And Mr. President, you've got that assurance.

So it's a great honor—*un honor para mi para decir a mi amigo, bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos.*

President Aznar. Dear President Bush, may I thank you for your invitation. It is, indeed, a great honor and tremendous satisfaction for me to visit the White House.

We have very fond memories of the visit that you made to us in Spain last June, and we recall your commitment and your words of support to Spain's fight against terrorism. And several months later, we have managed to see this solidarity; this alliance is a two-way alliance.

Spain supports, has supported, and will support all the United States' efforts to track down, to eradicate, and to eliminate terrorism wherever it may be worldwide. We intend to maintain and, if necessary, strengthen our political commitment, our cooperation in the area of intelligence and security and information-sharing, and if need be, to commit military forces to that battle.

Our battle is a battle for the same ideas, for the same freedoms, for the same society and civilizations, and we will share all those efforts as long as is necessary to combat. The only fate that awaits terrorists is defeat, and the only option for terrorists is going to be brought to justice.

Thank you.

President Bush. *Tenemos hambre, y por eso, solamente cuatros preguntas. Dos de la prensa de la Estados Unidos, dos de la prensa de Espana, por favor.* Four questions, two from the American press, two from Spanish press, because we're hungry; we've got a big meal. [*Laughter*]

Legislative Agenda

Q. Yes, sir. Do you support suspending the payroll tax as a compromise on the stimulus?

President Bush. The question is, do I support providing a credit on the payroll tax?

Q. Correct.

President Bush. The Domenici idea in the Senate? Here's what I support: I support the Senate coming together and getting a bill moving as quickly as possible, so that we can get it to conference and get the differences resolved. The Senate must pass a stimulus package. The American people expect them to do so; I expect them to do so.

I had a good conversation today with Senator Daschle and Senator Lott on this very subject and urged them to get the business done—get the appropriations bills passed, to get a stimulus package passed, and then go home and enjoy the Christmas vacation. And I hope they do so. There are differences, but the differences aren't that big. Any good package must be stimulative in effect and, at the same time, take care of displaced workers. There's agreement on that. They just now have got to work out the details, and I hope they're able to do so.

Detained Spanish Nationals

Q. Mr. President, according to The New York Times, 13 Spanish nationals are being held in the United States in relation to the attacks on the Twin Towers. Did you speak about that to President Bush?

President Aznar. No.

Airport and Airline Security

Q. Mr. President, how can you assure the American people safety in the skies, given that your Transportation Secretary now thinks it may be impossible to meet that initial deadline for screening baggage?

President Bush. David [David Gregory, NBC News], we're doing everything we can to meet the deadline. And we're doing everything we can to make sure that the American people feel safe. And one way we're doing it is to have guardsmen at the airports over the Christmas holidays. Another way to do it is to have the planes full of air marshals. And finally, obviously, we need to expedite the ability for us to inspect baggage, and we're doing everything we can to do that.

Military Tribunals/Extradition

Q. Did you discuss the military tribunals with regard to extradition——

President Bush. Military tribunals was the question.

President Aznar. I said at the beginning of this press conference that political cooperation between Spain and the United States is full on this issue. And I just reiterate that and also say that cooperation between the United States and Spain, Spain and the United States, is also full as regards Spain's own terrorism problem. And I think that is the most important point to bear in mind.

You asked about the extradition of the Al Qaida members in Spain. Can I just say that if and when the United States requests that extradition, we will study the issue. Can I also say that the United States is free to organize its own jurisdiction as it sees fit, as a

free and democratic country. Any action taken on the extradition issue will be taken with full respect of Spanish and United States law.

We are also working on this issue at the European Union level, and we do hope to reach agreement on that issue in the very near future.

President Bush. Thank you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the Farm Journal Forum

November 28, 2001

Well, thank you so very much for that warm welcome. And it is great to be here with the farmers and ranchers and researchers and business leaders who make America the most innovative and most productive farm nation in the world.

I am somewhat nostalgic for our place in Crawford. But I've been a little busy lately. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak about the future of agriculture and the future of our economy, because they both begin with your work. I want to thank Andy for providing this opportunity for me to come and speak.

And I want to thank our Secretary of Agriculture for doing such a fine job of not only representing farmers and ranchers here at home but doing a fine job of making sure our farmers and ranchers are heard overseas, as well. She and Bob Zoellick went to Doha. I told them, no longer are we going to treat our farmers as trading commodities. Agriculture is the cornerstone of our economy, and our international agreements must reflect that. And so, Madam Secretary, thank you for your hard work in Doha. I appreciate it very much.

The success of agriculture contributes to the strength of this Nation. It is in our national interests, in our national security interests that we have a strong farm economy. And the farmers of America contribute to the values of our Nation and to the generosity of our Nation. As we speak, trucks and planes are delivering American food to the hungry in Afghanistan. Those rations say, "A gift from the people of the United States." This gift is made possible by the farmers in our country, and I want to thank you for it.

The farmers represent and preserve the values of our Nation: hard work, risktaking, love of the land. I always like to say people who own their own land understand the necessity to be good stewards; every day is Earth Day if you own your own land. The farmers represent love of family and love of our country. And farming is our first industry, the industry that feeds us, that clothes us and, increasingly, provides our energy.

As Andy mentioned, I was the Governor of the State of Texas; it happens to be the second largest agricultural State in the country. I understand how tough it is to make a living on the farm. I understand how much hard work goes into making the land productive. And I understand how valuable an asset land is and how important it is that it stay from one generation to the next. And that's why I'm glad to have signed a law that is sending the death tax on its way to extinction.

Today, our Nation is challenged by a great conflict. We face new threats, and they require a fight on many fronts, both overseas and here at home. After September the 11th, I vowed to the world that we would bring to justice those who killed innocent women and children and men here in America. I also said that any nation that harbored a terrorist, that aided a terrorist, that abetted a terrorist would be held accountable, and that's exactly what's taking place today. Thanks to our military, thanks to friends and allies, we are destroying the Taliban military, and we're destroying the camps that terrorists use to plan attacks on nations such as America.

We're meeting our goals in Afghanistan. After all, our allies now control most of the country. One of the objectives I laid out in front of Congress is that we would rescue those who were held, detained against their will. And so I had the honor last Monday of welcoming two young Baylor graduates to the White House, part of the humanitarian rescue mission that we pulled off successfully.

As I mentioned, we're feeding the hungry and providing medicine and clothes to those

poor, suffering, innocent citizens of Afghanistan. And we're after Al Qaida. The evil ones think they can hide. They think they can run. But they're learning that this is a patient nation, a nation that is determined to smoke them out and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I also recognize that we've got a war here on the homefront. And it's important for the American people to know that their Government is doing everything we possibly can to disrupt and deny the enemy, that we take every threat seriously, that we run down every lead, that we're on full alert. The thing I'm most proud of is that the American people will not be intimidated by the evil ones, that they understand that the intent of the Al Qaida murderers was to freeze our Nation in place. But they don't understand America like I do. America is resolved. We are united. And we will not relent until we make sure that those who believe they can harm our Government and our friends are brought to justice, whether it be in Afghanistan or any other place they hide.

I said, when this war first started, that the farther away we get from September the 11th, the more likely it is people will forget that there are evil ones in the world who want to destroy our country, what we stand for. And that may be the case amongst some. But that's not what I've seen in America. This Nation is resolved to do whatever it takes, in whatever theater is necessary, to make sure that civilization itself remains intact, to make sure that our children and our grandchildren can grow up in a world that is free and peaceful. It is the calling of our time, and it's a calling that we accept. And we're going to win. I view this as a fight between good and evil, and good will always prevail.

We also have difficulties here on the homefront because of our economic situation. Statistics recently showed that shortly after I was sworn in as President, our economy was slow and had been slowing for a while. I made the case—and fortunately, Congress listened—that a slow economy required immediate action when it came to tax relief, and they delivered. That's an important part of making sure that we generate growth, is to let people keep more of their hard-earned money so they can spend it, and not the Government.

And at the same time, in order to address an economic slowdown, we brought sorely needed fiscal discipline to Washington, DC, that we fought for and got a budget that was realistic, that didn't grow way beyond the means of our Government. And by the end of summer, the economy was beginning to stabilize.

Yet the terrorist attack of September the 11th, no question, dealt our economy a serious blow. So while we fight our enemies and states that harbor terrorism and while we defend our homeland and our airways, we must take further action to strengthen our economy. Americans know our economy was targeted for terror—by terror. And they're asking us to fight back, and we must.

These are incredibly tough times for some of our fellow Americans. Some have lost their jobs. Some have had their hours curtailed. Many have seen their savings shrink, and small businesses are struggling just to stay in business. We're facing tough times, but if we act quickly, I'm confident we can grow our economy.

On October the 5th, 7 weeks ago, I asked Congress to send me an economic stimulus package, and I outlined the principles that should guide the plan. First, any plan must help displaced workers. Any plan must recognize that folks have been severely hurt by the attack on September the 11th, and we must help them.

Secondly, the plan should speed up the individual income tax cuts Congress approved last May. The sooner rates come down, the faster our economy will rise. The plan should provide tax relief for low- and moderate-income workers to help them through these tough times. The plan should allow companies and entrepreneurs to deduct the cost of new investments more quickly, to encourage businesses to grow and to create job opportunities for Americans. And the plan should reform the corporate income tax to do away with the alternative minimum tax, a tax that pushes tax rates up at exactly the moment when corporate America's profits are going down.

The House of Representatives acted on a stimulus bill, but it seems to be stuck in the

Senate. It is important for the Senate not to look for ways to spend new money but to look for ways to create new jobs. And so I ask the Senate leadership to work out their differences and pass an economic stimulus plan, so they can get it in conference and get a bill to my desk as quickly as possible. The American people expect it, and I expect it.

This country is waiting for action. And in the time that we have been waiting, more than 415,000 workers have lost their jobs. Further delay could put more Americans and more families at risk. So let's move. Let's get the job done.

I also want to improve our homeland security and our economy by having a national energy plan. I want to thank the Farm Journal Forum for emphasizing the importance of ethanol and biofuels. These fuels are gentle on the environment. They are fuels that can be renewed year after year and fuels that can expand our farm economy. These fuels are made right here in America, so they can't be threatened by any foreign power. Ethanol and biofuels are fuels of the future for this country.

Since the beginning of my administration, I have strongly supported ethanol and biofuels. And the energy plan I sent to Congress back in the spring supports biofuels. The House passed an energy plan. Now it's time for the Senate to act and pass an energy plan. It's in our national security interests to do so. I look forward to signing a national energy bill.

I'm also ready to sign trade promotion authority, to open up markets for American industry and American farmers. This authority sends an unmistakable signal to our trading partners that the Congress and the administration are united on trade. The House will soon vote on trade promotion authority. I hope you'll join me in pressing for its passage and, in the process, helping to restore U.S. leadership in support of free trade.

U.S. leadership matters. We recently helped bring China into the World Trade Organization, and that is good for American farmers. It is in our interests, in our agricultural interests to help feed China.

We helped start a new world trade round in Doha. Our negotiators came back from Doha with excellent news for American farmers. American farmers too often lose markets or suffer low prices because of unfair export subsidies. The Doha Declaration calls for reducing export subsidies and, ultimately, phasing them out. For too long, the agricultural market has been rigged against farmers who play fair. Doha shows the way toward a more level playing field. That's good news for the world's hungry; it's good news for the world's most productive food producers, the American farmers.

We've got a good stimulus bill, a sound energy plan, and it's important to have a good farm bill, too. A good farm bill should keep the safety net under our food producers, without misleading our farmers into overproducing crops that are already in oversupply by increasing loan rates. A good farm bill should help farmers help themselves with farm savings accounts. These accounts would help farmers set aside money in good years to sustain them in hard times. A good farm bill should promote responsible stewardship of America's farms and ranchers by promoting conservation on working lands. A good farm bill should honor our trade obligations, as we expect our competitors to honor their obligations. And a good farm bill should be generous but affordable. It should honor the budget limits that Congress has agreed to live by.

You know, we've learned a lot about our country since September the 11th. We've learned that our people are strong, that our military is very good at what it does, and that our country's heart has never been more generous and good. And we have much to mourn and much to rebuild, but much to be grateful for.

Just a few days ago we gave thanks for God's bounty to America. But we should never forget that it takes the hard toil on the land to turn that bounty into the food we eat and that we share with the world's hungry our bounty. We should never forget who does that toil. It's the American farmer and the American rancher.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the JW Marriott. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew Webber, president

and chief executive officer, Farm Journal; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry.

Statement on the Commissioning of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium

November 28, 2001

I congratulate Russia, Kazakhstan, and Oman, and their consortium partners for the commissioning of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC). U.S. firms, notably ChevronTexaco and ExxonMobil, have played leading roles in this project. These facilities represent the culmination of years of effort. They are examples to the world that the United States, Russia, and Kazakhstan are cooperating to build prosperity and stability in this part of the world.

The CPC highlights the important progress by countries in the Caspian region in building a transparent and stable environment for international trade and investment. The CPC project also advances my administration's National Energy Policy by developing a network of multiple Caspian pipelines that also includes the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Supsa, and Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipelines and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline. These projects will help diversify U.S. energy supply and enhance our energy security, while supporting global economic growth.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Prevent the Elimination of Certain Legislatively Mandated Executive Branch Reports

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1042, an Act to prevent the scheduled elimination of certain legislatively mandated executive branch reports. This legislation restores 29 statutory reporting requirements that expired last year, pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995. I sign this legislation in deference to the Congress' determination that the reports are necessary to fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. But I remain concerned that many of the existing statutory reporting requirements impose an excessive burden on executive branch agencies. In particular, I am concerned that some of the reports reinstated by H.R. 1042 are either obsolete or duplicative of other reporting requirements. My Administration will continue to work with the Congress to reduce the burden created by unnecessary statutory reporting requirements through the elimination of these unnecessary requirements, while respecting the oversight responsibilities of the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1042, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–74.

Statement on Signing the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act

November 28, 2001

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1552, which will ensure that the growth of the Internet is not slowed by additional taxation.

The Internet is an innovative force that enables such applications as distance learning and precision farming. Government must do its part to make access to these services affordable. It should not raise costs through additional taxation.

Extending the moratorium is particularly important during this crucial holiday shopping season. Online spending is estimated to account for over 15 percent of total holiday purchases this year. H.R. 1522 will keep access to e-commerce services affordable. This law will be a big help to those Americans who shop from home because they are unable to travel to stores and malls.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1552, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–75.

Statement on Signing the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2330, the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The Act abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion. It provides for several important programs with significant national benefits by:

- fully funding the current participation rate for the key nutrition program for women, infants, and children;
- supporting Department of Agriculture (USDA) food safety activities, including providing 7,600 meat and poultry inspectors; and
- redirecting USDA research to provide new emphasis in key areas such as biotechnology, the development of new agricultural products, and improved protection against emerging exotic plant and animal diseases, as well as crop and animal pests.

A number of provisions contained in the bill purport to restrict executive branch execution of programs that are funded in the bill. Where such provisions contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha*, their intent will be interpreted as advisory only.

I appreciate that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and my Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2330, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–76.

Statement on Signing the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2500, the "Department of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives including:

- $100 million to support a backlog elimination initiative to achieve a universal 6-month processing standard for all immigration applications;
- 570 additional Immigration and Naturalization Service agents to protect our Northern and Southern borders;
- $50 million grant program in the Office of Justice Programs to aid counties along the Southwestern border with their costs of detaining and prosecuting drug cases referred to them by Federal law enforcement agents;
- $50 million for drug courts, which provide a supervised treatment alternative to prison sentences for non-violent drug possession offenders, to enable Federal assistance to over 120 new or existing drug court programs. To date, over 57,000 offenders have completed drug court programs, and their recidivism rate is much lower than that of comparable offenders;
- $15 million for grants to create community-based task forces for reducing youth violence and to assist State and local prosecution of firearms offenses, and $9 million for the U.S. Attorneys to hire dedicated prosecutors who will appropriately prosecute juvenile gun offenders and those who supply them with guns;
- $20 million to assist State and local law enforcement agencies with the costs associated with methamphetamine laboratory clean-up; and

- $5 million for a faith-based prison pre-release pilot project to reduce the rate at which ex-offenders are returned to prison through intensive counseling and family and community transition instruction.

In addition, at this critical time, when we are mounting a world-wide effort to defeat terrorism, I appreciate that this bill provides significant new funding for our Federal law enforcement agencies in the Department of Justice, our diplomatic operations overseas, and for enhanced embassy security.

I note that Section 612 of the bill sets forth certain requirements regarding the organization of the Department of Justice's efforts to combat terrorism. This provision raises separation of powers concerns by improperly and unnecessarily impinging upon my authority as President to direct the actions of the Executive Branch and its employees. I therefore will construe the provision to avoid constitutional difficulties and preserve the separation of powers required by the Constitution.

Section 626 would require the President to submit a legislative proposal to establish a program for the compensation of victims of international terrorism. I will apply this provision consistent with my constitutional responsibilities. In addition, subsection (c) of that section purports to remove Iran's immunity from suit in a case brought by the 1979 Tehran hostages in the District Court for the District of Columbia. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Executive Branch will act, and encourage the courts to act, with regard to Subsection 626(c) of the bill in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Algiers Accords that achieved the release of U.S. hostages in 1981.

Section 630 prohibits the use of appropriated funds for cooperation with, or assistance or other support to, the International Criminal Court (ICC) or its Preparatory Commission. While section 630 clearly reflects that Congress agrees with my Administration that it is not in the interests of the United States to become a party to the ICC treaty, I must note that this provision must be applied consistent with my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs, which, among other things, will enable me to take actions to protect U.S. nationals from the purported jurisdiction of the treaty.

In addition, several other provisions of the bill unconstitutionally constrain my authority regarding the conduct of diplomacy and my authority as Commander-in-Chief. I will apply these provisions consistent with my constitutional responsibilities.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2500, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–77.

Executive Order 13237—Creation of the President's Council on Bioethics

November 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the President's Council on Bioethics (the "Council").

Sec. 2. *Mission.*

(a) The Council shall advise the President on bioethical issues that may emerge as a consequence of advances in biomedical science and technology. In connection with its advisory role, the mission of the Council includes the following functions:

(1) to undertake fundamental inquiry into the human and moral significance of developments in biomedical and behavioral science and technology;

(2) to explore specific ethical and policy questions related to these developments;

(3) to provide a forum for a national discussion of bioethical issues;

(4) to facilitate a greater understanding of bioethical issues; and

(5) to explore possibilities for useful international collaboration on bioethical issues.

(b) In support of its mission, the Council may study ethical issues connected with specific technological activities, such as embryo

and stem cell research, assisted reproduction, cloning, uses of knowledge and techniques derived from human genetics or the neurosciences, and end of life issues. The Council may also study broader ethical and social issues not tied to a specific technology, such as questions regarding the protection of human subjects in research, the appropriate uses of biomedical technologies, the moral implications of biomedical technologies, and the consequences of limiting scientific research.

(c) The Council shall strive to develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of the issues that it considers. In pursuit of this goal, the Council shall be guided by the need to articulate fully the complex and often competing moral positions on any given issue, rather than by an overriding concern to find consensus. The Council may therefore choose to proceed by offering a variety of views on a particular issue, rather than attempt to reach a single consensus position.

(d) The Council shall not be responsible for the review and approval of specific projects or for devising and overseeing regulations for specific government agencies.

(e) In support of its mission, the Council may accept suggestions of issues for consideration from the heads of other Government agencies and other sources, as it deems appropriate.

(f) In establishing priorities for its activities, the Council shall consider the urgency and gravity of the particular issue; the need for policy guidance and public education on the particular issue; the connection of the bioethical issue to the goal of Federal advancement of science and technology; and the existence of another entity available to deliberate appropriately on the bioethical issue.

Sec. 3. *Membership.*

(a) The Council shall be composed of not more than 18 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. The Council shall include members drawn from the fields of science and medicine, law and government, philosophy and theology, and other areas of the humanities and social sciences.

(b) The President shall designate a member of the Council to serve as Chairperson.

(c) The term of office of a member shall be 2 years, and members shall be eligible for reappointment. Members may continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until the President appoints a successor. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of such vacancy.

Sec. 4. *Administration.*

(a) Upon the request of the Chairperson, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Council with information it needs for purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) The Council may conduct inquiries, hold hearings, and establish subcommittees, as necessary.

(c) The Council is authorized to conduct analyses and develop reports or other materials.

(d) Members of the Council may be compensated to the extent permitted by Federal law for their work on the Council. Members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(e) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the Council with administrative support and with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of the Council's functions.

(f) The Council shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Chairperson. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Council shall be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services or other executive branch departments and agencies as directed by the President.

Sec. 5. *General Provisions.*

(a) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), may apply to the Council, any functions of the

President under that Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order unless extended by the President prior to that date.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:19 a.m., November 29, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

Remarks to the United States Attorneys Conference

November 29, 2001

Well, John, thank you very much for those kind words. And I appreciate your strong leadership. It is a principled leadership; it is a steady leadership; and it is a leadership that is good for America.

I guess we call you General. [*Laughter*] That means you all are in the Army. [*Laughter*] And I am glad you are.

I also want to thank Larry Thompson for his good work. Thank you for being here, Larry. And where's Al Gonzales, who is my—Al led the effort to scour the country for the best to serve as U.S. attorneys, and I appreciate his hard work. And I suspect you new U.S. attorneys appreciate his hard work, as well. [*Laughter*]

But Al has been my lawyer for a long time and was a lawyer for the State of Texas and was a judge for the State of Texas. And he is a pretty special guy, and I'm glad he's here in Washington with me. And I'm glad you all are here, as well. Thank you for coming. I want to welcome you here.

I want to welcome the new U.S. attorneys. I want to congratulate you. I must tell you that we set a high standard, and you met it. And for that, I hope you're proud. And I am grateful that you are willing to serve the country, particularly at this time.

I know you know this, but I want to remind you that you have got a significant commitment to the security and safety of the American people. We all do. That's our job, and it's a job we will keep.

The security and safety of our people was threatened before September the 11th. In many neighborhoods, there's too much gun violence in America. Despite all the progress against crime, teenagers—almost as many teenagers die from gunshot wounds as from all natural causes combined. And that's not right, and we are going to do something about it.

We must help people reclaim their neighborhoods and their streets. We must help those who want to live in a comfortable environment feel safe. That's one of our primary jobs. And so I proposed a program called Project Safe Neighborhoods. And you have a clear charge to fight gun violence in America.

U.S. Attorneys will work with State and local authorities in an all-out campaign, in a focused and vigorous effort to cut gun crime. By September of this year—of next year, 2002, we hope to have 200 new attorneys hired to prosecute crimes committed with a gun, 200 new attorneys to help you stay focused on an important mission, which is the safety of our citizens.

Investigators will have the best training and the latest technology available. We want to enhance the technology so we can find those, track those, communicate better with each other to bring people to justice who commit a crime with a gun.

We'll improve data-sharing and criminal recordkeeping to ensure that people who shouldn't have guns don't get them. We've got to prevent those people who want to use guns to hurt our fellow citizens from getting them in the first place.

And finally, we want to make sure that the Federal Government works more closely with communities and community-based programs and faith-based groups to steer our

children away from guns before they take a life or lose their own. In other words, on the one hand, I want you to be tough, and on the other hand, I want you to rally the compassionate, loving souls in neighborhoods who can teach children lessons from right, from wrong.

This is an important calling. The methods work in those cities where they've—we tried a program that I just outlined; they work. Statistics show it, and now we've got to make sure it exists all across the country.

This is an important charge for you. It's one of your top priorities, because it's one of mine. We have got to send this message—and I mean a clear message, an unambiguous message—that if you illegally carry or use a gun, there is one consequence in America: arrest and jail. The best way to make sure our neighborhoods are safe is to enforce the laws on the books, and to the best of our ability, we will give you more tools to do that.

The safety and security of America also faces a new threat, and that is the threat of terror. It is the calling of our time to rid the world of terror. And it is the calling of our time to protect the American people.

You know, it's interesting—I can't imagine what a speech like this would have been like prior to September the 11th, but I doubt I would have ever said, "You are now on the frontline of war." And that's where you are. And make no mistake about it, we've got a war here just like we've got a war abroad. And we have a huge responsibility, and that's to defend America while protecting our great liberties. And I'm confident you can do the job; otherwise, you wouldn't be sitting here.

Our enemies are resourceful, and they are incredibly ruthless. They hide, and they plot, and they target freedom. They can't stand what America stands for. It must bother them greatly to know we're such a free and wonderful place, a place where all religions can flourish, a place where women are free, a place where children can be educated. It must grate on them greatly, but that's what we're going to keep doing, because that's what America is about.

And we owe it to the American people. We owe it to our citizens, to the families, to be relentless and methodical in tracking down terrorists and bringing each and every one of them to justice. That's our calling. It's the calling of the 21st century, and it's a calling that we will not tire for. It's a calling that we will keep in our minds, and you must keep it in your minds, because I can assure you I'm going to keep it in mine.

The Government and the people are determined. And I have been able to travel our country some, and I know you can—if you were to report back to me, you would tell me you've seen the same determination and the same patience and the same unity to achieve this objective. I like to remind people that the evil ones have roused a mighty nation, and they will pay a serious price.

Abroad, our military and our alliance is making good progress—good, steady, significant progress. We're disrupting their cashflows. We're finding their bankers, and we're shutting them down.

And it's not just America. There are a lot of other countries who have participated with us, and that's heartening. We've got great intelligence-sharing now, around the world. I've been able to say to a lot of leaders, face to face, "You tell us when they're coming, and if we find out something about you, we'll let you know, too." And that's important. It's important to know as much information as possible about the enemy. It's important to try to figure out where they hide and their intentions. It helps to have a vast coalition willing to share that kind of information.

And we're bringing a lot of terrorists to justice around the world, as well. I think we've arrested over 300—we, the coalition, has arrested over 350 Al Qaida members and terrorists. I was able to thank President Aznar of Spain this week, for arresting eight—eight terrorists, eight people who hate freedom are now in jail, where they should be. And hopefully, they'll give us some information that we will share with other coalition members, to keep us all safe.

And as we speak, we're enforcing the doctrine that makes it plain that not only do we seek the terrorists, but we also hold governments that harbor them and feed them and house them and hide them accountable for their behavior, as well.

Afghanistan is the first overseas front in this war against terror. And I'm pleased to report the military is performing really well.

In a short period of time, most of the country now is in the hands of our allies and friends. We've rescued the humanitarian aid workers. We've destroyed the Taliban military. They're in total confusion. The Government that used to hate women and not educate its children and disrupt humanitarian supplies and destroy religious symbols of other religions is now in rout.

And we've got Al Qaida on the run, too. Now, they think they can hide, but they can't hide for long. And they think they can run, but they can't run forever, because we will patiently, diligently, pursue them until they are brought to justice.

And on the homefront, terrorist violence must be prevented and must be defeated, and it will be, with vigilance, aggressive investigation, and certain punishment. Already, we've committed significant new resources to homeland security. We've improved our ability to detect and stop terrorist activity, but we've still got a lot of work to do.

I'm pleased to report the culture of the FBI is changing; the people you'll be working with in the field is changing. Now, one in four employees of the FBI are directly involved with the efforts to track down every lead and to disrupt the evil ones. And our new investigations are moving forward. And as we do so, our laws are being enforced fairly and in full.

We'll hear from material witnesses. We'll give them a chance to participate in the war against terror by telling us what they know. We will apply the immigration laws. We're interviewing people on a voluntary basis. We're saying, "Welcome to America. You have come to our country; why don't you help make us safe? Why don't you share information with us? Why don't you help us protect innocent people, women and children and men? Why don't you help us value life? As you enjoy the freedoms of our country, help us protect those freedoms."

But there is no doubt about our intentions, and there shouldn't be. Those who plot terror and those who help them will be held accountable in America. That's what we're going to do. Protecting the innocent against violence is a solemn duty of this country. It is our most important responsibility now. And all of us in this room accept that responsibility. And we will tell the American people plainly, we will fulfill that responsibility.

To meet that obligation, a wartime reorganization is underway at the Justice Department. More investigators will go to frontlines. The Federal Government will work more closely with State and local authorities, and so will you. Agents will receive better training and new technology to help track and capture terrorists or those who support them. And these changes are essential, and I want to thank the Attorney General and Director Mueller for beginning this transformation.

I have also reserved the option of trial by military commission for foreign terrorists who wage war against our country. Non-citizens, non-U.S. citizens who plan and/or commit mass murder are more than criminal suspects. They are unlawful combatants who seek to destroy our country and our way of life. And if I determine that it is in the national security interest of our great land to try by military commission those who make war on America, then we will do so. We will act with fairness, and we will deliver justice, which is far more than the terrorists ever grant to their innocent victims.

Ours is a great land, and we'll always value freedom. We're an open society. But we're at war. The enemy has declared war on us. And we must not let foreign enemies use the forums of liberty to destroy liberty, itself. Foreign terrorists and agents must never again be allowed to use our freedoms against us.

Many of you will play a crucial part in our victory against terrorism, and make no mistake, we're going to win the war. Decisions important to millions of Americans will be made in your offices. Your work in the cause of justice will help ensure the security of this Nation. And as you join this fight, you will honor the Constitution. You will not only protect our people, but you will uphold our values.

Every Federal prosecutor has the unique privilege of standing up in a court and telling the judge that you are there on behalf of the United States. In a time of war, these words are even more deeply felt, are even more significant.

Yours is a great trust and one of the great professions. Today you carry not only the

confidence and respect of the American people, but you carry our deep gratitude, as well.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who introduced the President; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the War on Terrorism and Defense Appropriations Legislation

November 29, 2001

The House of Representatives yesterday took a bold step to ensure that we fully fund the war on terrorism. I commend the passage of the Defense Appropriation and the commitment it embodies to ensure that, even in war times, we be careful stewards of the taxpayers' money. We will fully support our troops in the field, provide the funds necessary to recover from the September 11th attacks, and spend whatever is necessary to defend our homeland. The agreement I reached with Congress in October provides sufficient funds to accomplish these goals at this time. I, therefore, urge the Senate to pass the Defense Appropriation without adding unwise spending that is not currently necessary.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Insurance Industry Terrorist Claims Legislation

November 29, 2001

I commend the House for taking an important step toward ensuring the continued availability of insurance for terrorist-related acts and for ensuring that victims of terrorism don't also become subjects of unfair lawsuits. Access to affordable insurance is necessary for a stable and productive economy where builders continue to build and investors continue to invest. It is time for the Senate to focus on this important issue.

Remarks at a Viewing of "Mark Twain Tonight"

November 29, 2001

Well, thank you all very much, and good evening. Tonight we'll see an extraordinary performer celebrating an extraordinary American life. And it is my honor to welcome you all here.

I particularly want to welcome Dixie Carter. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. I want to say to the students, thank you for coming, and thank you for taking interest in American literature. I want to thank your teachers, as well, and all the scholars who have studied the life and work of Mark Twain.

It's also my honor to introduce our host this evening. This performance helps mark the beginning of a series titled "A White House Salute to American Authors." Promoting American writers is one of Laura's, our First Lady's, projects as well as an enduring commitment in all her life.

All America has seen her love of learning and her love of literature. All of America has seen her grace and concern for children in a difficult time for our Nation. Our country is blessed by her calm and compassion, and I am blessed by her encouragement and her love.

Laura Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Ford's Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Dixie Carter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 7507—National Diabetes Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the past century, we have made significant progress in our fight against disease. Through public health campaigns and aggressive research, we have eliminated polio

in the United States, reduced the harm of influenza outbreaks, and developed revolutionary new medications that provide relief and healing from many chronic and acute illnesses. However, effective treatments and cures to numerous other illnesses remain elusive and demand our continued attention and resources. One of the most prevalent and difficult of these is diabetes, which currently afflicts more than 16 million Americans.

Diabetes can cause blindness, renal disease, severe nerve damage, heart disease, strokes, and even death. This year approximately 800,000 men, women, and children in the United States will develop diabetes, and health officials estimate that it will be a contributing factor in almost 200,000 deaths. The total economic cost for providing medical treatment for diabetes patients and for disability and deaths related to the disease is approximately $100 billion a year. More troubling are statistics indicating that more than 5 million Americans are unaware of their diabetic condition, seriously jeopardizing their long-term health and well-being. An additional 10 million citizens are at high-risk of developing type 2 diabetes due largely to physical inactivity, obesity, and poor diet.

Recent scientific findings demonstrate that modest, consistent exercise and a healthy diet can curtail the risk of type 2 diabetes in individuals by nearly 60 percent. This information provides great hope in our efforts to reduce the incidence of diabetes and creates a renewed sense of urgency to ensure that all Americans are aware of practical steps that can be taken to reduce their risk for diabetes.

My Administration is strongly committed to fighting diabetes both by working in cooperation with dedicated staff and volunteers of private organizations to develop strong public education programs and by increased Federal funding for medical research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have established the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) to help familiarize Americans with the risks of diabetes and what can be done to minimize its complications. The NDEP will also offer practical information about preventing the cardiovascular complications of diabetes through the campaign, "Be Smart About Your Heart: The ABCs of Diabetes." Medical research is providing exciting advances in our prevention and treatment strategies for diabetes, and my fiscal year 2002 budget reflects a significant increase in funding to continue the valuable diabetes research programs at the NIH.

I am confident that our Nation's health care professionals, nurses, scientists, educators, and volunteers will continue to provide quality care to those who currently suffer from diabetes, and, through their work, we will one day find a cure for this terrible disease. On the observance of National Diabetes Month, we honor those who are working diligently to advance our knowledge and understanding of diabetes. We also recognize the value of educating ourselves about health risks and the importance of healthy lifestyle habits.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Diabetes Month. I call on all Americans to increase their awareness of the risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7508—National Hospice Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, approximately 700,000 terminally ill patients and their families rely on the invaluable end-of-life care provided by the 3,100 hospice programs located in the United States. Hospice care allows a terminally ill individual to receive professional medical services, pain management therapy, and emotional and spiritual support, without having to enter a hospital. This focus on the patient's quality of life during his or her last illness can make the best of the most challenging of situations.

Hospices create a compassionate atmosphere where patients will be able to die with dignity, preferably in their home environment, surrounded and supported by loved ones, familiar friends, and committed caregivers. Professional and compassionate hospice staff and volunteers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, and clergy, provide comprehensive care and attend to the particular needs and wishes of each patient. Family members and friends also receive counseling and bereavement care that help them cope with the impending loss of their loved one.

Individuals and groups in the private and public sectors are working together to strengthen and expand hospice programs and to promote their services as a positive alternative for terminally ill patients. Today, hospice care is a full partner in our Nation's health care system, furthering our efforts to provide medical services in more compassionate and cost-effective ways. More important, providing high-quality hospice care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care. My Administration remains committed to supporting health care programs like hospice that encourage quality medical care and frequent doctor-patient interaction.

With the observance of National Hospice Month, we recognize those who serve in our Nation's hospices, often as caregivers in the homes of hospice patients. Caring for a terminally ill patient can be emotionally painful, physically exhausting, and financially difficult. I call on all Americans to honor the professionals and volunteers who dedicate their lives to aiding the terminally ill through hospices. And we should use this observance as an opportunity to encourage and help those who take on the challenge of caring for a terminally ill patient in their home or in a hospice facility.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Hospice Month. I encourage Americans to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice service and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7509—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each December we turn our attention to the problem of drunk driving by observing National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Though the holidays bring

joy in celebrations with family and friends, they also bring a tragic increase in the incidence of impaired driving. This season, I ask each American to avoid driving while they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to help stop others from driving in an impaired condition, and to increase community awareness about these issues.

Despite many efforts by States, communities, and citizen groups to stop drunk and drugged driving, many Americans mistakenly continue to view impaired driving as acceptable conduct. After years of gradual improvement, fatalities in alcohol-related crashes rose by 4 percent from 1999 to 2000. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that last year alcohol was involved in 40 percent of fatal crashes and in 8 percent of all crashes.

Every person should reaffirm his or her personal responsibility to drive free of the influence of alcohol or drugs and to prevent others from driving under the influence of them. We must promote practices such as designating a sober driver, stopping impaired family members and friends from getting behind the wheel, reporting impaired drivers to law enforcement officials, and teaching our young people safe, alcohol- and drug-free driving behavior.

We should also promote coordinated public policies and citizen campaigns against drunk and drugged driving in our communities. One example is the Department of Transportation's *You Drink & Drive, You Lose* campaign. This national coalition of community and law enforcement organizations will increase public awareness of the hazards of impaired driving. Their message warns of the criminal penalties for impaired driving, including imprisonment and the loss of license, vehicle, time from work, and money in fines and court costs.

As we celebrate the joyous holiday season, we can help save lives by preventing impaired driving. In order to ensure the safety of our roads for all travelers, we must continue to fight drunk and drugged driving throughout the year.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2001 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I call upon State and community leaders to join the *National Holiday Lifesavers Mobilization*, sponsored by the *You Drink & Drive, You Lose* campaign, on December 21–23, 2001. I also urge all Americans to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting this dangerous problem.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Statement on Congressional Action on Mexican Motor Carrier Legislation

November 30, 2001

The compromise reached by the House and Senate appropriators on Mexican trucking is an important victory for safety and free trade. We must promote the highest level of safety and security on American highways while meeting our commitments to our friends to the South. The compromise reached by the conferees will achieve these twin objectives by permitting our border to be opened in a timely manner and ensuring that all United States safety standards will be applied to every truck and bus operating on our highways.

Statement on Resignation of Governor James S. Gilmore III of Virginia as Republican National Committee Chairman

November 30, 2001

Jim Gilmore is a close friend and valuable ally. He answered my call to lead the Republican Party through a challenging and dynamic election. He has done so with fervor and conviction. He has advanced our principles of limited but active government and promoted compassionate priorities that strengthen American families, keep Americans safe, and encourage individual responsibility.

There are few who embody public service the way that Jim Gilmore does, serving as Governor of Virginia, chairman of a national commission on terrorism, and leader of the national Republican Party all in the same year.

There is no greater priority on this Earth than one's family, and I respect and understand the decision Governor Gilmore has made. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors and will continue to seek his wise counsel as a friend and confidante.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 25

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

November 26

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

November 27

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan concerning cooperation against terrorism, events in Afghanistan, and Middle East peace efforts. Later, he met with his Homeland Security Council, and he also met with former Senator John C. Danforth, U.S. Special Envoy for Peace to the Sudan, to discuss human rights in the Sudan.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with the presidents of the International, U.S., and Salt Lake City Olympic Committees to discuss the 2002 Winter Olympics opening February 8, 2002, in Salt Lake City. Later, he met in the Oval Office with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven Joseph Chabot to be U.S. Representative to the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega to be U.S. Representative to the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen Hammerman, Floyd H. Flake, and William Harry Berdine as members of the White House Commission on Excellence in Special Education.

The President announced his intention to designate Daniel R. Mulville as Acting Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

November 28

The President declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides on November 7 and continuing.

November 29

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia concerning the Governor's decision to resign as Republican National Committee chairman.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Philadelphia, PA, on December 1 to attend the Army-Navy football game at Veterans Stadium.

The President announced his intention to nominate Naomi Churchill Earp to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and, upon confirmation, to designate her as Vice Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jacques Joseph Grandmaison to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to appoint Don A. Christensen as a member of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

November 30

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia on December 6.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will participate in the Pageant of Peace on the Ellipse during the evening of December 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Hammond to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate George A. Omas as Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 27

Steven Joseph Chabot,
of Ohio, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Naomi Churchill Earp,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2005, vice Reginald Earl Jones, term expired.

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega,
of American Samoa, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld,
of Maryland, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, vice Jan M. Chaiken, resigned.

Michael Hammond,
of Texas, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of 4 years, vice William James Ivey, resigned.

Donna Jean Hrinak,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

JoAnn Johnson,
of Iowa, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2007, vice Yolanda Townsend Wheat, term expired.

Sean O'Keefe,
of New York, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Daniel S. Goldin, resigned.

Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr.,
of New Hampshire, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Palau.

Frederick W. Schieck,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Harriet C. Babbitt, resigned.

Diane Leneghan Tomb,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Jean Nolan, resigned.

Roger P. Winter,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Hugh Q. Parmer, resigned.

Submitted November 28

Francis L. Cramer III,
of New Hampshire, to be a judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term expiring 15 years after he takes office, vice Julian L. Jacobs, term expired.

Kenneth P. Moorefield,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Submitted November 29

Jeanette J. Clark,
of the District of Columbia, to be an associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice George W. Mitchell, deceased.

J. Joseph Grandmaison,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2005, vice Rita M. Rodriguez.

Submitted November 30

Scott A. Abdallah,
of South Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Karen Elizabeth Schreier, resigned.

Thomas P. Colantuono,
of New Hampshire, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Michael Gagnon, resigned.

Harry E. Cummins III,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Paula Jean Casey, resigned.

Diane M. Ruebling,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2002, vice Melvin E. Clark, Jr., term expired.

Michael Taylor Shelby,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Mervyn M. Mosbacker, Jr., resigned.

C. William Swank,
of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2002, vice Robert Mays Lyford.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2924

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Puerto Rico

Statement by the Press Secretary on Vice President Cheney's appointment of Jennifer Millerwise as Deputy Assistant for Communications and Press Secretary to the Vice President

Released November 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for a judge of the U.S. Tax Court

Released November 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact Sheet: World AIDS Day Observance

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 20

H.R. 768 / Public Law 107–72
Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001

Approved November 26

H.R. 2620 / Public Law 107–73
Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

Approved November 28

H.R. 1042 / Public Law 107–74
To prevent the elimination of certain reports

H.R. 1552 / Public Law 107–75
Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act

H.R. 2330 / Public Law 107–76
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2500 / Public Law 107–77
Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2924 / Public Law 107–78
To provide authority to the Federal Power Marketing Administration to reduce vandalism and destruction of property, and for other purposes

Proclamation 7510—World AIDS Day, 2001

November 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year marks the 20th year that the world has been fighting the disease that we now know as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS has inflicted a terrible toll upon the world, taking millions of lives and causing untold grief to the families and friends of its victims. An estimated 40 million people worldwide are living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS; and more than 8,000 people across the globe die from AIDS every day. Sadly, since its inception, AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 22 million individuals.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "I Care . . . Do You? Youth and AIDS in the 21st Century." The goal underscoring this year's theme is ensuring greater education and involvement of young people in preventing HIV/AIDS. And it seeks to stress that every individual has both the responsibility and the opportunity to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to assist those suffering from the disease.

In many countries, including the United States, young people and adolescents are at a higher risk for contracting HIV infection. We know from epidemiological data that young people under the age of 25 comprise half of all new HIV infections worldwide. This sobering reality is a clarion call to public health networks around the world to redouble their efforts in providing information to young people about preventing HIV/AIDS, and most importantly, about abstinence and how it can help to prevent the spread of this disease.

The AIDS epidemic has had a devastating impact on diverse communities, and disadvantaged youth have borne the brunt of this devastation. Impoverished conditions and depressed economic circumstances tend to accompany an increased presence of HIV in these communities. We must develop and implement better ways to communicate to youth about abstinence and other effective measures that will help them to avoid the disease and to envision a future filled with possibility.

We must also continue our efforts to develop a vaccine that will protect individuals from becoming infected with HIV. Our children deserve to live in a world free from the fear of HIV/AIDS, and the United States will not weaken in its resolve to lead the world towards that goal.

As we enter the third decade of the AIDS pandemic, our hearts go out to those who have been afflicted with or affected by this deadly disease. We resolve to stand together as a Nation and with the world to fight AIDS on all fronts. We resolve to provide the resources necessary to combat HIV/AIDS. And we resolve to ensure that those suffering with HIV/AIDS receive effective care and treatment, compassionate understanding, and encouraging hope.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2001, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combat HIV/AIDS. I encourage every American to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in workplaces, houses of worship, and other community centers to reach out and protect and

educate our children, and to help comfort all people who are living with HIV and AIDS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 1, 2001

Good morning. This week, the official announcement came that our economy has been in recession since March. And unfortunately, to a lot of Americans, that news comes as no surprise. Many have lost jobs or seen their hours cut. Many have seen friends or family laid off.

The long economic expansion that started 10 years ago, in 1991, began to slow last year. Many economists warned me when I took office that a recession was beginning, so we took quick action. We passed the biggest tax cut in a generation, and we imposed some much needed discipline on Federal spending. And by the end of the summer, we could see signs that the economy was responding.

But the terrorist attacks of September the 11th hit our economy hard. They hurt our airlines and hotels and restaurants and undermined consumer and business confidence. Now we need to act boldly to protect America's economic security. There are two immediate priorities for America's recovery: We must bring quick help to those who need it most, and we must restore our economy's growth.

It's the holiday season. It's a time to reach out to Americans who are hurting, to help them put food on the table, and to keep a roof over their heads. I've offered a plan to provide immediate assistance to those who have lost their jobs in the wake of the terrorist attack. My plan extends unemployment compensation by 13 weeks in the States hardest hit by terrorism. My plan helps States offer Medicaid to uninsured workers in need and their families. And my plan offers emergency grants to States to help displaced workers get job training and find new work and continue their health insurance—practical help in a difficult time.

And I'm working with congressional leaders on more ideas to help Americans who have lost their jobs. In the long run, the right answer to unemployment is to create more jobs. I have proposed a package of job creating measures. I've asked Congress for tax relief for low- and moderate-income people to put more money into the hands of consumers and to put people to work making things that consumers want. I have proposed we lower taxes on employers who buy new equipment to expand their business and hire more people.

We should reform our tax laws so that employers don't pay more taxes as their profits shrink. And I propose we speed up the income tax cuts Congress passed in the spring so that people can keep more of their own money to spend or pay their debts.

I asked for this job creation package on October the 5th. The House of Representatives responded swiftly. Yet I'm still waiting for a bill to sign, and more importantly, so are more than 415,000 Americans who have lost their jobs since then.

You know, after September the 11th my administration and the Congress made a conscious decision to show the terrorists we could work together. We had an obligation to show that democracy works. We've done that. And now we need to do it again by helping dislocated workers and spurring economic growth.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:16 a.m. on November 30 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Bombings in Israel

December 1, 2001

I was horrified and saddened to learn of the bombings that took place tonight in Jerusalem. I strongly condemn them as acts of murder that no person of conscience can tolerate and no cause can ever justify. On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, to my friend Prime Minister Sharon, and to all the people of Israel. Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must immediately find and arrest those responsible for these hideous murders. They must also act swiftly and decisively against the organizations that support them. Now more than ever, Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must demonstrate through their actions, and not merely their words, their commitment to fight terror.

Remarks on Arrival From Camp David, Maryland

December 2, 2001

Bombings in Israel

In a couple of minutes I'll have the honor of receiving the Prime Minister from Israel. We obviously changed our schedule because of the horrific acts of murder that took place in his land.

I will tell him that I strongly condemn the acts of murder that killed innocent people in Israel. I will tell him our Nation grieves for those whose lives have been affected by the murderers.

This is a moment where the advocates for peace in the Middle East must rise up and fight terror. Chairman Arafat must do everything in his power to find those who murdered innocent Israelis and bring them to justice.

Clearly, there are some in the world who do not want us to achieve peace in the Middle East. Clearly, there are some that, every chance they have, they will use violence and terror to disrupt any progress that's being made. We must not allow them to succeed. We must not allow terror to destroy the chance of peace in the Middle East.

Now is the time for leaders throughout the world who urge there to be a peace to do something about the terror that prevents peace from happening in the first place.

May God bless the Israeli citizens who lost their lives, and their families.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:26 a.m. on the South Grounds at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception

December 2, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. Good evening, and welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so pleased to have all of you here for this incredibly happy occasion. We especially welcome the honorees, your families, and your friends.

Every year, the Kennedy Center honors artists like yourselves for lifetime contributions to the American culture. The recipients for 2001 make quite a collection. [*Laughter*] As one newspaper put it in the headline, this year's honorees can carry a tune—and then there's Jack. [*Laughter*] What the writer didn't know is that he actually plays the piano. But of course, that's not why he's here today. You're each here so that America can recognize your great gifts and the ways that you have used them.

Van Cliburn was recently a guest at our ranch in Crawford, Texas, at a dinner for President Vladimir Putin of Russia. He's known many other leaders. In this house on December 1987, he played at a state dinner for the Gorbachevs and had the entire Soviet delegation singing "Moscow Nights." [*Laughter*]

Three decades earlier, Van visited the White House as a guest of President Eisenhower. He was 23 years old and winner of the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. As a result, the whole world knew his name.

Texas knew him even before, in a place called Kilgore. Harvey L. Cliburn, Jr., first touched the keys at the age of 3 and was

playing in public at the age of 4. Even a prodigy needs an inspiration, and Van Cliburn's was his devoted and talented mother. She became his music teacher, the only one he knew until he went to Juilliard.

She, herself, studied under Arthur Friedheim, who studied under Liszt, who studied under Czerny, who studied with Beethoven. Wilda B. Cliburn lived a good, long life, and in her son's own words, he said, "Mother was always a fierce, wonderful, and loving critic." I know how you feel. [*Laughter*]

He reached the summit early and stayed there. In his lifetime of talent and discipline, Van Cliburn has brought great beauty into the world, and the world is grateful.

Great beauty has also been the gift of Julia Elizabeth Wells, whom we all know as Julie Andrews. The story is told of an important conference of world leaders some years ago. White House Chief of Staff Jim Baker came to the guesthouse where President Ronald Reagan was staying. He assumed the President had been up late, studying his briefing book, but then noticed the book hadn't been touched. And there was a good reason. The President said, "Well, Jim, 'The Sound of Music' was on last night." [*Laughter*] The face and voice of Julie Andrews has that effect on a lot of people.

You're instantly captivated when you meet her and hear her. After seeing "Mary Poppins," a reviewer put it this way: "If she did nothing but stand there smiling for a few hours, she would cast her radiance everywhere. It would be enough, but how that girl can sing and dance. She glides off—it's more than you can bear. Julie, Julie, stay awhile." [*Laughter*]

As a girl of 12, she was actually turned down in her first screen test. A talent scout declared her nonphotogenic. [*Laughter*] He was obviously applying standards unknown to the rest of mankind. [*Laughter*] Not only is Julie Andrews the living definition of photogenic, her range of talent extends from drama to musical to comedy to dance. And the range of her singing voice is four octaves, every note pure and powerful.

We've all sung along with Julie Andrews, and we know she'll sing again. And while we wait, we will treasure the many films and recordings that capture the sound of Julie and bring happy memories to us all. They're the lasting achievements of the truly lovely and gracious lady we honor today.

Luciano Pavarotti also achieved success at an early age, but in another profession. He was an insurance salesman. [*Laughter*] And people found him very persuasive. [*Laughter*] He had other plans, but his boss told him to stick with insurance. To Luciano this man actually said, and I quote, "As a singer, you will undoubtedly die of starvation." [*Laughter*] Pavarotti later said that he got out of sales because all that talking was damaging his voice. [*Laughter*] That voice is now among the most familiar on the planet.

He began in the chorus of his hometown, Modena, Italy, seated alongside the tenor he loved most, his dad, Fernando. He has commanded the stage before live audiences in the hundreds of thousands, leaving his listeners in a state of awe. The largesse of his voice and personality have drawn millions into the universe of classical music.

In a career routinely compared to that of the great Caruso, Luciano Pavarotti has gained the acclaim and affection of the American people. There's no one quite like him. And we'll all remember the day we were in the presence of Maestro Pavarotti.

Our fourth honoree is also worthy of the title "maestro." To look at him, you wouldn't know it, but Quincy Jones is in his sixth decade in the music industry. This one man has done so much, his career defies any attempt at summary. But everyone knows that if something has the name "Quincy Jones" on it, it is going to be good.

Among his many talents is that rare ability to bring out the best in others. Dizzy Gillespie said, "People go to Quincy Jones because he knows what he's doing. He knows the sound you've got in you, and he's got the know-how to get it out."

The man his friends call "Q" was born Quincy Delight Jones, Jr., on the south side of Chicago. He made his own way in the world with few advantages beyond his own talent, ambition, and class. Starting out in the band of Lionel Hampton, he would eventually win the Grammy 26 times—so far. [*Laughter*] Quincy Jones has already received more nominations for the Grammy

than any other artist. He produced one of the best selling singles of all time and the best selling album of all time.

All the hardship he knew early on has turned to good and creative purposes. His successful life is testimony to faith in himself, faith in America, and faith in our Creator. "You can study orchestration," he said. "You can study harmony and theory and everything else, but melodies come straight from God."

For all your marvelous work, America thanks you, Q, and so does W. [*Laughter*]

Jack Nicholson once described himself as the kind of guy who just wants to blend in. [*Laughter*] Well, we always don't get what we wish for. [*Laughter*] If there is one thing the man can't do, it's disappear into the background.

He was not trained as an actor, but he had a feeling it was his calling. As Jack had explained, he became interested in the craft when he noticed all the girls he liked were doing plays. [*Laughter*] Before long, he was working in a studio, sorting the mail. He was on the big screen at age 21 playing a variety of teens and drifters, perfect preparation for the film that made him a star, "Easy Rider." We all remember his other great pictures: "Five Easy Pieces," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Chinatown," "The Shining," "A Few Good Men," "As Good As It Gets."

Everyone has a favorite scene and a favorite line delivered by Jack as only he can do it. Give him a scene in a diner where he just wants a piece of toast—[*laughter*]—and he'll make film history. [*Laughter*] His characters leave mixed emotions, always something to draw you in, always something to put you off.

America cannot resist the mystery, the hint of menace, and of course, that killer smile. He doesn't rehearse, and he makes it look easy. His 11 Oscar nominations put him in a class with Katherine Hepburn, Sir Laurence Olivier. He's one of the handful of actors to win the Oscar 3 times.

We pay him tribute today because John Joseph Nicholson is one of the true greats of this or any other generation of actors.

I hope each of our honorees will enjoy the evening ahead. Perhaps it's a nice change that none of you will be called on to perform. This is an evening for appreciation, for looking back at all you've achieved, and for the part you continue to play in our national life.

Congratulations, and thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Mikhail Gorbachev of Russia.

Remarks on Departure for Orlando, Florida

December 4, 2001

Financial Fight Against Terror

The President. Good morning. Today we take another important step in the financial fight against terror. From the beginning of this fight I have said our enemies are terrorist networks of global reach, and all who harbor them and support them are our enemies, as well. We began with Al Qaida and the Taliban. We identified some of Al Qaida's financial backers and we moved against their accounts.

In November we advanced further and identified 22 more global terrorist organizations. And now we are moving against their financing, as well. At midnight yesterday the Treasury Department froze the assets and accounts of the Holy Land Foundation in Richardson, Texas, whose money is used to support the Hamas terror organization. Earlier today Federal agents secured the offices and records of the Holy Land Foundation in Texas, California, New Jersey, and Illinois as a part of an ongoing investigation. At the same time, we have blocked the accounts of an Hamas-linked bank, an Hamas-linked holding company based in the West Bank.

The message is this: Those who do business with terror will do no business with the United States or anywhere else the United States can reach.

Hamas is an extremist group that calls for the total destruction of the State of Israel. It is one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world today.

Hamas openly claimed responsibility for this past weekend's suicide attacks in Israel that killed 25 innocent people, many of them teenagers, and wounded almost 200 other

people. Hamas is guilty of hundreds of other deaths over the years and just in the past 12 months have killed two Americans. And today we act.

Hamas has obtained much of the money that it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States, money originally raised by the Holy Land Foundation. The Holy Land Foundation is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt charity based in Richardson. It raised $13 million from people in America last year. The Holy Land Foundation claims that the money it solicits go to care for needy Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is used by Hamas to support schools and indoctrinate children to grow up into suicide bombers. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is also used by Hamas to recruit suicide bombers and to support their families.

America has called on other nations to suppress the financing of terror. Today we take further steps to suppress it inside our borders. I am confident that most of the donors to the Holy Land Foundation, and perhaps even some of the individuals who are associated with the Foundation, had no idea how its money was being used. They wanted to relieve suffering in the region of the world that has suffered too much. But the facts are clear, the terrorists benefit from the Holy Land Foundation. And we're not going to allow it. Our action today is another step in the war on terrorism. It's not the final step. There are more terrorist networks of global reach and more front groups who use deceit to support them. The net is closing. Today it just got tighter. And now it's my honor to welcome to the podium the Secretary of the Treasury, Paul O'Neill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks in a Tour of the Operation Paycheck Center in Orlando

December 4, 2001

I, first of all, understand that the attacks on September the 11th affected a lot of people. Not only did we lose a lot of life, not only are Americans worried about future attacks, but a lot of people lost their jobs.

And I'm here at this program to assure the American people and yourselves that our governments, both Federal and State governments, want to help you help yourself. I've just come from a little discussion with people who find themselves in the same position you're in, about how best to use resources to enable them to retrain for jobs that actually exist.

Today we announced a grant for the State of Florida for over $3 million to encourage programs in one-stop centers such as this, so that they're available for people who are looking for new skills. And the other thing that makes it important is, the Federal Government can write checks, but it seems like, to me, it makes sense to empower the local folks to design the programs to meet the needs so that you can train for jobs that actually exist in your neighborhood.

And that's why I'm so proud of my little brother for seizing this initiative to develop a program that will meet your needs and the needs of people that are looking for workers. I want you to know that I'm optimistic about the future of the country. There's no question in my mind we will win the war on terror. There's no question that those who—the evil ones who murdered innocent citizens will be brought to justice.

I believe that we're making—taking everything we possibly can to—I know we're doing everything we can to prevent further attacks. It's going to be important for the economic vitality of our country to prevent future attacks. And we're taking the steps necessary within our Constitution to do just that. If we get any whiff or any sniff that somebody is going to harm an American again, we're acting—just the way you would want us to.

And I believe that we've got in place the framework for economic growth: We've got good fiscal policy; interest rates are low; energy prices are reasonable. But I hope the Congress does pass legislation that will take care of displaced workers for the short term, provide the short-term help necessary for you all—extending unemployment insurance, national emergency grants to help with the health care payments, and then put other stimuluses in place to encourage job creation.

The long-term solution is more jobs, and I believe, acting together, we can do that.

There seems to be a little bit of a logjam in Washington, DC, right now. And I know that Senators from both parties, if they could hear the stories about—and I'm sure they do; I'm sure they listen when they go home. But they need to act. They need to stop fussing and stop talking and get something to my desk that will take care of the workers and provide stimulus to this economy.

I wish you all the best. I'm an optimist. We live in a great country, a resilient country, a country that will rise to the task. And I believe that the effects of 9/11 will—when we do our job, will be mitigated with job increases for you all. I really wish you the best. I hurt, that coming into the holiday season, that you're not working. But I admire your courage for going out to try to improve yourselves so you can find jobs around here.

God bless you all. Thank you for letting me come by to say hello. I wish you all the best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:26 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks at a Townhall Meeting in Orlando

December 4, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you all very much. I'm really happy to visit Florida. The weather is beautiful. There's a lot of interesting things to do here. I recommend people from outside of Florida to come and take a look at Florida. It's a nice place to visit and a great place to live. One reason why is because you've got a great Governor. I'm not very objective. [*Laughter*]

I also—I'm proud to be traveling today with two members of my Cabinet. First, somebody who made a living and raised his family right here in Orange County, and that's Mel Martinez of the Housing—[*applause*]. There's no better person to help promote a significant part of the American Dream, that being homeownership, than somebody who came to our country from a country that doesn't encourage homeownership, somebody whose parents had the foresight to encourage him to be extricated from a tyrannical society, somebody who understood Fidel Castro doesn't trust people to own property. And that's Mel Martinez. We're working together to make sure homeownership becomes a reality for any citizen in America who shares that dream, regardless of where they live or their background.

I'm also traveling today with the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao. And there's a lot of Members of the United States Congress who have traveled here: homegrown Congressman Ric Keller; Ander Crenshaw is with us—thank you for coming, Ander; Congressman Mark Foley, I appreciate you; Congressman John Mica.

I recently worked closely with John and other Republicans and Democrats to forge an airport security bill which will allow the Federal Government to supervise the security of our airports, to make sure that those who travel are comfortable with the fact that we're doing everything in our power to make air travel as safe as it can possibly be. Thank you, John, for your leadership on that issue.

Congressman Adam Putnam—I had to check to make sure he was old enough, but Adam, thank you; Congressman Dave Weldon—thank you, Dave, for being here; Congressman Cliff Stearns, from Florida, as well.

And finally, I want to thank the mayor, Glenda Hood, and all those who helped encourage you all to come so that I can answer any questions you may have about what's going on in the country and the world today.

Before I answer a few questions—and I thought it was right. I know a lot of citizens in Florida and around our country may have some questions to the President, and I'm more than happy to answer some. Before I do, I do want to say a few comments.

One of the other reasons I came here is to herald a program called "Operation Paycheck." It's a program that Jeb has put in place to help displaced workers find the training necessary to find work, to help displaced workers around this part of the world, to help those who want to help themselves find the training necessary to allow them to learn new skills to find work again.

There's nothing that hurts me more than to know, as we head into the holiday season,

that some of our citizens and some of their families hurt because they've been laid off as a result of 9/11. And we have a role in the Government—in the State Government, in the Federal Government—to provide immediate help as part of an economic security package, is to provide immediate help. And so one of the things I did was announce a grant for the State of Florida to encourage programs like Operation Paycheck, one-stop centers for people to find help. And today I was pleased to announce that grant on behalf of the Federal Government, but there's more to be done.

You probably read about the fact that we're working with Congress. And I must say, relations with Congress are a heck of a lot better than they have been in the past, because Congressmen and Senators of both parties are interested about what's doing right for the American people.

And part of an economic security package is to make sure that we extend unemployment insurance benefits for those who have been laid off as a result of 9/11 and provide money—monies to help those who have been laid off with things such as child care or health insurance or transportation to a community college, to enable them to learn a new skill. We have a role to play. And I urge the United States Congress to stop talking and to get an economic security bill to my desk.

The House has acted, and for that I'm grateful. And there's always—the Speaker can tell you—there's always a difference of opinion sometimes between the House and the Senate, whether it's at the State or Federal level. But the Senate needs to get a bill, get it reconciled, and get it to my desk, so we can say we're doing the people's business in a way that will make you proud.

The truth of the matter is, economic security, however, the long-term, depends upon our ability to get our economy cranked up again, so new jobs are being created. We've got to think about how to stimulate job creation. The question that needs to be answered is how to create more jobs, and I've laid out a blueprint to do just that.

I think we ought to—and help people with more money as we head into the Christmas season, by making sure that those who filed but didn't pay taxes get a rebate, just similar to the rebates you all have just recently received. That will help low- and moderate-income Americans. We ought to accelerate the tax cuts that we have in place. More money in people's pockets mean more economic activity.

We ought to reform the corporate income tax system. This current system says that as you lose money, you begin to pay more taxes. That doesn't make any sense if we're worried about job creation. I don't think we ought to be looking back for a decade, but I do think we ought to reform the system as we head forward, to make sense. And finally, I think we ought to provide incentives for corporate America to buy more plant and equipment. That will encourage job creation.

We ought to ask the question in Washington, what's it take to create more jobs, so hardworking Americans can be able to put food on the table? That's what we ought to be asking.

Two other points I want to make before I answer your questions is, there's no question, as well, that in order to make sure our economy recovers and people are able to find work, we've got to do everything we can to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. We've got to be diligent. And so we're following every hint, every lead, every possibility, within the confines of the Constitution. My job is to provide security for the American people. My job is to make sure that we use the assets at our disposal to ferret out those who might hurt America and to bring them to justice.

We can protect our homeland by beefing up law enforcement, by encouraging the FBI to focus on prevention, by working closely with local authorities, and we're doing that. But in the long term, the best way to make sure America is safe is to find those who would commit terror against America, no matter where they run or where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're doing.

For those of you who are the parents or the spouse or the brother or sister of a member of our military who may not be home during the holiday season, first, I want to thank you for your sacrifice but let you know that the cause is just. And I know you're as

proud as I am of how our military is fighting the war on terror.

We rescued humanitarian aid workers. We're slowly but surely demolishing the Government that felt comfortable in housing and abetting and feeding and hiding those who committed murder in America. And slowly but surely we're tightening the net on Usama bin Laden and Al Qaida.

They think they can run, and we'll tire. They think they can hide, and we will tire. But they have sorely misunderstood America. They don't understand our will and our determination. This great land is united to bring freedom to the world. We will bring them to justice, and we will prevail.

And so I'm honored that such a huge crowd would turn out. I want to thank you all for coming. I look forward to answering your questions. I want to thank you for your prayers, thank you for your love for the country. And now, if you've got any questions, I'm here to answer them.

Yes, sir.

Job Training and Unemployment Benefits

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Since the September 11th tragedy, many Americans with college degrees, including myself, have been laid off. What are some of the things you're doing to help people like me, who have been out of work for the past few months?

The President. Well, first of all, there's a lot of money spent from the Federal level to help—to help with reeducation. And one of the programs that I just mentioned is the use of Federal monies to empower State Governments to provide opportunities for reeducation.

I just went by a center today. I sat next to a TWA pilot, highly skilled, college-educated man who got laid off as a pilot. His dream is to go back to a local community college, become reeducated to become a computer programmer. In other words, the idea is to mate those with skills with jobs that actually exist.

The problem with the kind of Federal approach and only Federal approach is, is that we may encourage you to become trained in a job that doesn't exist. And so the real thing is, is there money available for job training? Is there money available from the Federal Government to say to Governor Bush of Florida, "Here is some dough. Set up a system that will actually match people with skills and jobs that exist." There are jobs in Florida, and the fundamental question is, how do we encourage those with skills, to funnel those with skills into those jobs?

Secondly, I do believe we ought to extend the amount of time one can receive unemployment insurance benefits. I think that's important. And I also believe that we need to have what's called national emergency grants, which are basically Federal expenditures to States to allow people to help, for example, make health care payments. And one of the things I worry about and I'm deeply concerned about is, somebody who has had a good health care plan is no longer able to afford health care. And so we ought to help people be able to afford those premiums and those benefits until they're able to get back to work.

The long term, though, is—and I keep repeating it—is, let's stimulate job growth. The best thing for you to be able to find a job is for there to be more jobs available. And I believe—I believe we're on the verge of doing just that.

I mean, we've got great tax policy in place. We cut taxes this year; we've got taxes cut for the next years coming, which will stimulate economic growth. Alan Greenspan has got monetary policy in such a shape that interest rates are low. Energy prices are reasonable. And so, we've got the framework for growth. And by the way, the same entrepreneurial spirit that existed in America prior to September 11th still exists today. They can't take that away from us.

Responsive Government

Q. Mr. President, we appreciate you coming to the community and putting a great spotlight on the tourism industry. For the past 16 years, I own a small transportation company here, 10 of which I operate at the Orlando International Airport. Due to the slowdown in the economy and certainly the events of September 11, I was forced to close my doors, putting 252 employees out of work, not to mention their families and others who support my business. We have taken

advantage of some of the programs you've put into place, such as the SBA disaster loan plan. We've been monitoring that and found out that the application is bogged down in the bureaucracy of the system. What can you do to help us, as small business, speed that process, as our window is closing rapidly on us? Thank you for your answer.

The President. Well, first get your card, and find out why your case is bogged down in bureaucracy. I can't stand bureaucracy. I appreciate the hard-working people who work for the Federal Government. I appreciate people who care enough to work for the Government to make people's—to do their job. I like that. But what I don't like is systems that get so cumbersome that those who are trying to help you don't get the product out.

I put a good man as the head of the SBA, and I believe that he's doing everything he can to make sure that applications don't get stuck in a system, that hardworking Federal employees are able to match their desires to help you with the ability to do so.

So to answer your question, I need to know your case, and I'm going to send a man right out here to ask you. Where's Logan?

Advice to Youth

Q. First of all, I'd like to thank you for being here today, Mr. President Bush. My name is Adam Hallsman, and I'm a seventh grader at Shelley Boone Middle School in Haines City, Florida. I'd like to know what the children and the small—and the young people in America, how can they help the economy?

The President. Listen to your mother. I'm still listening to mine. [*Laughter*]

I'll tell you what you can do; I'll tell you how you can help the economy: Study hard, learn a skill, have ambition, make the right choices in life so that when you get old enough, you're a productive citizen. That's the absolute best thing you can do.

But there are other things you can do. I see women of cover here, and I want to thank you for coming from the Muslim community here in America. Right after the attacks, I went to a mosque to send the signal that the war against terror had nothing to do with the Muslim faith. It has everything to do with evil, evil people. What you can do to help America, beyond the economy, is to remind people that regardless of our religious beliefs, we're all, first and foremost, Americans; that this is a country—[*applause*]

And you know what else you can do? You can find somebody in need and give them a hand. I'm worried about the fact that charitable giving in America has dropped off as a result of 9/11. It didn't drop off because of 9/11; it dropped off because a lot of people gave money to help the victims, which is great. But there's an aftermath to the attacks that we've got to worry about. There are still people in America who hurt. They were hurting before September 11th; they hurt today. And one of the things you can do as a seventh grader, and all of us can do, is remember that and give of time and money to help fellow Americans in need. I can't think of any way better to make sure our country remains strong in the aftermath of the terrorist attack, is to help; is to ask the question, "What can I do"; is to not only honor the values of America but honor the values of a good neighborhood, which is neighbor helping neighbor in need.

Small Business

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. President. First of all, it is an honor to be here with you, and we want to thank you for your godly leadership in serving this country. My name is Irma Yapur. And my question today is in regards also to small business and self-employment. As many Americans are losing their corporate jobs and are going into business for themselves, is the Government planning to provide assistance to the self-employed in small business who do not have the tangible collateral and livelihood to support a loan approval?

The President. Well, we do. We've got an SBA whose job it is to encourage entrepreneurial growth. Evidently, it may be somewhat bound in paperwork, unnecessary paperwork requirements. [*Laughter*] It's good to get out of Washington to get the real story—[*laughter*]—but the job—but that's what the SBA is for. It's to encourage—and you're bogged down in paperwork, as well, I take it? Okay, my man Logan—[*laughter*].

Look, the Government can never guarantee success in the private sector. That's not what happens in a system based upon free enterprise. We can help people, but there are no guarantees about business. We're a risk and reward oriented society. And so the best thing we can do is help you to get your business started. But it's up to you to have a good product; it's up to you to understand the market; and it's up to you to fashion a game plan that will work. And what we can do is help there, and there all kinds of ways to do that.

You're next. Yes, sir.

Tax Rebates

Q. The first one is a thank-you from all of our employees and many people who have worked. When the taxpayer rebates came, for many of them, they said they don't know what they would have done if it hadn't been for those. So very much a sincere thank-you for that.

The President. Thank you very much.

Terrorist Attacks in Israel

Q. The second one is a question. What are we doing right now to assist our allies in Israel during their time of terrorist attacks?

The President. Yes. The question is about Israel. I had the Prime Minister of Israel in my office on Sunday. He was coming Monday but decided to come sooner because of the attacks. And I commiserated with him, because a lot of innocent people had been killed or hurt as a result of terrorist activity.

The terrorist attacks on Israel—first of all, Israel has got no better friend than the United States, as far as I'm concerned. Israel is a democracy. We share a lot of values with Israel. I have a dream; I can't think of anything better than to have a dream for peace for Israel. I think the Israeli people want to have peace.

But we learned in such a vivid way that there are elements in the Middle East that hate the thought of peace and will be willing to use terror to derail any type of peace process. And so the spotlight now flashes on the Middle East in a terrible way, obviously. But it also reminds people around the world that if we want peace, that it's important for those advocates of peace to help rout out terror and to bring it to justice. It is incumbent upon Mr. Arafat now to respond forcefully, to rout out those who killed. It's incumbent upon other friends and allies of ours around the world to help bring those terrorists to justice if we want peace in the Middle East, which I do—which I do. We've got to bring the terrorists to justice.

We cannot let a few—we cannot let a few prevent the many from achieving a dream which is lasting peace in the Middle East. I hope that happens. I hope it happens for the sake of Israel. I hope it happens for the sake of the Palestinians, who suffer because of the lack of job opportunity and killing and war. I hope it happens. But first things first. We must rid the world of terror.

Worker Benefits/Economic Stimulus

Q. Thank you, President Bush. It's great to have you here in the State of Florida. I work at the airport at the Hyatt Hotel. And I'm worried—I have, luckily, kept my job, but now we're getting our hours cut and stuff. And they're trying to do the best that they can, and I'm in jeopardy of losing my benefits. Now, I'm a single mother of three kids, and I can't be without benefits, like health insurance, per se.

The President. Right. Well, I think that one of the things that we need to work on during the next session is how to make sure that the working uninsured have benefits. I proposed a plan through the tax credit system to provide just that—to make sure that you don't lose your benefits if this were to happen.

Of course, the key thing—again, I keep harking back to this—is, we've got to grow our economy, is we've got to put a stimulus—security package—a stimulus package in place that encourages job growth.

Now, the Government did act quickly when it came to your industry. After all, we provided a significant amount of loans and grants for the airline industry to make sure the airplanes, which were directly hit by the attacks, continue to fly. And I hope that the measures we have put in place, financial measures plus the security measures, will

convince the American people to get on airplanes and come down to Florida so that your hotel has got customers.

Education

Q. Mr. President, I'm an educator for the Orange County Public School System. And, first of all, I'd like to thank you very much for your ethics and integrity, because that's what we're all about in education.

The President. Thank you.

Q. I'd like to share that I am very appreciative of the focus that you and the First Lady have brought to your administration on reading instruction. And we were very happy when that took place. And we can also appreciate the fact that since 9/11, your energy and your focus has been diverted to issues that are to protect our country, and we thank you very much for that. But the reality is that 9/11 has also impacted education. We are about to experience one of the biggest cuts that we have experienced in many years here in Florida, and we're very concerned about our children and about our teachers and their future, as well. And I would just like to hear from you where you are today with education, in terms of your focus and energy.

The President. You bet. Thank you very much. I appreciate that question. Education needs to be the number one priority of any State. I'm convinced it's the number one priority of this Governor here. I believe that there needs to be a clear role for local people, State people, and a limited role for the Federal Government, because I do not believe one size fits all when it comes to educating children.

Now, having said that, I do believe that the Federal Government has got responsibilities for providing funds for disadvantaged and for beefing up reading programs around the country. So one of the things that we're going to do is to work with Jeb and other States on enhancing reading programs. There's no question about it, that if a child can't read, all the rest of the subjects are basically irrelevant. Reading is the absolute gateway to knowledge, and therefore what needs to be done is a comprehensive national reading agenda.

To answer your question, it's about to happen when the Congress passes the education reform bill and the education bill, the funding mechanism necessary for education. But education is a priority not only here, but as my good wife reminded everybody on the radio, it's got to be a priority around the world. There is no excuse for the Taliban Government to have treated women and young girls the way they have and not educated people.

Education is a domestic priority. No question about it, it's a domestic priority. And we're increasing education spending at the Federal Government to help local districts. But we also have got to remind people around the world, if we want peace in the world, other nations must do a better job of treating people with respect by making sure that they are educated, as well.

Speaking about education, you go to school, don't you? Let's hear your question.

President's Visit

Q. Hi. My name is Ashley. I just wanted to—I don't have a comment, but I have a question. Actually, I don't have a question; I have a comment.

The President. Okay. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've been doing a good job for the United States. Can you shake my hand?

The President. Yes. I will in a minute. Oh, you want to do it right now? I'll do better; I'll give you a kiss. You're a sweet girl. Thank you.

Q. Thank you very much for coming to Florida. We love you.

The President. Thanks.

Local Economies/International Trade

Q. And God bless you. This area is so dependent on tourism. Since 9/11, as you know, everyone knows it's so bad. Is there anything that the Government is doing to attract other industry into our area and to other areas that are so dependent on this?

The President. I think—I would actually get Governor Bush to answer that question. [*Laughter*] I'm afraid to share the mike with him; he might never give it up, though. [*Laughter*] Absolutely, there is a diversification program. There is. And Jeb is wise enough to understand that this part of the world needs to be diversified. And tourism will always be an integral part of the central

Florida economy, but there is a lot of interesting diversification going on here.

Now, the Federal Government's role is not to tell States how to diversify their economies; the Federal Government's role is to provide an overall picture for economic vitality and growth. Our job is to think about how best to grow the entire national economy and let States figure out and local districts and communities figure out how to diversify.

One of the interesting battles we've got going in Congress is trade. We need to be able to trade freely, it seems like to me, in the world. We've got the best farmers in the world in the United States—the best farmers. It seems like it makes sense to open up other people's markets so we can sell our products around the world.

Now, that is the place where the Federal Government, it seems like to me, has got to address job growth and diversification through large national issues. I'm sure the Congress—these Congressmen understand the value of free trade. I look forward to working with them when it comes to trade promotion authority, if it ever makes it to my desk. But it requires wise Governors and local officials to understand the opportunities through diversification. And I believe you've got a good Governor. I keep hating to tout the guy too much, because they'll think I'm not very objective, but I'm not. [*Laughter*]

Yes, ma'am.

Health Insurance

Q. Hi. President Bush, we'd like to thank you for coming here today. And just to help you out with her question about—I wanted to tap our Governor on about, because we do have a program for people that—I'm self-employed, and I don't make a lot of money, but we do have a program in this State for people like ourselves, who we can buy insurance through the State for our children, in case you lose your job. So I wanted to tap our Governor on that——

The President. It's the CHIPS program.

Q. No, it's Florida Healthy Kids here.

The President. Same thing.

Q. Right. [*Laughter*] She said she don't qualify, but if you lost your job, you would.

The President. All right.

Yes, sir.

Travel Industry/Military Tribunals

Q. First of all, thank you. Second of all, I work in a Hard Rock Hotel here in Orlando, and we love to have people come through our doors, just as every hotel and every theme park here does. My question is for the Federal Government, not just for Orlando but for everywhere, what is being done to encourage travel? I've seen a few commercials, not just within the country, but abroad. We're a great place to come——

The President. Well, there's a marketing plan. One of the things—if you noticed how I started off my talk here—I've got a rather large microphone these days, and I've been encouraging people to travel. I think the best thing we can do in America to—first of all, you can't make people do what they don't want to do. I mean, if they're not interested in traveling, they're not going to travel.

On the other hand, if they're worried about security on airplanes, we can do something about that. That's why we've rallied guard troops all across the country in airports. Until we have the new security plan in place, we're putting guards in place. And we've sped up the training and placement of air marshals on airplanes. I want the American people to know that if you want to travel and if that's your desire, if you're planning to do this in your budget and you've been thinking about it, air travel is getting safer and safer and safer. And that's the best thing the Federal Government can do.

Now, we can—we're not going to, you know, pick one part of the region over another. I don't think that's the role of the Federal Government. But—and therefore, that's why Jeb and other States, my old State of Texas, for example, is trying to encourage, always trying to compete for people who want to travel to come to our respective States. But the Federal Government can help by making sure things are more secure and people feel safe. That's really our fundamental responsibility right now, is the safety of the American people.

I know a lot of people have got some concerns about how safe we can make the country, and if we're doing—are we doing things within the Constitution. I want to talk about a couple of things to put your mind at ease.

I'll ask myself a question: Why are you having the opportunity to have a military tribunal?

Now, I want you to remember that we are at war. The United States of America is under attack. And at war, the President needs to have the capacity to protect the national security interests and the safety of the American people. And so I asked, what are all my options as your Commander in Chief? What are the options to protect America? What do I need to know about what might occur to make sure that I can come in front of the folks in Orlando, Florida, and say we're doing everything in our power, or we have every option in our power to keep you safe?

Well, one of those scenarios is military tribunals. No one has been tried in a military tribunal; except I, by Executive order, provided myself with the option of having a military tribunal, which will be used for—no American citizen will go to a military tribunal. They would only be used for those who aren't American citizens.

And let me give you one example of why it may be necessary, why it may be necessary to use such a tribunal. What happens if, in the course of this war, that we apprehend or capture an enemy and we want to bring him to justice? In the course of bringing him to justice, what if the information necessary to bring him to justice would compromise our capacity to keep America safe?

In a court of law, there would be all kinds of questions that might compromise our ability to gather incredibly important intelligence to prevent the next attack from happening to America. It seems like to me that the President of the United States ought to have the option to protect the national security interests of the country and, therefore, protect America from further attack.

You've probably read about the interviews that are taking place. There are countries that we're certain of where people who come from those countries are likely to commit a terrorist act against America. And they're here on our soil—certain citizens from those countries, on our soil. We're a free country. They're here because we're a great country. And we've got liberties that we'll protect. But we're asking those who are here as guests, enjoying our freedom, to voluntarily participate in helping us understand how best to protect the country.

Nobody is being forced into an interview. People are being—"Why don't you help us? Why don't those of you who are guests in our country help us make the land more secure? It's in your interests, and it's certainly in our interests. If you know somebody or know something, help us."

We're in the business now of gathering as much information as we possibly can gather, and we're acting on that information. People are detained in America under material witness claims. It's against the law, by the way, to publish the name of those people before they get up in front of a grand jury. We've got people that we've pulled aside because of who they may or may not know, and it turns out they violated their immigration status. It turns out, as we're looking for leads, we've found people who have actually committed other crime.

All of them in America are entitled to a lawyer. All of them in America are entitled to make phone calls. We're the freest society in the world. That's what America is all about. And at the same time, we're doing what's necessary to protect the people at home.

Airline Industry/Hospitality Industry

Q. How are you doing, Mr. President?

The President. Pretty darn good. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thanks for coming to Florida and talking to us. You've given billions of dollars to the airline industry, to try to help get them stimulated and get them going. Are you going to do any kind of grants or any type of benefits for the hospitality industry, as we're struggling to get by?

The President. Well, part of the key is, is that the first industry deeply affected after 9/11 was the airline industry. And without an airline industry there is no hospitality—oh, there may be a hospitality industry, certainly not as vibrant a hospitality industry as we would like.

It is the first major industry affected. And so our strategy was to make sure that we provide the industry that actually affects hospitality directly the means necessary to stay in business. To me, that seemed like the most

important initial leg of a strategy. And in the meantime, we're trying to help those workers who have been affected within the hospitality industry.

I am hopeful that as a result of a airline stimulus package, or airline security package, as well as a safety package and an economic stimulus package, this economy will come back; people will have the money necessary to travel; people will feel safe to travel; and the hospitality industry to recover.

But to answer your question directly, no, the answer is that the first step, and we think the primary step, needed to be what we've already done.

Yes, ma'am.

Q. Mr. President, what about tax incentives——

The President. Tax incentives for travel? That hasn't made it to my radar screen yet. [*Laughter*]

Yes, sir.

Youth, Education, and the Faith-Based Initiative

Q. [*Inaudible*]—and my wife and my mother-in-law and friends, they're in the tourism industry. Yes, my family has been very well affected by 9/11. But I have a question about the youth. Is there anything that you or your brother, Governor Bush, can do to give the youth the drive and will to look for a better future? Because it seems like a lot of them don't—it seems as if they don't have anything to lose, so they don't have anything to drive for.

The President. I can think of a couple of things. One is to remind moms and dads of America that no matter what you're doing during the day job, your most important job you'll ever have is to love your children, is to tell your children you love them.

Secondly—it goes to this lady's point right here—is to make sure that every child in America is well-educated, starting with every child learning to read. There's nothing like an education to provide hope for people. Part of the reason why people are discouraged is because they lose hope. They say, "Well, this society isn't meant for me." A hopeful society is an educated society. And so we've got to make sure we get it right, we have an education—a focus on education, understanding that education is the gateway to such great freedom and opportunity.

And finally, one of my initiatives that I'm most proud of, that passed the House of Representatives and I think will have a significant impact in America, is to rally one of the great strengths of our country, and that is the faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs which exist all across the country.

I want to talk about one. I want to talk about a couple. First of all, governments shouldn't worry about faith. We ought to welcome faith. We ought to understand that—we ought to welcome those programs that exist because somebody will say, "What can I do? What can I do to help a neighbor in need? What can I do?"

And it's not a particular faith I'm talking about. I'm talking about the Muslim faith; I'm talking about Judaism; and I'm talking about Christianity. No, the faith doesn't have a lock on a certain religion. I'm talking about people who have heard a call. And there all kinds of programs all around America based upon faith. And many of them have asked the question, what can I do to surround a child with love? What can I do to make sure that a child has got—somebody has got their arm them saying, "Somebody loves you"?

There's a lot of children who have no love in their life. Imagine what it would be like growing up in America, how tough it would be if your mom or your dad were in prison. How tough is that? The degree of difficulty for success is incredibly hard for a person. And we've got a program that we hope to get out of Congress—the House passed it; get it out of the Senate—that says, we want to fund, make monies available for mentoring programs, faith-based or not, but mentoring programs, the sole purpose of which will be to take a son or a daughter of a person in prison and encourage some loving soul to say, "I love you. America is meant for you. This country belongs to you. Get educated and go after it with all your heart and all your soul."

So there's a lot that can be done in society. You know, Government—Government must not fear these programs that exist in neighborhoods all around the country, based upon faith. We must not fear. We must fear Government embracing religion. We fear a state

religion; that's not what we're for. We don't want for one government or religion. Government will never say, "This is the religion." We're a free society for religion. But Government can embrace programs started because of faith and religion and encourage those programs to foster in neighborhoods all across America. I'm passionate on the subject because I understand the power of faith in people's lives, and I understand what it can mean.

Energy Policy

Q. Mr. President, early in your administration there was a lot of discussion of drilling for oil in Alaska and the Gulf. Now that prices are low at the pump, what are you doing to ensure that?

The President. Yes—well, I'm trying to get an energy plan out of Congress. [*Laughter*] The House of Representatives—the House of Representatives passed a good energy bill. It is stuck in the Senate. And I believe it is in our national interests to have an energy plan, to have a strategy to get us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Part of that energy plan means that we've got to enhance conservation. We've got to encourage technologies that will enable us to conserve better, and we can do that with the proper incentives. And this plan of ours that passed the House has got incentives to encourage conservation. And we're making great strides in our society, by the way, of conserving. We're doing a much better job, and we can do an even better job.

Part of it also recognizes that we need more supply. And there are several places we can find supply. One is, I believe that the nuclear industry is safe enough now to encourage more nuclear power in America. I believe that is necessary. I also strongly believe that we can explore for natural gas in Alaska without damaging the environment. And I believe that's necessary, to do that.

You know, when the vote came up in the House, a lot of people came forward to work on behalf of the vote because they understood not only did it mean energy security, it also meant jobs. I was pleased to report that the Teamsters, for example, led by Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., was out campaigning for—or lobbying or working for this bill, because it meant jobs.

But I've got great faith in the technology and the ability of our country, if given proper incentive, to become less dependent and more wise about how we develop our energy sources; I truly do. But we need a bill, and we need to get it out of the Senate. Energy prices are low, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't worry about our future. Because if the economies of the world come back, we might be in a tight again, in which case we're going to be wondering where was the energy policy that the President was arguing for back in the year 2001.

Yes, ma'am.

Families and American Values

Q. Hi, Mr. President.

The President. I'm not nervous as you are. [*Laughter*]

Q. I wrote it out, because I thought I would be nervous, and I'm here with my sister, Maggie, and my family, and——

The President. Good. Hi, Maggie. [*Laughter*]

Q. And I'm Caitlin. Our family wants to help out our country, and we think that making families strong will make our country strong. My parents believe that eating meals together will do that. Is it something that you did when you were a kid, and that you and Mrs. Bush believe in?

The President. I did eat with my family, so long as my mother wasn't cooking. [*Laughter*] Wait a minute. Just kidding, Mom. [*Laughter*] She was one of the great fast food cooks of all time. [*Laughter*] Just kidding, Mom. We ate a lot together. We did. And I think it's important to do that. That's a very interesting question.

You know, we live in a society that's a busy society. We live in a society where it's so easy to forget the fundamentals. But one of the really positive things that has come out of the evil of 9/11 was that people are beginning to ask, what's important—what's important?

I think you've touched on something really important, and that's family. And the idea of a mom and dad prioritizing family is all about not only enhancing the quality of life of their children but, collectively, making America so

much stronger and so much better after the evils.

There has been—this is an unbelievably great country we live in. The values of America are so strong; the people are so real and so good. And 9/11 has brought out, in many instances, the best in America. Part of that is the individual—the decisions individual families make about setting new priorities in their lives. A lot of it has to do with helping people in need.

I'll never forget the story of people in a Midwestern city, when they heard me on TV talk about how distressed I was that women of cover would not leave their homes for fear of some other American treating them harshly, and then Jewish citizens and Christians alike getting on the phone and saying, "We want to help you. We want to take you to the neighborhood store. This isn't the America we know."

No, the country—this country is a fabulous country. They thought they hurt us, the evil ones. They have made us stronger, more real, and a better land.

Role of Religious Leaders

Q. Mr. President, we thank you for coming, on behalf of the clergy of Orlando. We're going to be having a summit this next week, 12/12 summit, and I'm a pastor. And we want to know what we can do—we're praying for strategies of how we can assist you in our Government and assist our communities.

The President. First thing you can do is make sure people of all faiths are represented at your prayer session. It sends such a strong signal—it reminds people of the greatness of America. The evil people we fight, they don't believe in religious freedom. They want it their way or no way, and if you're not their way, they'll treat you harshly. That's why, by the way, when we liberated cities throughout Afghanistan, people lined the roads and cheered out of joy and happiness.

Secondly, you need to pray for the good Lord to protect America, provide a shield over our country, to prevent us from harm.

September 11

Q. Hi, Mr. President. I want to say, they haven't won. I got in my car today, and I'm in the same building with you, speaking to you. They have not won.

The President. Thank you very much.

Q. And would you say hello to my son Jordan and my daughter Patricia.

The President. Jordan and who?

Q. Patricia.

The President. Hi, Patricia. How are you? How old is Patricia?

Q. Five, and Jordan is in third grade. And Jordan has a question, if I could give him the microphone.

The President. You bet. Your mother is relaying the mike to you, Jordan.

Q. One thing, Mr. President, is that you have no idea how much you've done for this country. And another thing is that, how did you feel when you heard about the terrorist attack?

The President. Thank you, Jordan. Well, Jordan, you're not going to believe what State I was in when I heard about the terrorist attack. I was in Florida. And my Chief of Staff, Andy Card—actually, I was in a classroom talking about a reading program that works. I was sitting outside the classroom waiting to go in, and I saw an airplane hit the tower; the TV was obviously on. And I used to fly, myself, and I said, "Well, there's one terrible pilot." I said, "It must have been a horrible accident." But I was whisked off there. I didn't have much time to think about it. And I was sitting in the classroom, and Andy Card, my Chief of Staff, who is sitting over here, walked in and said, "A second plane has hit the tower. America is under attack."

And Jordan, I wasn't sure what to think at first. You know, I grew up in a period of time where the idea of America being under attack never entered my mind—just like your daddy's and mother's mind, probably. And I started thinking hard in that very brief period of time about what it meant to be under attack. I knew that when I got all of the facts that we were under attack, there would be hell to pay for attacking America.

I tried to get as many facts as I could, Jordan, to make sure I knew, as I was making decisions, that I knew exactly what I was basing my decisions on. I've got a fabulous team.

A President can't possibly be President without a good team. It starts with having a great wife, by the way.

And so, I got on the phone from Air Force One, asking to find out the facts. You've got to understand, Jordan, during this period of time, there were all kinds of rumors floating around. Some of them were erroneous. Obviously—for example, there was a news report saying that the State Department had been attacked. I needed to know what the facts were. But I knew I needed to act. I knew that if the Nation's under attack, the role of the Commander in Chief is to respond forcefully to prevent other attacks from happening. And so, I've talked to the Secretary of Defense; one of the first acts I did was to put our military on alert.

An interesting thing happened shortly thereafter. Condoleezza Rice, who was not with me but was with the Vice President because they were in the White House compound, called me on Air Force One after that and said that she had gotten a call from Russia, from Vladimir Putin, who understood why we were putting our troops on alert and therefore wasn't going to respond. That was an important phone call, because when I was coming up, and a lot of other older-looking people here who were coming up with me—[*laughter*]—that would never have happened in the past. An alert by the United States would have caused Russia to go on alert, which would have created a complicated situation. But that wasn't the case.

By the way, we're heading into a new era. One of the positive things that comes out of the evil was, we're reassessing relationships in order to make the world more peaceful. I believe it's important for us to have positive relations with our former enemy and to rethink the defenses of the United States of America.

At any rate, I knew I had a job to do. And I was quoted in the press the other day as saying I haven't regretted one thing I've decided. And that's the truth. Every decision I made, I stand by. And I'm proud of the decisions I've made.

Support for the Muslim Community

Q. Mr. President, peace and blessings be unto you. I'm representing the Muslim community of Orlando. And I would really like to thank you for being such a great role model, practicing what this country believes in, the higher ideals that this country believes in, your support to the Muslim community in combating racism. I am an educator; I'm a mother, and I have a strong faith. Thank you so much for holding these values high and trying to wipe the stereotypes that the Taliban has been represented of Muslim women. I am an educator, educating Muslim children in this Orlando city. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. God bless. Thank you.

Listen, I've got a job to do. [*Laughter*] I've got to get back to my temporary home. By the way, my address is in Washington; my home is going to be back in Texas one of these days. But I am—I have got to go back. I wish I could stay and answer questions all night, but I've got—I'll be right there, ma'am. He's fine. I've got to get back and go to work.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to have been here. I want to thank you all for your great questions and for your incredibly warm reception. It's a huge honor to be the greatest—to be the President of the greatest country in the world.

God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. In his remarks, the President referred to President Fidel Castro of Cuba; Mayor Glenda E. Hood of Orlando; Governor Jeb Bush of Florida; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; James P. Hoffa, Jr., general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

December 4, 2001

I am honored to bestow the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Baldrige Award on businesses and schools which have

set a standard for quality. These winners remind us that excellence in all organizations strengthens our Nation.

I am especially pleased that this year's awards include the first Baldrige education winners. They illustrate that the quality of education for children can be improved with innovative programs. These organizations demonstrate that improving the quality of education for all children is everyone's business.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

December 4, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 4, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 5.

Message to the Congress on the National Emergencies With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo

December 4, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a combined 6-month periodic report on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 4, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 5.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Republican National Committee Chairman Marc Racicot

December 5, 2001

The President. I had the honor of, first, thanking Jim Gilmore for his service to the Republican Party. I asked Jim to take on an assignment. He did it, and he did it well. And for that, I'm grateful. We talked about a week ago, and he said he wanted to spend more time with his family, and he wanted to prepare for his transition out of public service as Governor of Virginia. The people of the Commonwealth of Virginia know what I know, that he's an honorable public servant who served our State and our party well.

And to take Jim's place, I've asked my friend Marc Racicot, the former Governor of Montana, to become the chairman of the RNC. He's agreed, for which I'm grateful. Marc has got a history of success. He knows how to build grassroots organizations. He's going to reach out to members of the labor unions and the minorities, just like Jim Gilmore did, to continue to take our positive, optimistic message to people that—in all kinds of neighborhoods around the country. He has got a fine history of winning races, and he'll translate that into practice come next fall, in the 2002 races. And I'm really, really pleased Marc has agreed to take on this assignment.

I also want to welcome Ann Wagner here, the vice chairman of the party, to the Oval Office.

I wish you all the best, Marc. Thanks for taking on the job, and I look forward to working with you.

Q. You haven't changed your mind?

The President. I'll talk to you later.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, former chairman, Republican National Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway and an Exchange With Reporters

December 5, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to make a statement; the Prime Minister will make a statement. We'll be glad to answer a couple of questions apiece.

First, I want to welcome our friend to the White House. The Prime Minister has been a strong supporter in the war against terror, and for that, Mr. Prime Minister, we are very grateful.

Early on in this war, Norway stood strong against terror. I don't know if many Americans understand, but one of the key parts of the war against terror is to cut off the financing to the terrorists. And Norway, thanks to the Prime Minister and his team, shut down Al Barakaat, which we did shortly thereafter. Thanks to the information we received from you, we made a major strike against cutting off funding for Al Qaida and the murderers.

And Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for that. I'm so glad you're here. I look forward to a really good discussion about how we can combine together.

I want to say a couple of other things. First, I, along with all the rest of America, grieve for the loss of life in Afghanistan. Three of our soldiers were killed by an inadvertent bomb, and our prayers and sympathies go to the families. And I want the families to know that they died for a noble and just cause, that the fight against terror is noble and it's just, and they defend freedom. And for that, we're grateful.

On a more encouraging note, there has been great progress in Bonn. Our Government is pleased with the progress being made, that the interim government is being formed—to include women. It's a major change for that part of the world and a positive change. It's encouraging to show, Mr. Prime Minister, that not only making progress on the military front, we're making progress on the political front, as well. This interim government, as well, has pledged to fight terror, and for that, we're grateful.

And finally, next Tuesday our Nation will play the national anthem at 8:34 a.m. eastern standard time. We will do so, and we're encouraging other nations to play their anthems and/or appropriate tunes at about the same time or an appropriate time, to send this clear signal to the terrorists. They want us to be silent. They want us to shirk from our duties. They want us to forget what took place on September the 11th. We will not do so. The United States will not do so, and our friends and allies will not do so. We won't forget what took place.

And we will bring them to justice. We'll bring them to justice in Afghanistan, and we'll bring them to justice wherever they try to hide. Civilization is at stake. And the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of the United States stand united in protecting freedom and civilization.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to express my—how grateful I am that you received me here, so few weeks after I once more took office as Prime Minister of Norway. And I also want to express my condolences to the soldiers you lost in Afghanistan. And I want to express my sympathy and solidarity with the American people. We stand firmly by you in fighting terrorism. And as you are aware of, we have also contributed—we have offered contributions to the military operations in Afghanistan, and we will talk more about that. And I think it's also so important to discuss the more long-term fight against terrorism.

I also will welcome the positive outcome of the meeting in Bonn, which I think we've paved the way for a political solution for Afghanistan, hopefully also for the women in the country, and also for reconstruction assistance and humanitarian aid. For Norway also will play a key role as the chair of the Afghanistan Support Group, from the 1st of January next year.

So I want to end up by saying that the United States is the most important ally for Norway.

President Bush. Thank you.

Prime Minister Bondevik. We share many common fundamental values. And now we will stand together, fighting terrorism for humanity.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Thank you.

President Bush. We'll take a couple of questions.

Q. Mr. President, has the PLO, sir——

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. I'll go with Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], and then Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Q. Excuse me?

President Bush. You're first.

Q. Thank you, sir.

President Bush. Unless it's a tough question, in which case you won't go at all. [*Laughter*]

Q. Oh, then let's go to Mr. Plante, then. [*Laughter*] No. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Go ahead.

Palestine Liberation Organization

Q. Has the PLO been harboring terrorists? If so, should they be treated like the Taliban?

President Bush. The PLO, Ron, needs to stand up and rout out those killers, those murderers who are preventing us from getting a peace process in place. My Nation is committed to peace in the Middle East. Norway is committed to peace in the Middle East. But there are obviously folks who want to use the weapon of terror to derail peace. And Mr. Arafat must show leadership and bring those to justice who would use murder as a weapon to derail peace and to destroy innocent life. He must show leadership. Now is his time. And other nations around the world that are interested in peace must encourage Mr. Arafat, must insist that Mr. Arafat use everything in his power to prevent further terrorist attacks in Israel.

Q. And if not?

Q. Mr. President, may I? From Norwegian Broadcasting.

President Bush. Please, yes.

Military Tribunals

Q. A lot of people in Europe and also in Norway, sir, are very worried about the military tribunals that you're proposing. Many people are saying that when you want to save democracy, then this might be part of the way undermining democracy itself.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that question, and I want the people of the world to understand that our great Nation will never forgo the values that have made us unique; that we believe in democracy and rule of law and the Constitution.

But we're under attack. Every morning I wake up and read the threat assessments. The evil ones still intend to harm America. And if it's in our national security interests to bring people to justice, I will use a military tribunal. And I may give you one example of why I would use one. We haven't used one yet; it's simply an option.

If we capture an Al Qaida representative, if we capture a murderer, and in order to convict that murderer it would require us giving means of how we knew he was guilty that would jeopardize the security of the United States, he'll be tried in a military tribunal. In other words, this is an ongoing conflict. There are still real threats. And I, in order to get a conviction of a murderer, will not jeopardize the people of the United States. I will not show our secrets. I will not tip our hand. I will not let the world at large, particularly our enemy, understand how we put a case together if it's going to jeopardize and compromise national security secrets of the United States of America.

My job is to protect the United States people from further attack. And that's exactly what I'm going to do and, at the same time, bring Al Qaida to justice.

Future Action Against Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, you said yesterday that you might use U.S. troops elsewhere. Where, and under what circumstances?

President Bush. Bill, I am going to work with our friends and allies to rout terror wherever it exists. But one of the things I will not do is signal to the enemy where we might strike next. I will not tip our hand in any way, shape, or form.

But I will tell you this: Those who want to commit terror against the United States or our friends and allies must beware that they will be hunted down. And those nations which harbor a terrorist or feed a terrorist or hide a terrorist or clothe a terrorist better be aware of the United States and our friends, because they will be brought to justice. Now is a time for the free world to stand up and defend the freedoms that these evil ones hate.

Norway's Role in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what kind of role do you see for Norway in the Middle East?

President Bush. Well, that's going to be up to the Prime Minister. And we haven't had this discussion yet. I do know he's committed to peace, and for that I am most grateful. I look forward to getting his advice and counsel.

I think he would share with me the same sentiment, that it's going to be very difficult to have any kind of peace in the Middle East so long as terror runs loose, so long as there are people—individuals who feel like they can kill and murder to prevent us from getting to any kind of peace process. There is a plan in place, called the Mitchell process. But evidently, there are terrorists who can't stand the thought of peace, and they must be brought to justice.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Yes, let me add, I fully agree with the President. And I will also inform him now, during our talk, that I today had a telephone conversation with Chairman Arafat and with Prime Minister Sharon before I came here. So I have fresh messages to the President from them. And I urged Arafat to do his utmost to stop the terror, to arrest the people behind the terror. It's time for him now to show leadership. I also urged Prime Minister Sharon to avoid further escalation of violence, because I am afraid that this will bring us into a terrible situation which can end up in a war.

Now they have stopped the bombing of Palestinian targets for the last 26 hours. I hope that this ceasefire will continue and that there will be a possibility after some time to again establish contacts between the parties in the Middle East, because the alternative is so bad, to all of us.

September 11 Commemoration

President Bush. Let me make one correction, if you don't mind. The anthem will be played at 8:46 a.m., here on the White House grounds. And we're asking other nations to play their anthems or respective tunes. I wanted to correct the time, so that as we prepare this reminder about the evil and as we stand fast against terror, that we've got the correct time that we're going to do so.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30. Prime Minister Bondevik referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13238—Closing of Federal Government Executive Departments and Agencies on Monday, December 24, 2001

December 5, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Monday, December 24, 2001, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

Sec. 2. The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty on December 24, 2001, for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons.

Sec. 3. Monday, December 24, 2001, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the

pay and leave of employees of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 5, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:08 a.m., December 7, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Andrew von Eschenbach as the Director of the National Cancer Institute

December 6, 2001

Thank you all very much, and welcome to the White House. Today our Nation is at a war to defend our way of life. But we've been engaged in a war to defend our quality of life for many decades. The war on cancer has been a top priority of medical and research communities, and it's a top priority of this administration.

As we stand on the brink of amazing breakthroughs in cancer research, breakthroughs that will lead to new cancer therapies and hopefully to cancer cures, I'm pleased to introduce the man who will lead the National Cancer Institute in its war on cancer, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach.

I want to welcome Andy's family. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank my friend Tommy Thompson for doing such a fine job as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Another member of my Cabinet is here, the Director of Homeland Security, Governor Tom Ridge. Thank you for coming, Tom. And I've got to recognize my parents' old Congressman, Bill Archer from Houston. Thank you for coming, Bill. Tell them hello back home.

Thirty years ago, this month, President Richard Nixon signed into law legislation authorizing the Director of the National Cancer Institute to develop an expanded, intensified, and coordinated cancer research program. The Cancer Progress Report of 2001 was released earlier this week, and it contains good news. We've made substantial progress in the war on cancer over the past three decades. Advances in science to prevent, detect, and treat cancer have directly contributed to an overall reduction in both new cancer cases and cancer death rates.

The National Cancer Institute has provided the funding and the expertise to make money of these advances possible—many of these advances possible. The NCI has funded billions of dollars in research, exploring hundreds of methods to combat cancer. We know that early detection often makes the difference between life and death. So NCI-funded scientists are exploring effective methods to detect the first signs of cancer. We know that more focused cancer treatments can make cancer therapy less painful. So NCI-funded scientists are actively investigating drugs that may stop tumor growth by preventing new blood vessels from reaching the tumor.

We still have a long way to go. Despite our victories, each day 3,400 Americans are diagnosed with some form of cancer, and more than 1,500 die from the disease. Almost every American family has been touched by cancer. But each new discovery brings hope. And the Government can bolster that hope by funding vital medical research and by attracting talented people to conduct the research.

Andy von Eschenbach is one of America's finest medical researchers. He got his start in the medical field right here in Washington, DC, where he attended Georgetown University Medical School. He's been a member of the faculty at the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, since 1977.

Andy is the director of M.D. Anderson's prostate cancer research program. He is a professor of urology, a consulting professor of cancer biology, and a surgeon. He understands that basic research is the foundation to any success in eliminating cancer and that research breakthroughs must be translated into effective treatments for patients.

Andy also understands personally the importance of our war on cancer. He is a two-time cancer survivor, all too familiar with cancer's frightening effects. He will bring to

his new position not only expertise and talent and dedication but compassion for the millions of cancer patients and their families who are struggling with this disease.

Several principles will guide the National Cancer Institute. The Institute will fund and conduct aggressive basic research in order to understand the fundamental nature of cancer. NCI researchers and clinicians will collaborate with other Federal health agencies to translate advances in research into new tools to fight cancer. NCI will work cooperatively with other Government agencies and with private organizations to expand research opportunities. Researchers and practitioners will not only strive to eliminate and cure cancer but to help cancer survivors lead richer and fuller lives. And the Institute will conduct research to help close the prevention and treatment gap for minorities, who are disproportionately affected by cancer.

Our war against cancer is a war waged on behalf of all Americans of every background. We now have technologies and research opportunities unthinkable just years ago, which make the defeat of cancer a realistic hope. With the right leadership, the dreams of three decades of research, and the hopes of every person and every family struggling with cancer, we may reach our goal within the new decade. And we've chosen a great man to lead the cause.

Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Dr. von Eschenbach.

Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree

December 6, 2001

Be seated, please—except for you all. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you very much and welcome you all to this year's Christmas Pageant of Peace. During this time of conflict and challenge, we once again celebrate the season of hope and the season of joy. We give thanks to our Nation and to our families and to our friends.

The First Lady and I are so honored to be here. I want to thank Peter Nostrand and the committee for putting this together, and I particularly want to thank the entertainment committee—the person in charge of getting these fantastic entertainers to come tonight. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to thank all the employees and sponsors who put on this magnificent event. I want to thank Fran Mainella, the Director of the National Park Service, and all the Park Service employees who have worked hard to put this event on.

I want to thank Santa Claus for being here tonight. [*Laughter*] I've been looking for you, Santa. [*Laughter*]

In a moment, we will light the National Christmas Tree, a tradition Americans have been celebrating since 1923. The history of this event has included some memorable moments, including 60 years ago, less than 3 weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an appearance with President Franklin Roosevelt to light the tree.

Now once again, we celebrate Christmas in a time of testing, with American troops far from home. This season finds our country with losses to mourn and great tasks to complete. In all those tasks, it is worth recalling the words from a beautiful Christmas hymn. In the third verse of "Oh Holy Night" we sing, "His law is love, and His gospel is peace. Chains ye shall break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease."

America seeks peace and believes in justice. We fight only when necessary. We fight so that oppression may cease, and even in the midst of war, we pray for peace on Earth and good will to men.

This is a time of the year for families and friends to gather together, not simply to celebrate the season but to renew the bonds of love and affection that give fulfillment to our lives. And this is a year we will not forget those who lost loved ones in the attacks on September the 11th and on the battlefield. They will remain in our prayers.

It is now my honor to invite Leon Patterson and Faith Elseth and Laura to join me up here as we light the National Christmas

Tree. Leon and Faith's fathers, Major Clifford Patterson and Lt. Commander Robert Elseth, served in the United States military. Both of these good men were lost in the attack on the Pentagon.

Leon and Faith, we thank you for helping us celebrate Christmas. You remind us of the comfort of Christmas, that hope never fails and love never ends.

And now, would you please help Laura light up our beautiful tree.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to Peter F. Nostrand, chairman, Christmas Pageant of Peace, and television weatherman Doug Hill, who played Santa Claus.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

December 6, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for passing legislation that will restore our Nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for America's farmers, workers, families, and consumers.

Trade promotion authority is a key part of our trade agenda. It will help us pursue and complete trade agreements, including the global trade negotiations launched last month in Doha, Qatar. By promoting open trade, we expand export markets and create high-paying jobs for Americans, while providing opportunities for other nations as a result of free trade.

Now that the House has acted, I urge the Senate to move quickly to send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign.

Proclamation 7511—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2001

December 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On the morning of December 7, 1941, America was attacked without warning at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the air and naval forces of Imperial Japan. More than 2,400 people perished and another 1,100 were wounded, triggering our entry into World War II.

Today, we honor those killed 60 years ago and those who survived to fight on other fronts in the four succeeding years of world war. We also remember the millions of brave Americans who answered our country's call to the battlefield, to the factory, and to the farm, remembering Pearl Harbor by their deeds, their devotion to duty, and their willingness to fight for freedom. The attack at Pearl Harbor fired the American spirit with a determination that freedom would not fall to tyranny; and the United States and its allies fought to victory, preserving a world in which democracy could grow. The tragedy of December 7, 1941, remains seared upon our collective national memory, a recollection that serves not just as a symbol of American military valor and American resolve, but also as a reminder of the presence of evil in the world and the need to remain ever vigilant against it.

Now, another date will forever stand alongside December 7—September 11, 2001. On that day, our people and our way of life again were brutally and suddenly attacked, though not by a complex military maneuver, but by the surreptitious wiles of evil terrorists who took cruel and heartless advantage of the freedoms guaranteed by our Nation. Their target was not chiefly our military, but innocent civilians. We fight now to defend freedom, secure civilization, and ensure the survival of our American way of life.

As we fight to defend what we believe is right, we remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before us—not only the heroes of Pearl Harbor but all the men and women of the greatest of generations who

defeated tyranny. We are grateful for their service, and honor it by pledging to do our best to secure for our children, our grandchildren, and all of posterity the continuing blessings of liberty.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7, 2001, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2001, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this and every December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:51 a.m., December 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Norfolk, Virginia

December 7, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. I'm grateful for this warm welcome on the deck of the "Big E." America is proud of this fine carrier, and we're really proud of her crew. You're serving at a crucial moment for the cause of peace and freedom, and your country thanks you.

This is a fitting place to mark one of the most fateful days in American history. On December the 7th, 1941, the enemy attacked. Today is an anniversary of a tragedy for the United States Navy. Yet, out of that tragedy, America built the strongest Navy in the world. And there is no better symbol of that strength than the U.S.S. *Enterprise.*

What happened at Pearl Harbor was the start of a long and terrible war for America. Yet, out of that surprise attack grew a steadfast resolve that made America freedom's defender. And that mission—our great calling—continues to this hour, as the brave men and women of our military fight the forces of terror in Afghanistan and around the world.

We are joined this afternoon by some distinguished guests. The Governor of this great Commonwealth is with us, Jim Gilmore. Members of the congressional delegation from Virginia are here with us, and I want to thank them for coming as well. I want to thank my friend Tony Principi, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who is here, a Naval Academy grad who served our country with bravery and distinction during the Vietnam era.

I want to thank Gordon England, the Secretary of the Navy, who is doing such a fine job representing the Navy in the Pentagon. I want to thank Admiral Natter, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. I always like a good Southern accent up here on the East Coast. [*Laughter*] I thank Sandy Winnefeld, the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Enterprise.* And I want to thank the crew of this fine ship and all your families who are here as well. And I thank General Kernan for being here as well.

We are especially honored to share this anniversary with 25 living witnesses to Pearl Harbor on December the 7th, 1941. Thank you all for being here. They saw the attack and knew its victims by name. They can recall the last moments of peace, the first moments of war, and the faces of lost friends, forever young in memory. These veterans represent the noble history and traditions of the United States military. And I ask the Navy of today to please join me in honoring these fine men from the military of yesterday.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was plotted in secret, waged without mercy, taking the lives of 2,403 Americans. The shock and chaos came on a quiet Sunday morning. There were acts of great heroism amongst those who survived and those who did not. Nine who fell that day had Navy ships named after them. In 2 hours' time, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty, 15 men earned the Medal of Honor, and 10 of them did not live to wear it.

Young sailors refused to abandon ship, even as waters washed over the decks. They chose instead to stay and try to save their friends. A mess steward carried his commander to safety and then manned a machine gun for the first time in his life. Two pilots ran through heavy fire to get into their P–40 fighters. They proceeded to chase and shoot down four enemy aircraft.

Those were among the scenes of December the 7th. On December the 8th, as the details became known, the Nation's grief turned to resolution. During 4 years of war, no one doubted the rightness of our cause; no one wavered in the quest of victory. As a result of the efforts and sacrifice of the veterans who are with us today and millions like them, the world was saved from tyranny.

Many of you in today's Navy are the children and grandchildren of the generation that fought and won the Second World War. Now your calling has come. Each one of you is commissioned by history to face freedom's enemies.

When the *Enterprise* sailed out of Norfolk last April, we were a nation at peace. All of that changed on the morning of September the 11th. You were among the first to fight in the first war of the 21st century. You were ready. You performed with skill and honor. And you have made your Nation proud.

On board this ship when you returned to port 4 weeks ago was a young man named Ruben Rodriguez. Two days later, Petty Officer Rodriguez lost his life in a plane crash. His wife and his family are in our thoughts and prayers. One of the last things this sailor did was to visit Ground Zero in New York City. He saw what the terrorists did to America, and he said to a friend, "That's why I fought."

And that's why we're all fighting. We're fighting to protect ourselves and our children from violence and fear. We're fighting for the security of our people and the success of liberty. We're fighting against men without conscience but full of ambition—to remake the world in their own brutal images. For all the reasons, we're fighting to win. And win we will.

There is a great divide in our time, not between religions or cultures but between civilization and barbarism. People of all cultures wish to live in safety and dignity. The hope of justice and mercy and better lives are common to all humanity. Our enemies reject these values, and by doing so, they set themselves not against the West but against the entire world.

Our war against terror is not a war against one terrorist leader or one terrorist group. Terrorism is a movement, an ideology that respects no boundary of nationality or decency. The terrorists despise creative societies and individual choice, and thus they bear a special hatred for America. They desire to concentrate power in the hands of a few and to force every life into grim and joyless conformity. They celebrate death, making a mission of murder and a sacrament of suicide. Yet for some reason—for some reason—only young followers are ushered down this deadly path to paradise, while terrorist leaders run into caves to save their own hides.

We've seen their kind before. The terrorists are the heirs to fascism. They have the same will to power, the same disdain for the individual, the same mad global ambitions. And they will be dealt with in just the same way. Like all fascists, the terrorists cannot be appeased. They must be defeated. This struggle will not end in a truce or a treaty. It will end in victory for the United States, our friends, and for the cause of freedom.

The *Enterprise* has been part of this campaign. And when we need you again, I know you'll be ready. Our enemies doubt this. They believe that free societies are weak societies. But we're going to prove them wrong. Just as we were 60 years ago, in a time of war, this great Nation will be patient; we'll be determined; and we will be relentless in the pursuit of freedom.

This is becoming clear to Al Qaida terrorists and the Taliban. Not long ago, that regime controlled most of Afghanistan. Today, they control not much more than a few caves. [*Laughter*] Not long ago, Al Qaida's leader dismissed America as a paper tiger. That was before the tiger roared. Throughout history, other armies have sought to conquer Afghanistan, and they failed. Our military was sent to liberate Afghanistan, and you are succeeding.

We're a long way from finished in Afghanistan. Much difficult and dangerous work is yet to come. Many terrorists are still hiding in heavily fortified bunkers in very rugged territory. They are said to be prepared for a long stay underground. [*Laughter*] But they are in for a sudden change of plans—[*laughter*]—because one by one, we're going to find them. And piece by piece, we'll tear their terrorist network apart.

As we fight the terrorists, we are also helping the people they have persecuted. We have brought tons of food and medicine to the Afghan people. They will need more help as winter comes, and we'll provide it. Most of all, that country needs a just and stable government. America is working with all concerned parties to help form such a government. After years of oppression, the Afghan people, including women, deserve a government that protects the rights and dignity of all its people. America is pleased by the Afghan progress in creating an interim government, and we're encouraged by the inclusion of women in positions of authority.

And the war on terror continues beyond Afghanistan, with the closing of bank accounts and the arrests of known terrorists. We've put the terrorists and the nations in the world on notice: We will not rest until we stop all terrorists of global reach. And for every nation that harbors or supports terrorists, there will be a day of reckoning.

A few days from now, I will go to a great American institution, the Citadel, to describe the new capabilities and technologies we will need to wage this broad war on terrorism for years to come. We will need the intelligence to find the enemy where he dwells and the means to strike swiftly across the world. We must have a military organized for decisive and total victory. And to you, the men and women of our military, I make this pledge: You will have every resource, every weapon, every tool you need to win the long battle that lies ahead.

This war came oh so suddenly, but it has brought out the best in our Nation. We have learned a lot about ourselves and about our friends in the world. Nations stand with us, because this is civilization's fight. Today we take special pride that one of our former enemies is now among America's finest friends: We're grateful to our ally, Japan, and to its good people. Today, our two Navies are working side by side in the fight against terror.

The bitterness of 60 years ago has passed away. The struggles of our war in the Pacific now belong to history. For Americans who fought it and suffered its losses, what remains is the lasting honor of service in a great cause and the memory of ones who fell.

Today at Pearl Harbor, veterans are gathering to pay tribute to the young men they remember who never escaped the sunken ships. And over the years, some Pearl Harbor veterans have made a last request. They asked that their ashes be brought down and placed inside the U.S.S. *Arizona.* After the long lives given them, they wanted to rest besides the best men they ever knew. Such loyalty and love remain the greatest strength of the United States Navy.

And the might of our Navy is needed again. When America looks at you, the young men and women who defend us today, we're very grateful. On behalf of the people of the United States, I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and your courage.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:57 p.m. on the flight deck of the U.S.S. *Enterprise.* In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Robert J. Natter, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Capt. James A. Winnefeld, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Enterprise;* and Gen. William F. Kernan, USA, Commander, Joint Forces Command.

Statement Urging Senate Action on the Economic Security Package

December 7, 2001

Today's unemployment numbers are troubling, and they underscore that we must act to ensure America's economic security. The most important thing we can do for unemployed workers and those who are concerned about their jobs is to get the economy growing. The Senate has not acted on the economic security package I proposed in October, and since then, over three-quarters of a million Americans have lost their jobs. Today's important economic warning demonstrates that American workers have already waited too long, so I urge the Senate to take immediate action to help workers and our economy.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2001

December 7, 2001

Laura and I send our warmest greetings to all those celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

The celebration of Hanukkah is inspired by the story of the miracle of the lamp: how a ration of oil sufficient only for one day burned for eight. It is a holiday of hope that encourages trust in God's providence and God's purposes, even when we are threatened by darkness and destruction.

Hanukkah commemorates the reconsecration of the ancient temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees and their followers, after it had been desecrated. Hanukkah celebrates the liberation of the ancient kingdom of Israel from foreign occupation. It teaches us that freedom must sometimes be fought for—a message that continues to resonate today.

We join all people of Jewish faith in thanking God who has "sustained us and enabled us to reach this season." May the candles of Hanukkah light our memories of those lost on September 11. And may this be a season of joy for us all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7512—To Implement the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area

December 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On October 24, 2000, the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan entered into an Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area (the "JFTA").

2. Section 101 of the United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act (the "JFTA Act") (Public Law 107–43, 115 Stat. 243) (19 U.S.C. 2112 Note) authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications or continuation of any duty, such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties, as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out Article 2.1 of the JFTA and the schedule of duty reductions with respect to Jordan set out in Annex 2.1 of the JFTA.

3. Section 102 of the JFTA Act provides certain rules for determining whether an article is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan, or is a new or different article of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufactured in Jordan and thus is eligible for the tariff and certain other treatment contemplated under the JFTA ("products of Jordan"). I have determined that it is necessary to include these rules of origin, together with particular rules applicable to certain other goods, in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, of other Acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 101 and 102 of the JFTA Act and 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to—

(a) provide generally for the preferential tariff treatment being accorded under the JFTA and to set forth rules for determining whether goods imported into the customs territory of the United States are eligible for preferential treatment under the JFTA, and

(b) provide tariff-rate quotas with respect to certain products of Jordan and to make technical and conforming changes in specified HTS provisions for purposes of the JFTA, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to implement the initial stage of duty elimination provided for in the JFTA and to provide for future staged reductions in duties for products of Jordan for purposes of the JFTA, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex II to this proclamation, effective on the date specified in such Annex for each HTS provision and on any subsequent dates set forth for such provisions in Annex II columns.

(3) All provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are hereby superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) (a) The amendments to the HTS made by paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates indicated in Annexes I and II to this proclamation.

(b) Except as provided in subparagraph (a), this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after December 17, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:51 a.m., December 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 13.

Memorandum on Northern Ireland

December 7, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification Related to Northern Ireland Under Section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001

Pursuant to section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, as enacted in Public Law 106–113, I hereby certify that: (i) training or exchange programs conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other Federal law enforcement agencies for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) or PSNI members are necessary to improve the professionalism of policing in Northern Ireland and advance the peace process in Northern Ireland; (ii) such programs will include in the curriculum a significant human rights component; (iii) vetting procedures have been established in the Departments of State and Justice, and any other appropriate Federal agency, to ensure that training or exchange programs do not include PSNI members who there are substantial grounds for believing have committed or condoned violations of internationally recognized human rights, including any role in the murder of Patrick Finucane or Rosemary Nelson or other violence or serious threat of violence against defense attorneys in Northern Ireland; and (iv) the Governments of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report issued September 9, 1999.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification to the appropriate congressional committees and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 1

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Philadelphia, PA, to attend the Army-Navy football game at Veterans Stadium. Before the game, he met with both teams in their locker rooms and participated in the opening coin toss. He watched the first half of the game from the Navy's side of the field and the second half from the Army's. In the afternoon, he returned to Camp David, MD.

December 2

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

December 3

In the morning, the President met in the Situation Room with his National Security Council. He also met with Federal Bureau of Investigation officials.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board Alan Greenspan to discuss the economy.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a holiday ball at the White House for Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael D. Brown to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ruth Lewis Griffin to be a Commissioner of the International Joint Commission for the United States and Canada.

December 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Orlando, FL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he met with Representative Mark Foley and Adam Putnam of Florida concerning trade promotion authority. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate James R. Mahoney to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities: Adair Wakefield Margo, who, upon appointment, will serve as Chair; Rebecca Smith Beach; Deborrah Kaye Allen; William Edward Strickland; Jeannette Naylor Cope; Phillip Roman; Alice Clement Carrington; Dixie Carter; Lionel Chetwynd; William Paul McCormick; Emilio Estefan; James Farmer; Jaime Fonalledas; Ralph Henry Kirshbaum; John Mason; Raymond D. Nasher; Emily Malino Scheuer; Mercedes B. Paz-Slimp; Caren Prothro; Cindy Lynn Sites; Elizabeth Myerberg Dubin; Laurie Ann Green Firestone; Roxane Gatling Gilmore; Ralph McInerny; and Burton John McMurtry. The White House stated that First Lady Laura Bush is the honorary Chair of the Committee and announced that the President appointed Henry Moran as Executive Director of the Committee.

December 5

In the morning, the President was informed of the deaths of two American soldiers in a friendly-fire incident during U.S. military operations near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Later in the morning, the President had breakfast with congressional leaders to discuss continuing budget resolutions and other budget appropriations, education, and fast-track trade authority. He also met separately with officials from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Congressional Republicans, and later with Congressional Democrats, concerning fast-track trade authority.

The President announced his nomination of Grant S. Green to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathie L. Olsen to be Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter N. Kirsanow as a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

December 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt concerning the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia to discuss counterterrorism and counternarcotics efforts and trade relations.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Medal of Valor Review Board: Kermit Steven Young, Edward Cardinal Egan, and Thomas Kendall McEachin.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on October 13.

The White House announced that the President will travel to New Windsor, MD, on December 8, for the departure of the first shipment of relief packages purchased with funds from America's Fund for Afghan Children.

December 7

Early in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss cooperation in the war on terrorism. Also in the morning, he had briefings and convened a meeting of the National Security Council. Later, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia in the Oval Office to discuss cooperation in the war on terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Norfolk, VA, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alberto Faustino Trevino to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Policy Development and Research.

The President announced his intention to nominate W. Roy Grizzard to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victoria Lipnic to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment Standards Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on November 24 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 24–25.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 4

Samuel E. Ebbesen,
of the Virgin Islands, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2003, vice George Darden.

Grant S. Green, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources (new position).

James R. Mahoney,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice Elwood Holstein, Jr.

Paul A. Quander, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the District of Columbia Offender Supervision, Defender, and Courts Services Agency for a term of 6 years (new position).

Submitted December 5

Randal Quarles,
of Utah, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Edwin M. Truman, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a statement by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge on homeland security

Released December 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Shutting Down the Terrorist Financial Network

Fact sheet: President Promotes Economic Security & Worker Assistance

Released December 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: The World Will Always Remember September 11

Released December 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Territory of Guam

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of the Director of the National Cancer Institute at the Department of Health and Human Services

Released December 7

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 76

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey

Announcement that Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge will lead a delegation to Ottawa, Canada, on December 11 to discuss border security

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 7

H.J. Res. 76 / Public Law 107–79
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

Remarks on America's Fund for Afghan Children in New Windsor, Maryland

December 8, 2001

The President. Well, thank you all very much. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. First, Harold, thanks a lot for the introduction, and thanks for your leadership for the Red Cross. It's a joy to know that we're part of a country that houses such a great institution as the Red Cross, that intends to help people. And I want to thank you, and I want to thank all the Red Cross volunteers who are here to make sure that this warehouse functions well and that the mission of helping Afghan children is fulfilled.

Laura and I are thrilled to be here. First, I want you to tell your neighbors that we really appreciated the good folks of New Windsor lining the road to wave. It made us feel great this morning, coming in from the middle school where we landed, by the way. I don't know how many times a helicopter has landed on the soccer field of the middle school—[*laughter*]—but it did this morning. And a lot of your townsfolks were out there to greet us. And for that we are really, really grateful, so please tell them thanks on our behalf.

And I'm so proud of the job Laura is doing on behalf of the country. She is such a steady, calm influence, and she knows the important priorities of life. And it starts with moms and dads loving their children with all your heart and all your soul. And so, welcome, Laura, and thank you for coming with me today to New Windsor.

David, I want to thank you, as well, for your leadership of the Red Cross. And I particularly want to thank Kristen Thompson. She did a fantastic job, I thought, introducing—[*applause*]. You must have a pretty darn good school system here. [*Laughter*] She sounds incredibly well educated, and she was able to handle the pressure in such an articulate way. So, Kristen, thank you, and thank all the boys and girls who are here from this town. Those who have helped raise money for the Afghan children, I want to thank you. I know a lot of the Boys and Girls Clubs around America and particularly here have helped, and I want to—thanks. I want to thank all the Scouts who are here for working to—[*applause*]. And I want to thank all the students who are here, as well.

I also want to thank your U.S. Congressman, Roscoe Bartlett, and his wife, Ellen, for being here. I don't know where the Congressman is—I saw him earlier today—but I want to thank you for coming, Congressman. I know you care a lot about this part of the world, and I appreciate you being here this morning.

I also want to thank Federal Express. It's a fine United States company, and they are going to fly the first flight of supplies overseas. And I want to thank Federal Express for understanding that part of being a good corporate citizen in America is to assume responsibility to help others. And Federal Express has done this, and I appreciate your service, and I appreciate your example. Thank you very much.

And finally, I want to thank the Church of the Brethren. I want to thank you all. I want to thank you for your compassion and love, and I want to thank you for loaning your warehouse for this most noble project. It is so kind of you to figure out a way to help. And so on behalf of all Americans, particularly the children who have contributed to the fund, thanks a lot for your contribution, as well.

You know, coming here this morning makes me so proud of America and of our young people. We have given the Afghan children something to smile about, because America's children are generous and kind and compassionate. There have been bake

sales, and there have been lemonade stands, and there are empty piggy banks, and there have been all kinds of drives to raise money for the Afghan children.

We've raised over $1.5 million thus far to help the children of Afghanistan. That's a lot of effort by a lot of youngsters. Everywhere I go, people are—yesterday, on the U.S.S. *Enterprise,* where I went to thank our soldiers and sailors for defending freedom, one of the sailors handed me a dollar from his daughter and said, "Would you make sure that gets into the Fund for Afghan Children?" It's happening all across the country, and I want to thank everybody for their hard work, for raising the donations.

The spirit driving the donations was summed up in a letter that one child wrote. It went this way, it said: "Dear Afghanistan children, God bless. People want to give you a better life. All children should have love and respect. I hope this helps you somehow."

Tomorrow the first flight will leave, bound for Afghanistan to deliver packages. These packages will brighten the lives of Afghan children not only during Ramadan but throughout the winter. It is a reminder that we are at war with the Taliban regime, not with the good, innocent people of Afghanistan.

We've been made painfully aware of the plight of the Afghan children. One in three Afghan children is an orphan. Almost half of Afghan children suffer from malnutrition. One in four Afghan children won't live beyond their fifth birthday.

This first shipment represents the good will of the American children. It also represents our hope and desires that the plight of the Afghan children improves, that life can be better for all children in the world. It contains some interesting surprises and vital supplies.

Tomorrow we ship 1,500 winter tents to provide shelter for Afghan children and their families; 1,685 winter jackets to help keep children warm; 10,000 gift parcels, including hats and socks and school supplies, toothbrushes and hairbrushes, candy and toys, that we hope and know will bring joy to children who have suffered such incredible hardship.

Each gift parcel is marked this way, "A Gift to Afghan Children from American Children." It's spoken in several—it's written in several local languages. But one thing is, when spirit is a part of each package. And it says: Love knows no bounds or boundaries.

Americans of all ages care deeply about our fellow citizens, because we're a truly compassionate nation. We're a nation of heart, a nation of decency, and a nation that loves freedom. Removing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is one way to help the children and women of Afghanistan. It's one way to make sure the children and women of Afghanistan are able to have a more decent and hopeful life. And the Afghan Children's Fund is another way to help.

And so today I come to this warehouse full of love and decency and, on behalf of America, say thank you from the bottom of our heart.

May God bless all the children in the world, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 a.m. at the Brethren Service Center. In his remarks, he referred to Harold Decker, interim chief executive officer, American Red Cross; David J. Bronczek, president and chief executive officer, FedEx Express; and Kristen Thompson, a seventh grader at New Windsor Middle School.

The President's Radio Address

December 8, 2001

Good morning. Earlier this week I flew to Florida to meet with people who had lost their jobs because of the September 11th attacks. Then I took part in a townhall meeting in Orlando. I listened to people's concerns and answered their questions.

I heard Americans are proud of our Armed Forces, and Americans are grateful for their sacrifices. Our country is on alert, and we are not intimidated. And as we wage war against terror, Americans made it clear they are also worried about the challenges we are facing here at home. Americans want action that will strengthen the economy and create jobs. They want greater energy independence, and they want reforms in our public schools.

As I listened to the concerns of these Americans, I hoped Congress was listening,

too, because it became clear the American people want action on an agenda of economic growth, energy independence, patients' rights, education, faith-based legislation—all of which are important issues that are stuck in Congress.

I heard hard-working people say they're worried about losing their jobs or seeing their hours cut. They know the terrorist attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. That's why in the weeks just after the attacks I proposed help for those who need it most, immediate help in the form of extended unemployment benefits and cash grants for workers who have been laid off. I also proposed the most important help for American workers, a long-term strategy to accelerate economic growth to create more opportunities and more jobs. It's now early December. The House acted quickly on my proposals to aid the unemployed and create jobs; the Senate has not.

Americans at the townhall meeting in Florida seemed to agree on the importance of America becoming less reliant on foreign oil. Last spring I sent Congress a comprehensive energy plan that encourages conservation and greater energy independence. The House has acted; the Senate has not.

At this season of the year we're especially reminded of the importance of compassion. I sent Congress a bill to encourage charitable giving and to support the good work done by people of faith without entangling government and religion. The House has acted; the Senate has not.

I know that the Senate is closely divided among Republicans and Democrats, but the American people expect the Senate and its leaders to find a way to work together and bridge their differences. Now is not the time for partisan politics; now is the time for leadership. It's time to act.

Congress has other important business to finish before it goes home for the holidays. Education is vital to our country's future. We need a new emphasis on reading, higher standards, more flexibility, and greater local control. Congress has made great progress toward the most comprehensive education reform in a generation, so no child is left behind. But this important education reform is stuck in a conference committee. And the Patients' Bill of Rights passed by both Houses of Congress also remains unfinished. These are important measures. They have bipartisan support. They should be law. I am ready to sign them.

I hope you'll let Congress hear from you. Let them know you want action not just on national security or homeland security; you want action to protect America's economic security, as well.

I thank you for listening. And during this holiday season, I wish Americans of Jewish faith a happy Hanukkah.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:03 a.m. on December 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7513—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 2001

December 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The terrible tragedies of September 11 served as a grievous reminder that the enemies of freedom do not respect or value individual human rights. Their brutal attacks were an attack on these very rights. When our essential rights are attacked, they must and will be defended.

Americans stand united with those who love democracy, justice, and individual liberty. We are committed to upholding these principles, embodied in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, that have safeguarded us throughout our history and that continue to provide the foundation of our strength and prosperity.

The heinous acts of terrorism committed on September 11 were an attack against civilization itself, and they have caused the world to join together in a coalition that is now waging war on terrorism and defending international human rights. Americans have

looked beyond our borders and found encouragement as the world has rallied to join the American-led coalition. Civilized people everywhere have recognized that terrorists threaten every nation that loves liberty and cherishes the protection of individual rights.

Respect for human dignity and individual freedoms reaffirms a core tenet of civilized people everywhere. This important observance honoring our Bill of Rights and advocating human rights around the world allows all Americans to celebrate the universal principles of liberty and justice that define our dreams and shape our hopes as we face the challenges of a new era.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2001, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2001, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 9, 2001, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the legacy of human rights passed down to us from previous generations and to resolve that such liberties will prevail in our Nation and throughout the world as we move into the 21st century.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12.

Remarks on Lighting the Hanukkah Menorah and an Exchange With Reporters

December 10, 2001

The President. Tonight, for the first time in American history, a Hanukkah menorah will be lit at the White House Residence. It's a symbol that this house may be a temporary home for Laura and me, but it's the people's house, and it belongs to people of all faiths.

The magnificent menorah before us was crafted over a century ago in the city of Lvov, which was an important center of Jewish life and culture. The Jews of Lvov fell victim to the horror of the Nazi Holocaust, but their great menorah survived. And as God promised Abraham, the people of Israel still live.

This has been a year of much sadness in the United States and for our friends in Israel. America and Israel have been through much together; this year we have grieved together. But as we watch the lighting of this second candle of Hanukkah, we're reminded of the ancient story of Israel's courage and of the power of faith to make the darkness bright. We can see the heroic spirit of the Maccabees lives on in Israel today, and we trust that a better day is coming, when this festival of freedom will be celebrated in a world free from terror.

Laura and I wish all the people of Jewish faith in America and Israel and around the world many joyous Hanukkahs in the years ahead.

And all right, now we call on young Talia to help us light the candles. Thank you so much for being here.

[*At this point, 8-year-old Talia Lefkowitz, daughter of Office of Management and Budget General Counsel Jay P. Lefkowitz, lit the menorah and sang a Hebrew prayer. The President and First Lady Laura Bush then presented gifts to the children in attendance.*]

The President. It's great to see everybody. Thanks for coming to the White House.

Videotape of Usama bin Laden

Q. Sir, on this occasion of peace and celebration, can you tell us how you were struck by this bin Laden videotape?

The President. It just reminded me of what a murderer he is and how right and just our cause is.

I couldn't imagine somebody like Usama bin Laden understanding the joy of Hanukkah or the joy of Christmas or celebrating peace and hope. This man wants to destroy any semblance of civilization for his own power and his own good. He's so evil that

he's willing to send young men to commit suicide while he hides in caves.

And while we celebrate peace and lightness, I fully understand in order to make sure peace and lightness exist in the future, we must bring him to justice. And we will.

But for those who see this tape, they'll realize that not only is he guilty of incredible murder, he has no conscience and no soul; that he represents the worst of civilization.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the Bookseller's Area at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks at "The World Will Always Remember September 11" Ceremony

December 11, 2001

A great writer has said that the struggle of humanity against tyranny is the struggle of memory against forgetting. When we fight terror, we fight tyranny, and so we remember. We remember the perfect blueness of the sky that Tuesday morning. We remember the children traveling without their mothers when the planes were hijacked.

We remember the cruelty of the murderers and the pain and anguish of the murdered. Every one of the innocents who died on September the 11th was the most important person on Earth to somebody. Every death extinguished a world.

We remember the courage of the rescue workers and the outpouring of friendship and sympathy from nations around the world. We remember how we felt that day: our sadness, the surge of love for our country, our anger, and our determination to right this huge wrong.

Today, the wrong is being righted, and justice is being done. We still have far to go, and many dangers lie ahead. Yet, there can be no doubt how this conflict will end. Our enemies have made the mistake that America's enemies always make. They saw liberty and thought they saw weakness. And now, they see defeat.

In time, this war will end, but our remembrance never will. All around this beautiful city are statues of our heroes, memorials, museums, and archives that preserve our national experience, our achievements and our failures, our defeats and our victories.

This Republic is young, but its memory is long. Now we have inscribed a new memory alongside those others. It's a memory of tragedy and shock, of loss and mourning—but not only of loss and mourning. It's also a memory of bravery and self-sacrifice and the love that lays down its life for a friend, even a friend whose name it never knew.

We are privileged to have with us today the families of many of the heroes on September the 11th, including the family of Jeremy Glick of Flight 93. His courage and self-sacrifice may have saved the White House. It is right and fitting that it is here we pay our respects.

In time, perhaps, we will mark the memory of September the 11th in stone and metal, something we can show children as yet unborn to help them understand what happened on this minute and on this day.

But for those of us who lived through these events, the only marker we'll ever need is the tick of a clock at the 46th minute of the 8th hour of the 11th day. We will remember where we were and how we felt. We will remember the dead and what we owe them. We will remember what we lost and what we found. And in our time, we will honor the memory of the 11th day by doing our duty as citizens of this great country, freedom's home and freedom's defender.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:46 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina

December 11, 2001

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome. I'm glad to be back here at the Citadel.

I have come to talk about the future security of our country, in a place where I took up this subject 2 years ago as candidate for President. In September 1999 I said here at the Citadel that America was entering a period of consequences that would be defined by the threat of terror and that we faced a

challenge of military transformation. That threat has now revealed itself, and that challenge is now the military and moral necessity of our time. So today I will set forth the commitments essential to victory in our war against terror.

I want to thank Major General John Grinalds for his hospitality. I want to thank the Citadel Board of Visitors, the staff, and the faculty. I understand the Governor is here. And I know my friends the Lieutenant Governor, the speaker, and the attorney general are here, and it was great to have seen them at the airport. I thank my friend Adjutant General Stan Spears for being here.

I'm grateful that Senator Hollings and members of the South Carolina congressional delegation flew down on Air Force One. I only wish that the senior Senator was on the airplane so I could have wished him a happy 99th birthday.

But most of all—most of all—I want to say how much I appreciate being in the presence of some of America's finest, the South Carolina Corps of Cadets of Citadel.

Four days ago I joined the men and women of the U.S.S. *Enterprise* to mark the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. December 7th, 1941, was a decisive day that changed our Nation forever. In a single moment, America's "splendid isolation" was ended. And the 4 years that followed transformed the American way of war.

The age of battleships gave way to the offensive capability of aircraft carriers. The tank, once used only to protect infantry, now served to cut through enemy lines. At Guadalcanal and Normandy and Iwo Jima amphibious warfare proved its worth, and by war's end, no one would ever again doubt the value of strategic air power.

Even more importantly, an American President and his successors shaped a world beyond a war. They rebuilt Europe with the Marshall plan, formed a great alliance for freedom in NATO, and expressed the hope of collective security in the United Nations. America took the lead, becoming freedom's defender and assuming responsibilities that only we could bear.

September the 11th, 2001—3 months and a long time ago—set another dividing line in our lives and in the life of our Nation. An illusion of immunity was shattered. A faraway evil became a present danger. And a great cause became clear: We will fight terror and those who sponsor it, to save our children from a future of fear.

To win this war, we have to think differently. The enemy who appeared on September the 11th seeks to evade our strength and constantly searches for our weaknesses. So America is required once again to change the way our military thinks and fights. And starting on October 7th, the enemy in Afghanistan got the first glimpses of a new American military that cannot and will not be evaded.

When I committed U.S. forces to this battle, I had every confidence that they would be up to the task, and they have proven me right. The Taliban and the terrorists set out to dominate a country and intimidate the world. Today, from their caves, it's all looking a little different. And no cave is deep enough to escape the patient justice of the United States of America.

We are also beginning to see the possibilities of a world beyond the war on terror. We have a chance, if we take it, to write a hopeful chapter in human history. All at once, a new threat to civilization is erasing old lines of rivalry and resentment between nations. Russia and America are building a new cooperative relationship. India and the United States are increasingly aligned across a range of issues, even as we work closely with Pakistan. Germany and Japan are assuming new military roles appropriate to their status as great democracies. The vast majority of countries are now on the same side of a moral and ideological divide. We're making common cause with every nation that chooses lawful change over chaotic violence, every nation that values peace and safety and innocent life.

Staring across this divide are bands of murderers supported by outlaw regimes. They are a movement defined by their hatreds. They hate progress and freedom and choice and culture and music and laughter and women and Christians and Jews and all Muslims who reject their distorted doctrines. They love only one thing; they love power. And when they have it, they use it without mercy.

The great threat to civilization is not that the terrorists will inspire millions. Only the terrorists themselves would want to live in their brutal and joyless world. The great threat to civilization is that a few evil men will multiply their murders and gain the means to kill on a scale equal to their hatred. We know they have this mad intent, and we're determined to stop them. Our lives, our way of life, and our every hope for the world depend on a single commitment: The authors of mass murder must be defeated and never allowed to gain or use the weapons of mass destruction.

America and our friends will meet this threat with every method at our disposal. We will discover and destroy sleeper cells. We will track terrorist movements, trace their communications, disrupt their funding, and take their network apart piece by piece.

Above all, we're acting to end the state sponsorship of terror. Rogue states are clearly the most likely sources of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons for terrorists. Every nation now knows that we cannot accept—and we will not accept—states that harbor, finance, train, or equip the agents of terror. Those nations that violate this principle will be regarded as hostile regimes. They have been warned. They are being watched, and they will be held to account.

Preventing mass terror will be the responsibilities of Presidents far into the future. And this obligation sets three urgent and enduring priorities for America. The first priority is to speed the transformation of our military.

When the cold war ended, some predicted that the era of direct threats to our Nation was over. Some thought our military would be used overseas—not to win wars but mainly to police and pacify, to control crowds and contain ethnic conflict. They were wrong.

While the threats to America have changed, the need for victory has not. We are fighting shadowy, entrenched enemies, enemies using the tools of terror and guerrilla war. Yet we are finding new tactics and new weapons to attack and defeat them. This revolution in our military is only beginning, and it promises to change the face of battle.

Afghanistan has been a proving ground for this new approach. These past 2 months have shown that an innovative doctrine and high-tech weaponry can shape and then dominate an unconventional conflict. The brave men and women of our military are rewriting the rules of war with new technologies and old values like courage and honor, and they have made this Nation proud.

Our commanders are gaining a real-time picture of the entire battlefield and are able to get targeting information from sensor to shooter almost instantly. Our intelligence professionals and special forces have cooperated in battle-friendly—with battle-friendly Afghan forces, fighters who know the terrain, who know the Taliban, and who understand the local culture. And our special forces have the technology to call in precision airstrikes, along with the flexibility to direct those strikes from horseback, in the first cavalry charge of the 21st century.

This combination—real-time intelligence, local allied forces, special forces, and precision air power—has really never been used before. The conflict in Afghanistan has taught us more about the future of our military than a decade of blue ribbon panels and think-tank symposiums.

The Predator is a good example. This unmanned aerial vehicle is able to circle over enemy forces, gather intelligence, transmit information instantly back to commanders, then fire on targets with extreme accuracy. Before the war, the Predator had skeptics because it did not fit the old ways. Now it is clear the military does not have enough unmanned vehicles. We're entering an era in which unmanned vehicles of all kinds will take on greater importance in space, on land, in the air, and at sea.

Precision-guided munitions also offer great promise. In the Gulf war, these weapons were the exception, while in Afghanistan, they have been the majority of the munitions we have used. We're striking with greater effectiveness, at greater range, with fewer civilian casualties. More and more, our weapons can hit moving targets. When all of our military can continuously locate and track moving targets with surveillance from air and space, warfare will be truly revolutionized.

The need for military transformation was clear before the conflict in Afghanistan and

before September the 11th. Here at the Citadel in 1999, I spoke of keeping the peace by redefining war on our terms. The same recommendation was made in the strategic review that Secretary Rumsfeld briefed me on last August, a review that I fully endorse. What's different today is our sense of urgency, the need to build this future force while fighting a present war. It's like overhauling an engine while you're going at 80 miles an hour. Yet we have no other choice.

Our military has a new and essential mission. For states that support terror, it's not enough that the consequences be costly; they must be devastating. The more credible this reality, the more likely that regimes will change their behavior, making it less likely that America and our friends will need to use overwhelming force against them.

To build our future force, the Armed Services must continue to attract America's best people with good pay and good living conditions. Our military culture must reward new thinking, innovation, and experimentation. Congress must give defense leaders the freedom to innovate, instead of micromanaging the Defense Department. And every service and every constituency of our military must be willing to sacrifice some of their own pet projects. Our war on terror cannot be used to justify obsolete bases, obsolete programs, or obsolete weapon systems. Every dollar of defense spending must meet a single test: It must help us build the decisive power we will need to win the wars of the future.

Our country is united in supporting a great cause and in supporting those who fight for it. We will give our men and women in uniform every resource, every weapon, every tool they need to win the long battle that lies ahead.

America's next priority to prevent mass terror is to protect against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. I wish I could report to the American people that this threat does not exist, that our enemy is content with car bombs and box cutters, but I cannot.

One former Al Qaida member has testified in court that he was involved in an effort 10 years ago to obtain nuclear materials. And the leader of Al Qaida calls that effort a religious duty. Abandoned Al Qaida houses in Kabul contained diagrams for crude weapons of mass destruction. And as we all know, terrorists have put anthrax into the U.S. mail and used sarin gas in a Tokyo subway.

And almost every state that actively sponsors terror is known to be seeking weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them at longer and longer ranges. Their hope is to blackmail the United States into abandoning our war on terror and forsaking our friends and allies and security commitments around the world. Our enemies are bound for disappointment. America will never be blackmailed, and we will never forsake our commitment to liberty.

To meet our new threats, I have directed my National Security Adviser and my Homeland Security Director to develop a comprehensive strategy on proliferation. Working with other countries, we will strengthen nonproliferation treaties and toughen export controls. Together, we must keep the world's most dangerous technologies out of the hands of the world's most dangerous people.

A crucial partner in this effort is Russia, a nation we are helping to dismantle strategic weapons, reduce nuclear material, and increase security at nuclear sites. Our two countries will expand efforts to provide peaceful employment for scientists who formerly worked in Soviet weapons facilities. The United States will also work with Russia to build a facility to destroy tons of nerve agent. I'll request an overall increase in funding to support this vital mission.

Even as we fight to prevent proliferation, we must prepare for every possibility. At home, we must be better prepared to detect, protect against, and respond to the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Abroad, our military forces must have the ability to fight and win against enemies who would use such weapons against us.

Biodefense has become a major initiative of ours. This year we've already requested nearly $3 billion additional dollars for biodefense, more than doubling the level of funding prior to September the 11th.

The attacks on our Nation made it even more clear that we need to build limited and effective defenses against a missile attack. Our enemies seek every chance and every

means to do harm to our country, our forces, and our friends, and we will not permit it.

Suppose the Taliban and the terrorists had been able to strike America or important allies with a ballistic missile. Our coalition would have become fragile, the stakes in our war much, much higher. We must protect Americans and our friends against all forms of terror, including the terror that could arrive on a missile.

Last week we conducted another promising test of our missile defense technology. For the good of peace, we're moving forward with an active program to determine what works and what does not work. In order to do so, we must move beyond the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a treaty that was written in a different era for a different enemy. America and our allies must not be bound to the past. We must be able to build the defenses we need against the enemies of the 21st century.

Our third and final priority in the fight against mass terror is to strengthen the advantage that good intelligence gives our country. Every day I make decisions influenced by the intelligence briefing of that morning. To reach decisions, a President needs more than data and information; a President needs real and current knowledge and analysis of the plans, intentions, and capabilities of our enemies.

The last several months have shown that there is no substitute for good intelligence officers, people on the ground. These are the people who find the targets, follow our enemies, and help us disrupt their evil plans.

The United States must rebuild our network of human intelligence. And we will apply the best new technology to gather intelligence on the new threats. Sophisticated systems like Global Hawk, an unmanned surveillance plane, are transforming our intelligence capabilities. Our technological strengths produce great advantages, and we will build on them.

Our intelligence services and Federal law enforcement agencies must work more closely together and share timely information with our State and local authorities. The more we know, the more terrorist plans we can prevent and disrupt, and the better we'll be able to protect the American people.

And in all they do, our intelligence agencies must attract the best people, the best collectors, the best analysts, the best linguists. We will give them the training they need and the compensation they deserve.

There have been times here in America when our intelligence services were held in suspicion and even contempt. Now, when we face this new war, we know how much we need them. And for their dedication and for their service, America is grateful.

We're also grateful to you, the students of the Citadel. Your uniforms symbolize a tradition of honor and sacrifice, renewed in your own lives. Many of you will enter our military, taking your place in the war against terror. That struggle may continue for many years, and it may bring great costs. But you will have chosen a great calling at a crucial hour for our Nation.

The course we follow is a matter of profound consequence to many nations. If America wavers, the world will lose heart. If America leads, the world will show its courage. America will never waver. America will lead the world to peace. Our cause is necessary. Our cause is just. And no matter how long it takes, we will defeat the enemies of freedom.

In all that is to come, I know the graduates of the Citadel will bring credit to America, to the military, and to this great institution. In the words of your school song, you will go where you've always gone: "in the paths our fathers showed us Peace and Honor, God and Country, we will fight for thee."

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in McAlister Field House. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. John S. Grinalds, USMC (Ret.), president, the Citadel; and Gov. Jim H. Hodges, Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler, Attorney General Charlie Condon, Adj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, and Speaker of the House of Representatives David H. Wilkins of South Carolina. On September 23, 1999, candidate George W. Bush spoke at the Citadel, delivering a speech entitled, "A Period of Consequences."

Statement on the Congressional Conference Agreement on Education Reform Legislation

December 11, 2001

The education of every child in America must always be a top priority. I commend the conferees for agreeing on a series of profound reforms to help provide our children the best education possible. I also thank the bipartisan leadership of the conference chair, Congressmen Boehner, as well as Senators Kennedy and Gregg and Congressman Miller, for taking major steps toward improving education throughout our country.

The conference agreement will ensure that no child in America is left behind, through historic education reforms based on real accountability, unprecedented flexibility for States and school districts, greater local control, more options for parents, and more funding for what works. I urge Members of the House and Senate to act soon and send me this legislation so that States and school districts can begin implementing these important reforms.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Team

December 12, 2001

Economic Stimulus Package

Thank you all for coming. I've just met with my top economic team to discuss the importance of an economic stimulus package to our—to the future of our economy. We strongly agree that we need an economic stimulus package, and I'm hopeful we'll be able to achieve one.

Last night I met with people from the United States Senate, Senators Breaux and Nelson and Miller, along with centrist Republicans, and we agree that there is enough votes to get a good package out of the Senate, a package that I think will help our economy, a package that these Democrats and Republicans think will help workers and the economy. And I am hopeful that with good work with the people around this table and with the leadership out of the Senate and the House, that we'll get a good package.

It's important to take care of those workers that have been affected by the attacks of September the 11th, and it's also important to focus on ways to grow our economy. And so this administration is committed to helping the Congress do its job, and that is to respond to the economic times we find ourselves in.

I want to thank you for coming. Happy holidays. Looking forward to seeing you at the event, the Christmas event at the White House. Oh, and see you at the next event. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks on Signing the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001

December 12, 2001

Thank you all. For several years, the people of Afghanistan have suffered under one of the most brutal regimes—brutal regimes—in modern history, a regime allied with terrorists and a regime at war with women. Thanks to our military and our allies and the brave fighters of Afghanistan, the Taliban regime is coming to an end.

Yet, our responsibilities to the people of Afghanistan have not ended. We work for a new era of human rights and human dignity in that country. The agreement reached in Bonn last week means that in 10 days the international community will have a new partner, an interim government of a new Afghanistan.

We join those in the interim government who seek education and better health for every Afghan woman and child. And today, with the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act, we take an important step toward that goal.

I want to thank Laura for her introduction, and I want to thank her for her steadiness during this crisis. I want to thank Farida for her courage. I want to thank the Members of the House and the Senate who sponsored this piece of legislation, and all the Members of Congress who are here today.

I want to thank Sima Wali, who is the president and CEO of Refugee Women in Development, a key advocate for women's

rights at the conference of Bonn negotiations last week.

I thank the members of my Cabinet who are here, Secretary Veneman and Administrator Whitman, thank you all for being here. I want to thank the ambassadors who are here representing the diplomatic corps. Thank you all for coming. And I also want to thank Billie Holladay for opening up this beautiful museum for all of us to come and celebrate this important piece of legislation.

America is beginning to realize that the dreams of the terrorists and the Taliban were a waking nightmare for Afghan women and their children. The Taliban murdered teenagers for laughing in the presence of soldiers. They jailed children as young as 10 years old and tortured them for supposed crimes of their parents.

Afghan women were banned from speaking or laughing loudly. They were banned from riding bicycles or attending school. They were denied basic health care and were killed on suspicion of adultery. One news magazine reports, "It's hard to find a woman in Kabul who does not remember a beating at the hands of the Taliban."

In Afghanistan, America not only fights for our security, but we fight for the values we hold dear. We strongly reject the Taliban way. We strongly reject their brutality toward women and children. They not only violate basic human rights; they're barbaric in their indefensible meting of justice. It's wrong. Their attitude is wrong for any culture. Their attitude is wrong for any religion.

You know, life in Afghanistan wasn't always this way. Before the Taliban came, women played an incredibly important part of that society. Seventy percent of the nation's teachers were women. Half of the government workers in Afghanistan were women, and 40 percent of the doctors in the capital of Kabul were women. The Taliban destroyed that progress. And in the process, they offered us a clear image of the world they and the terrorists would like to impose on the rest of us.

The central goal of the terrorists is the brutal oppression of women, and not only the women of Afghanistan. The terrorists who help rule Afghanistan are found in dozens and dozens of countries around the world. And that is the reason this great Nation, with our friends and allies, will not rest until we bring them all to justice.

America is so proud of our military and our allies, because like the rest of us here, we've seen the pictures of joy when we liberated city after city in Afghanistan. And none of us will ever forget the laughter and the music and the cheering and the clapping at a stadium that was once used for public execution. Children now fly kites, and they play games. Women now come out of their homes from house arrest, able to walk the streets without chaperons. "It feels like we've all been released from prison," said one young person in Kabul, "that the whole of Afghanistan has been released from prison."

This is an important achievement. Yet, a liberated Afghanistan must now be rebuilt so that it will never again practice terror at home or abroad. This work begins by ensuring the essential rights of all Afghans.

This week is Human Rights Week, when we celebrate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights more than a century ago—a half-century ago. The preamble to that document declares that the people of the world reaffirm their "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in equal rights of men and women." This is a great goal, and that's why I'm so pleased that Afghanistan's new government will respect the rights of all people, women and men.

America and our allies will do our part in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. We learned our lessons from the past. We will not leave until the mission is complete. We will work with international institutions on long-term development—on the long-term development of Afghanistan. We will provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

After years of civil war and misrule by the Taliban, this is going to be an incredibly difficult winter in Afghanistan. We're doing what we can to help alleviate the suffering. In the month of November, the United Nations World Food Program, with our strong support, provided enough supplies to feed 4.3 million Afghans. And the Defense Department will continue to make sure that

food is delivered in remote regions of that impoverished, poor, starving country.

The bill I sign today extends and strengthens our efforts. The Afghan Women and Children Relief Act commits the United States to providing education and medical assistance to Afghan women and children and to Afghan refugees in surrounding countries.

The overwhelming support for this legislation sends a clear message: As we drive out the Taliban and the terrorists, we are determined to lift up the people of Afghanistan. The women and children of Afghanistan have suffered enough. This great Nation will work hard to bring them hope and help. To the bill's sponsors, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You show the true compassion of this great land.

May God bless the women and children of Afghanistan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Great Hall of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Afghan human rights activist Farida; and Wilhelmina "Billie" Cole Holladay, founder and chair of the board, the National Museum of Women in the Arts. S. 1573, approved December 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107–81.

Statement on Representative Richard K. Armey's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

December 12, 2001

The country, the people of Texas, and the Congress have been well served by Congressman Dick Armey. As a fellow Texan, I know his effective leadership firsthand.

When he was a sophomore lawmaker, and a member of the then minority party, Dick Armey proved his mettle by authoring and passing a major base closure initiative that was signed into law. As majority leader, he has skillfully guided legislation through Congress; his dedication to reforming Government, lowering taxes, and simplifying the tax system has deeply influenced public policy.

I know Dick's dedication to public service will remain strong, even during his retirement. His sense of humor, candor, and leadership will be sorely missed in Congress.

Laura and I extend our thanks to Dick, his wife, Susan, and their family, and we wish each of them the best in the future.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the "Help America Vote Act"

December 12, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for today's overwhelming passage of the bipartisan "Help America Vote Act." This legislation goes a long way toward adopting reforms advocated by the Ford/Carter Commission on Federal Election Reform and is based on principles I endorsed and recommended to Congress in July. The Ney-Hoyer bill is a good start in achieving these goals—it respects the value of every eligible vote and the primary role of State, county, and local governments in elections. I look forward to working with Congress to enact responsible election reform before the upcoming 2002 elections.

Statement on Congressional Action on Bioterrorism Defense Legislation

December 12, 2001

I commend Congressmen Tauzin and Dingell for successfully passing bipartisan legislation that will help meet our immediate bioterrorism defense needs. Their legislation includes many of my priorities, including proposals to expand the pharmaceutical stockpile, increase our supply of smallpox vaccines, strengthen State and local preparedness, and improve the safety of our food supply.

I look forward to working closely with Congressmen Tauzin and Dingell, as well as Senators Kennedy, Gregg, and Frist, to quickly reach a bipartisan consensus on this important legislation.

Memorandum on the Congressional Subpoena for Executive Branch Documents

December 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Congressional Subpoena for Executive Branch Documents

I have been advised that the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives has subpoenaed confidential Department of Justice documents. The documents consist of memoranda from the Chief of the Campaign Financing Task Force to former Attorney General Janet Reno recommending that a Special Counsel be appointed to investigate a matter under review by the Task Force, memoranda written in response to those memoranda, and deliberative memoranda from other investigations containing advice and recommendations concerning whether particular criminal prosecutions should be brought. I understand that, among other accommodations the Department has provided the Committee concerning the matters that are the subject of these documents, the Department has provided briefings with explanations of the reasons for the prosecutorial decisions, and is willing to provide further briefings. I also understand that you believe it would be inconsistent with the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers and the Department's law enforcement responsibilities to release these documents to the Committee or to make them available for review by Committee representatives.

It is my decision that you should not release these documents or otherwise make them available to the Committee. Disclosure to Congress of confidential advice to the Attorney General regarding the appointment of a Special Counsel and confidential recommendations to Department of Justice officials regarding whether to bring criminal charges would inhibit the candor necessary to the effectiveness of the deliberative processes by which the Department makes prosecutorial decisions. Moreover, I am concerned that congressional access to prosecutorial decisionmaking documents of this kind threatens to politicize the criminal justice process. The Founders' fundamental purpose in establishing the separation of powers in the Constitution was to protect individual liberty. Congressional pressure on executive branch prosecutorial decisionmaking is inconsistent with separation of powers and threatens individual liberty. Because I believe that congressional access to these documents would be contrary to the national interest, I have decided to assert executive privilege with respect to the documents and to instruct you not to release them or otherwise make them available to the Committee.

I request that you advise the Committee of my decision. I also request that the Department remain willing to work informally with the Committee to provide such information as it can, consistent with these instructions and without violating the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Announcing the United States Withdrawal From the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

December 13, 2001

Good morning. I've just concluded a meeting of my National Security Council. We reviewed what I discussed with my friend, President Vladimir Putin, over the course of many meetings, many months. And that is the need for America to move beyond the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Today I have given formal notice to Russia, in accordance with the treaty, that the United States of America is withdrawing from this almost 30-year-old treaty. I have concluded the ABM Treaty hinders our Government's ability to develop ways to protect our people from future terrorist or rogue state missile attacks.

The 1972 ABM Treaty was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union at a much different time, in a vastly different world. One of the signatories, the Soviet Union, no longer exists, and neither does the

hostility that once led both our countries to keep thousands of nuclear weapons on hair trigger alert, pointed at each other. The grim theory was that neither side would launch a nuclear attack because it knew the other would respond, thereby destroying both.

Today, as the events of September the 11th made all too clear, the greatest threats to both our countries come not from each other or other big powers in the world but from terrorists who strike without warning or rogue states who seek weapons of mass destruction.

We know that the terrorists and some of those who support them seek the ability to deliver death and destruction to our doorstep via missile. And we must have the freedom and the flexibility to develop effective defenses against those attacks. Defending the American people is my highest priority as Commander in Chief, and I cannot and will not allow the United States to remain in a treaty that prevents us from developing effective defenses.

At the same time, the United States and Russia have developed a new, much more hopeful and constructive relationship. We are moving to replace mutually assured destruction with mutual cooperation. Beginning in Ljubljana and continuing in meetings in Genoa, Shanghai, Washington, and Crawford, President Putin and I developed common ground for a new strategic relationship. Russia is in the midst of a transition to free markets and democracy. We are committed to forging strong economic ties between Russia and the United States and new bonds between Russia and our partners in NATO. NATO has made clear its desire to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action at 20.

I look forward to visiting Moscow to continue our discussions as we seek a formal way to express a new strategic relationship that will last long beyond our individual administrations, providing a foundation for peace for the years to come.

We're already working closely together as the world rallies in the war against terrorism. I appreciate so much President Putin's important advice and cooperation as we fight to dismantle the Al Qaida network in Afghanistan. I appreciate his commitment to reduce Russia's offensive nuclear weapons. I reiterate our pledge to reduce our own nuclear arsenal between 1,700 and 2,200 operationally deployed strategic nuclear weapons. President Putin and I have also agreed that my decision to withdraw from the treaty will not, in any way, undermine our new relationship or Russian security.

As President Putin said in Crawford, we are on the path to a fundamentally different relationship. The cold war is long gone. Today we leave behind one of its last vestiges. But this is not a day for looking back. This is a day for looking forward with hope and anticipation of greater prosperity and peace for Russians, for Americans, and for the entire world.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 World Series Champion Arizona Diamondbacks

December 13, 2001

The President. We were looking for a little entertainment for tonight's Christmas party—[*laughter*]—but we didn't find it. [*Laughter*]

I want to welcome the mighty Diamondbacks to the White House. It didn't take you long to get here. I'm developing a severe case of trophy envy. [*Laughter*] We were lucky to get out of last place with the Rangers, and here you are—thanks, in part, to you. But I do want to congratulate you all.

First, let me say welcome to the Arizona delegation. I'm glad to see the Senator and Members of the United States Congress here. Thank you all for coming.

It's an amazing year, obviously, for our country. And the World Series couldn't have come at a better time. It gave the American people a chance to think about something other than the war. And what a fabulous World Series it was.

I want to thank—I want to congratulate Bob Brenly, rookie of the year. [*Laughter*] What a great job he did. [*Laughter*] I still

think I remember meeting you after throwing out that ball. I was about 5 feet off the ground; I went with kind of a rising slider. [*Laughter*] But it was an amazing experience, and Bob was there with Joe Torre. And I really felt proud to be an American at that moment. I know the players did, as well.

I want to congratulate the vice president and general manager, Joe Garagiola, Jr.—I'm always suspicious of guys who's got a famous father. [*Laughter*] And Rich Dozer; and of course, Jerry, I want to congratulate you and the ownership group; and all the great players.

The players gave us a fabulous Series. I can't think of a better way to end a World Series, particularly in a time of national need, than in the bottom of the ninth, in the seventh game—everybody watching in the country, people cheering one way or the other, such joy and jubilation.

So I want to thank the players. I also particularly want to thank the players for going to Ground Zero. I know Matt Williams' quote was one that caught my attention, when he said, "We're glad to get a chance to shake the hands and talk to some of the true American heroes."

It really meant a lot to the people of New York to see the Diamondbacks, kind of the foe of the mighty Yankees, go to Ground Zero and to thank those people whose lives were hurting a lot, people who had spent enormous amounts of energy trying to rescue a fallen brother or sister because of what the enemy had done. And I really want to thank you all for doing that. It was a true class act; not only a great baseball team but you're obviously a group of really fine human beings. And for that the Nation is grateful, and thank you.

God bless the players here and their families. It's a fabulous time of year, as you can see. The White House is just majestic in its beauty. It's a special honor to be the President of the United States at any time. It's especially a special honor to be at a time when our Nation is bound together for a common cause, and that's to fight and win the war against terror.

So welcome to the White House, congratulations, and may God bless you all.

[*At this point, Jerry Colangelo, Arizona Diamondbacks chairman and chief executive officer, made brief remarks, and pitchers Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson presented the President with a gift.*]

The President. Thanks. You can just stay down there, and I'll stand here—[*laughter*]—kind of like the jockey. [*Laughter*] Curt, thanks; I love the relationship you have with your son. [*Inaudible*] Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bob Brenly, manager, Joe Garagiola, Jr., vice president and general manager, Rich Dozer, president, and Matt Williams, infielder, Arizona Diamondbacks; and Joe Torre, manager, New York Yankees.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr

December 13, 2001

I am pleased to send greetings and best wishes to those across the globe who are celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

For Muslims, the Eid is a festive occasion, celebrating service rendered to God during the holy month of Ramadan. During this special time, it is also a tradition to help those in need. Performing acts of charity remains a tradition common across many faiths, challenging each of us to make a positive difference in the lives of others through generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Today, due to drought and dictatorship, millions of people in Afghanistan are hungry and face the prospect of a harsh winter. Americans are working with many nations to provide food, medicine, and clothing to the people of Afghanistan. We resolve to work in partnership with other nations to assist with rebuilding their nation.

The teachings of many faiths share much in common. And people of many faiths are united in our commitments to love our families, to protect our children, and to build a more peaceful world. In the coming year, let us resolve to seize opportunities to work together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. Through our combined efforts, we can end terrorism and rid our civilization of the

damaging effects of hatred and intolerance, ultimately achieving a brighter future for all.

Laura and I wish Muslims around the world a joyous Eid, and peace, health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7514—Wright Brothers Day, 2001

December 13, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On December 17, 1903, from the dunes near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville Wright made the first manned flight in an engine-powered aircraft. Though the flight only covered 120 feet and lasted just 12 seconds, Orville and his brother Wilbur Wright changed history on that cold and gusty winter day.

Success had not come easily to the Wright brothers. Many thought powered flight impossible; and skeptics called the Wrights dreamers for even entertaining the idea. Undeterred, the Wrights spent years in study, analyzing the flight of birds and experimenting with model airplanes in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. After many trials and errors, the Wright brothers finally achieved a controlled flight and opened the door to a new world.

On December 17 of each year, we honor the Wright brothers for their contributions to our Nation. Their invention of powered flight made the world community more connected. We have since traveled to the Moon and back, and space shuttles orbit our planet. All of these amazing advances can be traced back to that windy day at Kitty Hawk when the indomitable will of the Wrights persevered to triumph over the supposed impossible.

Air travel now is an essential part of this Nation's everyday life. This proud industry will endure through the new challenges presented by the tragedies of September 11. Joining together as a Nation, we will continue to strengthen security while maintaining the economic and social benefits of an efficient air transportation system.

This Wright Brothers Day we salute all the scientific pioneers and visionaries who, despite the critics, have over come seemingly insurmountable odds and made great advances for man. The Wright brothers' perseverance and creativity can serve as an inspiration for those inventors who will take us to new heights in the 21st century.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143), has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 17, 2001, as Wright Brothers Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:38 a.m., December 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 17.

Remarks at a Holiday Reception for the Special Olympics

December 13, 2001

The President. Good evening. Good evening, everyone. Laura and I are so pleased to welcome you to the White House as we pay tribute to a great organization and the really good people behind it.

In a moment, we will hear from Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who has made the Special Olympics her life's work. If you ever had any

doubt about how much good that one person can bring into the world, look no farther than this kind and gracious lady. And she married pretty well, too. [*Laughter*] Sure glad you're here, Sargent. And they've done a good job of raising their family. We are so pleased to welcome the—I hate to say the word "children"—the offspring of Sargent and Eunice Shriver. Obviously, you've done a good job of instilling the sense of public service in your children, and they're compassionate people. I particularly want to thank Tim for being the president of Special Olympics.

With us as well is Eunice's little brother—well, younger brother—[*laughter*]—a man I have grown to admire as a fine United States Senator. And Orrin Hatch, another fine Senator, is here, as well. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate my Commerce Secretary, Donny Evans, for being here, and I want to thank the Surgeon General, David Satcher, for coming, as well.

I also want to welcome the cochairs of the campaign for the Special Olympics, Steve Case and Peter Lynch, and all of those who support this fine organization. Thank you for coming tonight.

And the highest title of all is held by the King of the Blues, B.B. King. Thank you for coming.

We gather here to celebrate achievement of the Special Olympics, itself, and those who compete. Before we lived here, Laura and I were fortunate to be involved with the Special Olympics in Texas. And I'll never forget being a hugger at Texas Memorial Stadium—such a wonderful experience. We're so grateful for the Special Olympics.

And so is America, because America at its best upholds the values of every person and the possibilities of every life. And Special Olympics is an example of America at its best, sharing with the entire world a spirit of joy and kindness. The story of our country is an ever-widening circle, a society in which everyone has a place and everyone has something to give. You brought that spirit into the lives of more than a million children and adults across the world, and I thank you for that.

Most of all, I congratulate the global messengers and athletes with us this evening: Cindy Bentley, Henry Moretti, Mohammad Nassar, Jia Sirui, Victor Stewart, Katy Wilson, Loretta Claiborne, and Ricardo Thornton. Each one of you has been recognized for giving your best, for sharing your many gifts with others, and for living out the Special Olympics oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Each one of you has set high goals, and you have met them through hard work and courage.

We are all so proud to have you with us tonight and ask all of our guests to join me in toasting the brave and generous spirit of the Special Olympics.

[*At this point, the President offered a toast.*]

The President. And now it is my honor to welcome Mrs. Eunice Shriver.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:47 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder and honorary chairman, Sargent Shriver, chairman of the board, and their son Timothy P. Shriver, president and chief executive officer, Special Olympics; and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Executive Order 13239—Designation of Afghanistan and the Airspace Above as a Combat Zone

December 12, 2001

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 112), I designate, for purposes of that section, Afghanistan, including the airspace above, as an area in which Armed Forces of the United States are and have been engaged in combat.

For purposes of this order, I designate September 19, 2001, as the date of the commencement of combatant activities in such zone.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:38 a.m., December 13, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 14, and was published in the *Federal Register* on December 14.

Memorandum on Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

December 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 3 U.S.C. 301 and section 1202 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (the "Act"), 46 U.S.C. App. 1282, I hereby:

> Approve the provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance or reinsurance of vessels (including cargoes and crew) entering the Middle East region against loss or damage by war risks in the manner and to the extent approved in title XII of the Act, 46 U.S.C. App. 1281, *et seq.,* for purposes of responding to the recent terrorist attacks, whenever, after consultation with the Department of State, it appears to the Secretary of Transportation that such insurance adequate for the needs of the waterborne commerce of the United States cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions from companies authorized to do an insurance business in a State of the United States. This approval is effective for 6 months. I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority vested in me by section 1202 of the Act, to approve the provision of insurance or reinsurance for these purposes after the expiration of 6 months.

The Secretary of Transportation is directed to bring this approval to the immediate attention of all operators and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 14.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand and an Exchange With Reporters

December 14, 2001

The President. I want to welcome the Prime Minister of our longtime friend Thailand to the Oval Office.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you so much for being here.

Prime Minister Thaksin. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. This is not the first time I've had a chance to have a meaningful discussion with the Prime Minister. We sat next to each other in Shanghai, and we had a couple of hours worth of very substantive discussions about our relationships, about our mutual concerns, about our desire to work closely together on a variety of fronts. The Prime Minister has assured me—and this visit is further confirmation—that our longtime friend will be a steady ally in the fight against terror.

Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you for that.

And secondly, today our Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister of his government are going to work on a framework for economic cooperation which will be completed. And it's further evidence that this relationship is a strong, strong relationship.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm so thrilled you are here, and welcome to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Thaksin. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thailand and the U.S. has been treaty allies since 1833. This is very right for me to visit and giving full support to U.S., which is our very long ally. And it's very right for me to discuss war against terrorism and also economic issues that we should further enhance the cooperation among our two countries.

The President. Thank you.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]—what we're going to do is two questions from the

American press, two questions from our visitors, if there are any.

Steve.

Videotape of Usama bin Laden

Q. Sir, what do you expect Americans to get out of the bin Laden tape? And what do you say to some of the Islamic world who contend it's a farce or a fake?

The President. Well, for those who contend it's a farce or a fake are hoping for the best about an evil man. I mean, this is bin Laden unedited. This is bin Laden—the bin Laden who has murdered people. This is the man who sent innocent people to their death by—this is a man who is so devious and so coldhearted that he laughs about the suicide, so-called suicide bombers that lost their lives.

It is preposterous for anybody to think that this tape is doctored. That's just a feeble excuse to provide weak support for an incredibly evil man.

And you know, I had mixed emotions about this tape because there's a lot of people who suffered as a result of his evil. And I was hesitant to allow there to be a vivid reminder of their loss and tragedy displayed on our TVs. On the other hand, I knew that it would be—that the tape would be a devastating declaration of guilt for this evil person.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Usama bin Laden

Q. Sir, two things. Is Usama bin Laden cornered? And when you weigh the pros and cons of either option, would you rather take him alive so you can question him or dead so you don't have to deal with him?

The President. I don't care. Dead or alive, either way. I mean, I—it doesn't matter to me.

Secondly, I don't know whether we're going to get him tomorrow, or a month from now, or a year from now. I really don't know. But we're going to get him. And I—the American people must understand that I have no timetable in mind. There's no—I don't have a calendar that I say, "Well, gosh, if he's not gotten by this certain moment, then I'll be disappointed," because I am pleased with the progress that we're making in Afghanistan. I mean, there is no such thing as a Taliban. We have liberated, literally liberated village after village from incredible barbaric behavior toward women and children.

I think one of the joyous parts of this war, if there is such a thing as a joyous part of a war, is to see the—is to see what it means for our country and our alliance to free people. We're achieving a lot of our objectives. But we're chasing a person, obviously, who is willing to send suicide bombers, on the one hand, and hide in a cave. Somebody who is—encourages young people to go kill themselves, and he, himself, refuses to stand and fight. And so he may hide for a while, but we'll get him.

Anybody care to talk to the Prime Minister?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. I'll ask one. Mr. President, do you see any signs of hope or progress in stopping the killing in the Middle East? And do you believe that Israel has been justified in its retaliatory actions against the Palestinian leadership and in the Prime Minister's decision to cut off contacts with Chairman Arafat?

The President. First, let me talk about Chairman Arafat. Chairman Arafat has said that he intends to fight terror and to bring those to justice who are killing—murderers—in the Middle East, and now is his time to perform. The world expects Chairman Arafat to lead, and so do I. And I will continue to work with our friends and allies to make it—to talk to Mr. Arafat in very blunt terms.

And that is, if you want to achieve the Mitchell—if you want to get in the Mitchell process, if you want there to be a peace, you must do everything in your power; you must use your security forces to bring to justice those who murder to keep peace from happening.

The world has now seen that there are killers and murderers around the world and in the Middle East that are not interested in peace. Our Government strongly desires peace. We have sent emissaries throughout my administration to work to get a secure enough environment to get into the Mitchell process. We still have a man in place, General Zinni, working to get there to be some

kind of security arrangements so we could possibly get into Mitchell. But so long as there's killers and people who would derail the peace process by murdering others, it's going to be very difficult to do.

I will continue to make peace in the Middle East a priority, and it starts with routing out terror wherever it exists.

Listen, thank you all very much. Have a great weekend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Surakiat Sathianthai of Thailand; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.). The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Thailand

December 14, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra today reaffirmed the strength and vitality of the alliance between the United States and Thailand, celebrating a mature partnership that spans many fields of endeavor, based on a shared commitment to democracy, open markets with free and fair trade, human rights, and ethnic and religious tolerance. Noting U.S.-Thai cooperation in conflicts from World War II to the war on terrorism, the President and the Prime Minister expressed the conviction that the alliance has been a pillar of stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The two leaders agreed that the scourges of terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and other transnational threats demonstrate the continued need for a robust alliance into the 21st century. Highlighting their vibrant program of joint military exercises and training, including co-hosting the largest multilateral military exercise in Asia every year, the two leaders emphasized their determination to strengthen and revitalize the alliance, while working with partners throughout the region to combat common threats. The two leaders agreed on the importance of a strong and united ASEAN, and President Bush offered all appropriate assistance to support capacity-building within ASEAN. The two leaders pledged to continue cooperation in promoting regional peace and stability through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

President Bush expressed appreciation for the Thai Government's support for the campaign against terrorism, including efforts to identify terrorist assets and money flows, reinforce money-laundering legislation, and pass new anti-terrorism measures. The two leaders pledged continued collaboration on money laundering in the Asia-Pacific Group and the Egmont Group, and expressed determination to expand counterterrorism cooperation further through new programs such as the Terrorist Interdiction Program. President Bush welcomed Prime Minister Thaksin's commitment to sign all counterterrorism conventions as soon as possible in accordance with the constitutional process in Thailand and praised the Prime Minister's leadership in signing and implementing UNSCR 1373. President Bush further welcomed the Prime Minister's offer to participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, noting Thailand's successful leadership of peacekeeping operations in East Timor. To further enhance Thailand's peacekeeping capabilities, President Bush announced that Thailand would continue to be a priority country for receipt of assistance and training through the Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capability Program.

President Bush expressed strong appreciation for Prime Minister Thaksin's outstanding leadership in combating narcotics and promoting quadrilateral counternarcotics cooperation among neighboring countries. The two leaders discussed cooperative efforts to fight drug abuse and trafficking, noting that Thailand hosts one of the largest and most successful U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) operations in the world. After nearly four decades of close cooperation, the U.S.-Thai partnership on counternarcotics continues to expand and mature, as characterized by the successful

DEA-sponsored Sensitive Investigative Unit program, and by ongoing training and relationships between the U.S. Pacific Command and the Thai counternarcotics units. The primary mission of U.S. and Thai counternarcotics assets is to stop the transnational flow of heroin and methamphetamine, which Prime Minister Thaksin has established as his number one national security priority.

The two leaders highlighted the major contribution that the U.S.-Thai International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok has made to enhancing the effectiveness of regional cooperation against drug trafficking and transnational crime. Noting that over 2,000 criminal justice professionals from Asia have been trained at ILEA since its joint establishment in 1998, the two leaders were pleased to announce that they have identified a permanent site for the ILEA training facility in Bangkok and will be cooperating closely to develop the site and further expand ILEA's activities.

Underscoring their strong mutual commitment to open markets as the basis for expanding economic relations, the leaders endorsed the Framework for Economic Cooperation, signed by Secretary of State Powell and Foreign Minister Surakiart. The Framework is an expression of resolve to intensify the rich economic relationship between the United States and Thailand and addresses opportunities for future cooperation in trade and investment, intellectual property protection, transportation, education, telecommunications and the environment. Moreover, the Framework also highlights Thailand's commitment to customs reform and broad liberalization of civil aviation, progress that would pave the way for Thailand's further emergence as a regional aviation center and cargo hub. Prime Minister Thaksin emphasized Thailand's openness to foreign direct investment and continued commitment to liberalization and reform. The two leaders acknowledged the continuing vitality of the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations as a catalyst for increased bilateral trade and investment. In the spirit of the long history of warm relations between their nations, the two leaders resolved to work closely to expand trade bilaterally, regionally, and globally, particularly in the context of the Doha Development Agenda.

President Bush recognized Prime Minister Thaksin's role in promoting closer economic cooperation, both ASEAN-wide and among Thailand's immediate neighbors, and praised Thailand's commitment to the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

To deepen U.S. ties to both the public and private sectors in Thailand, and in recognition of Bangkok's significance as a regional hub, President Bush announced that the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA) will open a regional office in Thailand in January 2002. This office will work to support the development and financing of priority infrastructure projects in Thailand and throughout the region. The President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed a commitment to continue to address a range of economic development issues through the work of the Kenan Institute Asia, a public-private partnership supported by both governments. Kenan will continue to support programs to strengthen Thailand's economic competitiveness, including its Business Advisory Center for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Both leaders also committed to continue addressing critical needs in education, including through development of a community college system and expansion of successful educational and cultural exchange programs, including the Fulbright and Peace Corps programs.

Both leaders affirmed their shared commitment to protect the environment and agreed that the two countries would soon sign an agreement to establish a Tropical Forest Conservation Fund, which would enable cooperation under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) of 1998. TFCA provides for the cancellation of a portion of concessional debt owed to the United States in exchange for a commitment to make local currency payments to support domestic forest conservation activities. To further enhance cooperative efforts on the environment, the two leaders agreed that the United States and Thailand would co-host, and the Trade and Development Agency (TDA) would fund, a conference to promote better water management policies, reduce water

pollution, and increase water supply in Thailand and throughout the region. TDA looks forward to working with the Thai Government to fund additional environmentally-sound projects in Thailand.

President Bush and Prime Minister Thaksin celebrated the substantial achievements of more than 50 years of institutional collaboration involving the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S.-Thai Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, and the Ministry of Public Health on a wide variety of tropical and infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Citing Thailand as a model for other countries, President Bush congratulated Prime Minister Thaksin for the success of Thailand's programs in dramatically reducing the levels of HIV/AIDS infection. The leaders praised the unique bilateral collaboration to develop vaccines for prevention of HIV/AIDS and welcomed the plan to hold the world's largest HIV vaccine efficacy trial in 2002. President Bush and Prime Minister Thaksin welcome Thailand's inclusion in the Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic (LIFE) initiative, which is being implemented through the CDC's Global AIDS program and which will complement the research CDC and the Thai Ministry of Public Health have been pursuing jointly since 1990.

To reinforce the mature partnership between their two countries, President Bush and Prime Minister Thaksin pledged to continue regular and close consultations and strengthen cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries and peoples.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on Signing the Drug-Free Communities Reauthorization Act

December 14, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's an honor to be here. Let me first say, we're winning. We've got a new war, and I want you to know your Government is doing everything we can to defeat those who hate freedom. We will defeat them abroad, thanks to a fabulous military. We are patient. We're relentless because our cause is just, and it is noble. Plus we're doing everything we can at home to prevent the enemy from hitting us again.

There's another war at home, too, and that's to win the war against the scourge of drugs. I'm so glad—it's an honor to be introduced by America's new Director of National Drug Policy Council. John Walters brings a passionate concern and a strong background to the fight against drugs. In the late 1980's, he was one of the architects of the Federal Government's most successful antidrug policies. And he'll lead our administration's effort with determination and intelligence, with resolve and moral clarity. I am proud to have John as a member of my Cabinet.

And I'm honored to speak to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. I want to thank you all for being here. You're a part of America's armies of compassion, examples of service and citizenship. You restore hope to lives, and safety to neighborhoods. All Americans admire your dedication. And the bill that I will soon sign will strengthen your work. We share an important commitment: For the sake of our children and for the good of our Nation, we will reduce drug use in America. I want to thank General Art Dean for being the CEO of this important group of soldiers in the armies of compassion.

I want to thank the three Members of the United States Congress who stand up here with me today, leaders in this important effort, not only leaders in Washington but, as you'll soon hear, leaders in the communities in which they live. Thank you so much for being here.

Drug use threatens everything—everything—that is best about our country. It breaks the bonds between parents and children. It turns productive citizens into addicts. It transforms schools into places of violence and chaos. It makes playgrounds into crime scenes. It supports gangs here at home.

And abroad, it's so important for Americans to know that the traffic in drugs finances the work of terror, sustaining terrorists—terrorists use drug profits to fund their cells to commit acts of murder. If you quit drugs, you join the fight against terror in America.

And above all, we must reduce drug use for one great moral reason: Over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character. Illegal drugs are

the enemies of ambition and hope. And when we fight against drugs, we fight for the souls of our fellow Americans.

And in this struggle, we know what works. We must aggressively and unabashedly teach our children the dangers of drugs. We must aggressively treat addiction wherever we find it. And we must aggressively enforce the laws against drugs at our borders and in our communities.

America cannot pick and choose between these goals. All are necessary if any are to be effective. And my administration will pursue these goals with energy and focus and strong commitment. It's important for the future of this country that we do so.

This comprehensive approach has been tried before, and it's worked. From the mid eighties to the early nineties, drug use amongst high school seniors was reduced each and every year. Progress was steady and, over time, dramatic. Yet recently, we've lost ground in this important battle.

According to the most recent data, the percentage of 12th graders using an illicit drug in the previous month rose from less than 15 percent in 1992 to about 25 percent in the year 2000. Over the same period, the percentage of 10th graders using an illicit drug in the previous month rose from 11 percent to more than 22 percent. Marijuana use amongst eighth graders rose, while their perceptions of the dangers of marijuana use fell. There was a similar decrease in the perception of risk involved with LSD and powder and crack cocaine.

Behind these numbers are countless personal tragedies, and my administration will not be indifferent to them. We must return the fight against drugs to the center of our national agenda.

And as we win this fight, America will be a more hopeful place. And as we battle against a major, significant problem in America and show progress, this country's promise will be more available to more of our citizens.

It's a national imperative that we win. And I understand that you all are amongst the most important allies we have to achieve this goal. You've got a track record of success. You sponsor drug education programs and youth summits and parent training courses. You support drug intervention programs and foster great counseling services. You're helping to build a culture of responsibility, one that respects the law, one that teaches our children right from wrong, and one that strengthens our commitments to our fellow citizens.

In Troy, Michigan, the Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse is building leadership skills to help teens to say no to drugs and alcohol. As a result, alcohol use among high schoolers has declined in dramatic fashion. I want to thank Sandy Levin, the Congressman from the great State of Michigan, who is on the stage with us, for helping lead that effort. And I want to thank the good people from Troy, Michigan, for standing up and doing what's right for your community.

I'm particularly proud that the coalition's leader, Mary Ann Solberg, has agreed to join John Walters as the Deputy Director of the National Drug Control Policy. Now that you have your uniform on, go get them. [*Laughter*]

Also on the stage with us is Congressman Rob Portman, who is the President of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, a winner of CADCA's Outstanding Coalition Award. I understand this program well because I saw it first hand in Cincinnati. I want to thank Rob for his leadership.

I appreciate this coalition's practical approach, by providing tips to parents on how to deal with drug use, provide financial incentives to businesses that have drug-free workplace programs. And the most aggressive antidrug media campaign is in Cincinnati, for a market its size. The result is that for the first time in a decade, teen drug use in greater Cincinnati is beginning to level off. They're making great progress in that important city. It goes to show what happens when our Nation invigorates the grassroots to deal with a problem that we must solve, early, before it is too late.

And also on this stage is the fine United States Senator from the State of Iowa, Chuck Grassley. He's worked with the people of Iowa to begin what they call the Face It Together Coalition, the first ever statewide antidrug coalition led by a United States Senator. The coalition has a comprehensive workplace

drug education program. It works with coalitions around the State for best practices for community based antidrug efforts. It conducts workshops to train faith-based leaders on effective drug prevention strategies.

Senator Grassley, I appreciate you taking the lead. It's a hard job being a Senator, but it's easy to forget the community responsibilities when you get elected to such a high office as Senator. And yet this Senator never forgot where he came from. This Senator asked a question, "What can I do"—just like you asked that question, "What can I do"—to improve the lives of the citizens of a State he so dearly loves. And he chose to fight, stand side by side with the good citizens of Iowa to fight drug use. And Mr. Senator, thank you for your leadership.

I'm so happy to be able to sign an important piece of legislation in your presence. The bill I sign today increases the total amount of funds authorized for programs like the ones we just described from more than $50 million a year in the current fiscal year to nearly $100 million by the year 2007. It allows coalitions to reapply for grants even after 5 years, as long—[*applause*]—make sure you meet your matching fund requirement. [*Laughter*]

It instructs Director Walters to focus the greatest resources on areas of the greatest needs, by giving priority to coalitions that serve economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The reauthorization bill creates a new class of grants that will help established coalitions assist new ones, assist new folks on how to battle this scourge called drug use. And the bill creates a National Community Antidrug Coalition Institute to provide education and training and technical assistance to coalitions all throughout our country.

There are other steps we must take. Many of you are working with faith-based institutions, because you've seen the power of faith to transform lives. Last month, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, led by Joe Califano, released a report on substance abuse, religion, and spirituality. The report found that "religion and spirituality can play a powerful role in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and on the maintenance of sobriety."

My armies of compassion legislation will provide support to faith-based institutions working to prevent and treat drug abuse. The House passed this legislation. I urge the Senate to do so. This Nation must not fear faith-based programs; we must welcome them. We must welcome anybody who is willing to join in this important goal and in this important cause.

We've got a responsibility here in Washington to lead the fight against drug abuse. But we understand here that one of the best ways to do so is to support the people in the neighborhoods, on the streets, the community coalitions which are truly the front line in our battle to save people's lives. You've devoted your lives to the well-being of others, and for this I'm incredibly grateful. On behalf of all Americans, thank you for your compassion; thank you for your concern; thank you for your love for your country and your fellow human being.

And now it is my honor to invite Director Walters and General Dean, along with the sponsors of this important piece of legislation, to join me as I sign this bill.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Arthur T. Dean, chairman and chief executive officer, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America; and Joseph A. Califano, Jr., chairman and president, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. H.R. 2291, approved December 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107–82.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 8

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to New Windsor, MD, and later to Camp David, MD.

December 9

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the National Building Museum to participate in "Christmas in Washington," a television production which will air at 8 p.m. on December 16. In the evening, they returned to the White House.

December 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with his National Security Council. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a children's story hour in the East Room, where they read to first graders from Hoffman-Boston Elementary School in Arlington, VA.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the 2001 NCAA men's wrestling champion University of Minnesota Gophers in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with Jewish leaders. He and Mrs. Bush then met with White House staff members and their families for a Hanukkah celebration.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Magaw to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security.

December 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, SC. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to Washington on December 21.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond L. Orbach to be Director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen P. Utgoff to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter Charles DeShazo for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as head of the U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.

December 12

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with congressional leaders to discuss proposed economic stimulus legislation. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with his National Security Council.

In an afternoon ceremony at the White House, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Mohamedou Ould Michel of Mauritania; Anare Jale of Fiji; Sakthip Krairiksh of Thailand; and Nikola Dimitrov of Macedonia. Later, he attended a Diplomatic Corps holiday reception at Blair House.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert B. Holland to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on Disability: Lex Frieden, Chairperson; Jacqueline Kelly Collamore; Carol Hughes; Barbara Gillcrist; Graham Hill; Patricia Pound; Robert Davila; Young Woo Kang; Stephanie Smith Lee; and Kathleen Martinez.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology: Charles Joel Arntzen; Norman R. Augustine; Carol Ann Bartz; M. Kathleen Behrens; Erich Bloch; Stephen B. Burke; Gerald Wayne Clough; Michael S. Dell; Raul Fernandez; Marye Anne Fox; Martha Diane Winters Gilliland; Ralph E. Gomory; Bernadine Patricia Healy; Robert John Herbold; Barbara Kilberg; Walter Eugene Massey; Gordon E. Moore; Kenneth Nwabueze; Steven Gerald Papermaster; Luiz M. Proenza; George Martin Scalise; and Charles M. Vest.

December 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jiang Zemin of China concerning the U.S. decision to withdraw from the ABM Treaty. The President also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of

India to express his condolences concerning the armed attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi earlier in the day.

During the day, the President had telephone conversations with Democratic Senators concerning proposed economic stimulus legislation.

December 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with his National Security Council. Later, he met with Members of Congress concerning textiles and textile workers.

During the day, the President received treatment at the White House physician's office for the removal of skin lesions on his face.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 10

Christopher James Christie,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey for the term of 4 years, vice Faith S. Hochberg, resigned.

Submitted December 11

James Duane Dawson,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Charles M. Adkins.

William Carey Jenkins,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Ronald Joseph Boudreaux, resigned.

Dwight MacKay,
of Montana, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of 4 years, vice William Stephen Strizich, resigned.

Ronald Richard McCubbin, Jr.,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of 4 years, vice E. Douglas Hamilton.

David Reid Murtaugh,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Michael D. Carrington.

Raymond L. Orbach,
of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy, vice Mildred Spiewak Dresselhaus.

Submitted December 13

Andrea G. Barthwell,
of Illinois, to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, vice Fred W. Garcia, resigned.

Nehemiah Flowers,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years, vice Eisenhower Durr.

Arthur Jeffrey Hedden,
of Tennessee, to be U.S Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Joseph Clyde Fowler, Jr.

Robert B. Holland III,
of Texas, to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 2 years, vice Michael Marek, term expired.

David Glenn Jolley,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Wesley Joe Wood.

John Magaw,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security for a term of 5 years (new position).

Dennis Cluff Merrill,
of Oregon, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Oregon for the term of 4 years, vice Reginald B. Madsen, resigned.

Michael Wade Roach,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice Patrick J. Wilkerson.

Eric Eugene Robertson,
of Washington, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Washington for the term of 4 years, vice Rosa Maria Melendez, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 8

Fact sheet: America's Fund for Afghan Children Shipment Departs *

Released December 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: A Preview—"The World Will Always Remember September 11"

Released December 11

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to Washington

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Northern District of Indiana, the Western District of Kentucky, the Middle District of Louisiana, the District of Montana, and the Southern District of West Virginia

Released December 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1459

Fact sheet: Homeland Security—U.S. and Canada—An Efficient, Secure, and Smart Border

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Announcement of Withdrawal From the ABM Treaty

Statement by the Press Secretary: Response to Russian Statement on U.S. ABM Treaty Withdrawal

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the District of Oregon, the Southern District of Mississippi, the Western District of Washington, the Western District of Oklahoma, and the Western District of Tennessee

Released December 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: President Bush Acts To Empower Communities in the Fight Against Illegal Drug Abuse

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, the Southern District of Alabama, the District of Nebraska, the Northern District of Alabama, and the District of Maine.

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 12

S. 1459 / Public Law 107–80
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 550 West Fort Street in Boise, Idaho, as the "James A. McClure Federal Building and United States Courthouse"

* This item was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7, but was embargoed for release until 9 a.m. on December 8.

S. 1573 / Public Law 107–81
Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001

Approved December 14

H.R. 2291 / Public Law 107–82
To extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program for an additional 5 years, to authorize a National Community Antidrug Coalition Institute, and for other purposes

The President's Radio Address

December 15, 2001

Good morning. As too many Americans know firsthand, the economy began to slow early last year, and terrorism has hit us hard. Many workers have lost jobs, and others are seeing their hours cut. The American people want action to improve our economy, and so do I.

More than 2 months, and more than 700,000 lost jobs ago, I proposed an economic security package to help workers who have been laid off and to take action to create jobs and promote long-term economic growth. The House of Representatives quickly responded, passing its own legislation to help jumpstart the economy. The Senate has failed to act. And while the Senate has failed to do its work, more and more Americans have been thrown out of work.

To break the logjam in the Senate, I reached out this week to moderate Democrats and Republicans to build a consensus that gave both parties some of what they want and, most important, will give our economy the boost it needs. This bipartisan package will give workers who have lost a job since the recession began last March an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits. It will also help unemployed workers keep their health insurance and will give Governors greater resources and more flexibility to assist those in need.

These new bipartisan measures help working families who are struggling to make ends meet, giving up to $600 cash refund to low income families who don't earn enough to pay income tax but still pay part of their income in payroll taxes. And this plan helps middle class families, couples earning approximately $60,000, and individuals earning $40,000 by speeding up planned tax relief for them, as well.

This installment of tax relief was scheduled for 2004. Under this new idea, many middle class families will see a rise in their take-home pay in just a couple of weeks.

And finally, this agreement will create jobs. Among other steps, it gives employers incentives to invest in new equipment right away. It lowers the tax rate for 10 million small businesses and entrepreneurs, making it easier for them to expand and grow and hire new workers. It focuses on other policies that will also increase investment and produce new jobs.

This economic growth package is urgently needed. Today the Federal Government's Council of Economic Advisers released a report that estimates the bipartisan agreement reached this week can save 300,000 American jobs that might otherwise be lost if we fail to act.

Democrats and Republicans set aside partisan politics to arrive at this agreement. They want to get something done for America's workers. We believe this agreement has enough votes to be approved by the United States Senate, and I'm ready to sign it into law. But first the Senate leader must schedule a vote.

On behalf of the American workers and our American economy, I call on the leadership of the Senate to bring this bipartisan economic recovery plan to a vote, to bring help to unemployed workers and a crucial boost to our economy.

The holidays are upon us, and time is running out. While some in Washington are looking for reasons not to act, many in Congress in both parties want to find a way to get the job done. America's workers are counting on us.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:55 p.m. on December 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

December 14, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2002–05

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register.*

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 21, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 27.

Remarks in Honor of Eid al-Fitr and an Exchange With Reporters

December 17, 2001

The President. Welcome. It's good to see everybody. Thank you all for coming. We want to thank you for coming to the White House to celebrate Eid. It's so nice of you to be here. It reminds us how much we all have in common, how similar boys and girls are, no matter what their religion may be. So thanks for being here today. We're really thrilled you're here.

Eid is a time of joy, after a season of fasting and prayer and reflection. Each year, the end of Ramadan means celebration and thanksgiving for millions of Americans. And your joy during this season enriches the life of our great country. This year, Eid is celebrated at the same time as Hanukkah and Advent. So it's a good time for people of these great faiths, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, to remember how much we have in common: devotion to family, a commitment to care for those in need, a belief in God and His justice, and the hope for peace on earth.

We also share a custom I know all of you are excited about, and that's giving gifts to children. And after this is over, I have a little gift for you from the White House. This season is meant to be a time of rejoicing as well as a time of generosity. I'm proud that our country, during Eid, is helping the people of Afghanistan. And I'm proud that the children of America, through America's Fund for Afghan Children, are giving food and clothes and toys to the children of Afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan have suffered so much, and we're committed to helping them in their time of hardship and in their time of need. These are challenging days for our Nation, but holidays like this one remind us about how much we have to be thankful for and that God delights in joy and generosity of men and women and children. People of every faith are welcome here in the people's house. People of every background are welcome to come here to the White House.

I want to thank you all for coming, and I'd like to go read—if you don't mind, read from a book to you. Is that okay? How about that? Let's go do that, and then we'll go back over here. We've got a special gift for you.

[*At this point, the President read a poem entitled, "Good Deeds."*]

The President. Thank you all for coming. We're getting ready to leave. I may answer a few questions if you have some. Stretch, [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News] and then Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

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[*At this point, the President read a poem entitled, "Good Deeds."*]

The President. Thank you all for coming. We're getting ready to leave. I may answer a few questions if you have some. Stretch, [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News] and then Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, have you—with the campaign against the Taliban winding down to a very small area of Afghanistan, will you consider this operation a success if Usama bin Laden is at large?

The President. Usama bin Laden is going to be brought to justice. It may happen tomorrow; it may happen in a month; it may happen in a year. But he is going to be brought to justice. He's on the run. He thinks he can hide, but he can't. We've been at this operation now for about 2½ months, and we've made incredible progress. And one of the objectives I've said, in this theater, in all theaters for that matter, is that we want Al Qaida killers brought to justice. And we'll bring him to justice.

Q. What do you know, sir, about whether he's still in Afghanistan? And have you spoken to the Pakistani Government about helping you to track him down if, in fact, he has fled across the border?

The President. Well, the Pakistanis will help us, and they are helping us look for not only one—Usama bin Laden, but for all Al Qaida murderers and killers. They will be brought to justice. And it's just a matter of time, as far as I'm concerned. We've got all kinds of reports that he's in a cave, that he's not in a cave, that he's escaped, that he hasn't escaped. And there's all kinds of speculation. But when the dust clears, we'll find out where he is, and he'll be brought to justice.

Q. Will you order a military tribunal for him?

The President. You know, one thing at a time, Ron. I do have the option of military tribunals, because I think it's going to be a way to protect national security matters. But I'll make that judgment when we bring him to justice.

Anthrax Attacks

Q. On another matter, sir, have investigators concluded the anthrax used in the mailings have a domestic source? Are you looking for——

The President. Well, we're still looking on that. We've all got different feelings about it. I—and we're gathering as much information. And as soon as we make definitive conclusions, we'll share it with the American people.

Counterterrorism Efforts

Q. [*Inaudible*]—what the next steps might be in fighting terrorism in other countries or regions?

The President. Yes, we're looking. I mean, any time there is somebody harboring a killer or a terrorist, we will work with them to bring those people to justice. And one of the things I won't do, of course, is tell the enemy what our next move will be. I'm working to build—to keep our coalition strong.

Colin Powell and myself and others in the administration are constantly talking to world leaders to encourage them to cut off money or disrupt killer cells that might be hiding in their countries. We've made great progress. We've arrested over—I think it's over 300 now. We're beginning to shut down financial institutions around the world.

Not every operation needs to be a military operation to be successful against the terrorist networks. And I'm pleased to tell you that the coalition is working cooperatively. And we're sharing a lot of intelligence between nations, and it's having effect.

Q. So might Iraq be next, probably?

The President. Oh, no, I'm not going to tell the enemy what's next. They just need to know that so long as they plan, and have got plans to murder innocent people, America will be breathing down their neck.

John Walker

Q. Mr. President, what are you learning about John Walker's involvement in the Taliban or Al Qaida, and should he face the death penalty if he's found to be a——

The President. I'm going to let the appropriate law enforcement agencies make recommendations to me. He has been questioned, properly questioned by the U.S. Government. I have yet to see the transcript myself. But we'll make the decision on what to do with Mr. Walker. He is a U.S. citizen. Obviously, I've said that U.S. citizens will not go into military tribunals. And so we'll make the determination whether or not he stays within the military system or comes into the civil justice system, the civil system in America.

Thank you all. Let's go in here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:12 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

December 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1 through November 30, 2001. The previous submission covered August 1 through September 30, 2001. The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 18.

Statement on Congressional Action on Education Reform Legislation

December 18, 2001

I commend Members of Congress for acting boldly and in an overwhelmingly bipartisan way to help make sure no child in America is left behind. These historic reforms will improve our public schools by creating an environment where every child can learn through real accountability, unprecedented flexibility for States and school districts, greater local control, more options for parents, and more funding for what works.

Many share in the credit for making these reforms a reality. I look forward to standing side by side with the bipartisan leadership, Congressman Boehner, Senator Kennedy, Senator Gregg, and Congressman Miller, early next year and signing these important reforms into law.

By putting aside partisan differences and working to find common ground, we can get things done so that all our children have the opportunity for a better and brighter future.

Statement on Signing the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

December 18, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2299, the "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of $686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with:

- $140 million for border safety to ensure an open border for trade between the United States and Mexico through the establishment of an inspection and certification system that will ensure a high level of motor carrier safety;
- $5 billion for Coast Guard operations and capital expenses, including $243 million to support expanded drug interdiction efforts as authorized in the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act;
- $1.2 billion for the newly created Transportation Security Administration to enhance airport and aircraft security;
- $32.8 billion for key highway infrastructure and safety initiatives in compliance with authorized levels;
- $10.2 billion for aviation operations and airport improvement grants to expand safety, security, and capacity; and
- $6.7 billion for mass transit grants and capital programs.

Several provisions in the bill purport to require congressional approval before executive branch execution of aspects of the bill. I will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation

would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS* v. *Chadha.*

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2299, approved December 18, was assigned Public Law No. 107–87.

Proclamation 7515—To Modify the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, To Provide Rules of Origin Under the North American Free Trade Agreement for Affected Goods, and for Other Purposes

December 18, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 1205(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (the "1988 Act") (19 U.S.C. 3005(a)) directs the United States International Trade Commission (the "Commission") to keep the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) under continuous review and periodically to recommend to the President such modifications in the HTS as the Commission considers necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes set forth in that subsection. The Commission has recommended modifications to the HTS pursuant to sections 1205(c) and (d) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3005(c) and (d)) to conform the HTS to amendments made to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (the "Convention").

2. Section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3006(a)) authorizes the President to proclaim modifications to the HTS, based on the recommendations of the Commission under section 1205 of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3005), if he determines that the modifications are in conformity with the obligations of the United States under the Convention and do not run counter to the national economic interest of the United States. I have determined that the modifications to the HTS proclaimed in this proclamation pursuant to section 1206(a) are in conformity with the obligations of the United States under the Convention and do not run counter to the national economic interest of the United States.

3. (a) Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993, implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement (the "NAFTA") with respect to the United States and, pursuant to sections 201 and 202 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "NAFTA Implementation Act") (19 U.S.C. 3331 and 3332), incorporated in the HTS the tariff modifications and rules of origin necessary or appropriate to carry out the NAFTA.

(b) Because the substance of the changes to the Convention will be reflected in slightly differing form in the national tariff schedules of the three parties to the NAFTA, the rules of origin and interpretative rules set forth in Appendix 6.A of Annex 300–B, Annex 401, and Annex 403.1 to the NAFTA must be changed to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the NAFTA to originating goods will continue to be provided under the tariff categories that are being modified to reflect the amendments to the Convention. The NAFTA parties have agreed to make these changes.

4. Section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act provides rules for determining whether goods imported into the United States originate in the territory of a NAFTA party and thus are eligible for the tariff and other treatment contemplated under the NAFTA. Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)) authorizes the President to proclaim the rules of origin set out in the NAFTA and any subordinate tariff categories necessary to carry out the NAFTA Implementation Act consistent with the NAFTA.

5. I have determined that the modifications to the HTS proclaimed in this proclamation pursuant to sections 201 and 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act are necessary in order to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the NAFTA, including previously proclaimed staged reductions in rates of duty, will continue to be given to NAFTA originating goods under tariff categories that are being

modified to reflect the amendments to the Convention.

6. Presidential Proclamation 6763 of December 23, 1994, implemented with respect to the United States the trade agreements resulting from the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, including Schedule XX-United States of America, annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (''Schedule XX''), that were entered into pursuant to sections 1102(a) and (e) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 2902(a) and (e)) and approved in section 101(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3511(a)).

7. Pursuant to the authority provided in section 111 of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3521) and sections 1102(a) and (e) of the 1988 Act, Proclamation 6763 included the staged reductions in rates of duty that the President determined to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the concessions set forth in Schedule XX. In order to ensure the continuation of such staged reductions in rates of duty for imported goods under tariff categories that are being modified to reflect the amendments to the Convention, I have determined that additional modifications to the HTS are necessary or appropriate to carry out the duty reductions previously proclaimed, including certain technical or conforming changes within the tariff schedule.

8. Presidential Proclamation 7351 of October 2, 2000, implemented section 211 of the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (title II of Public Law 106–200, 114 Stat. 286) (CBTPA), in order to provide certain preferential tariff treatment to eligible articles that are the product of any country that the President has designated as a ''CBTPA beneficiary country'' and that has satisfied the requirements of section 213(b)(4)(A)(ii) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(4)(A)(ii)). Section 213(b)(3) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(3)) provides that the tariff treatment accorded at any time under the CBTPA to any article referred to in section 213(b)(1)(B) through (F) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(1)(B) through (F)) that is a CBTPA originating good shall be identical to the tariff treatment that is accorded at such time under Annex 302.2 of the NAFTA to an article described in the same 8-digit subheading of the HTS that is a good of Mexico and is imported into the United States.

9. Pursuant to section 213(b) of the CBERA, Proclamation 7351 included the staged reductions in rates of duty that the President determined to be necessary or appropriate to provide such identical tariff treatment to CBTPA originating goods. In order to ensure the continuation of such staged reductions in rates of duty for imported goods under tariff categories that are being modified to reflect the amendments to the Convention and the conforming changes in the NAFTA rules of origin, I have determined that additional modifications to the HTS are necessary or appropriate to carry out the duty reductions previously proclaimed.

10. Presidential Proclamation 7512 of December 7, 2001, implemented with respect to the United States the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area (JFTA), which was entered into on October 24, 2000, and implemented pursuant to section 101 of the United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act (the ''JFTA Act'') (19 U.S.C. 2112 Note). That proclamation included the staged reductions in rates of duty that I determined to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the concessions set forth in Annex 2.1 to the JFTA. In order to ensure the continuation of such staged reductions in rates of duty for originating goods under tariff categories that are being modified to reflect the amendments to the Convention, I have determined that additional modifications to the HTS are necessary or appropriate to carry out the duty reductions previously proclaimed.

11. Section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331(b)) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)), to proclaim accelerated schedules of duty elimination that the United States may agree to with Mexico or Canada. Consistent with Article 302(3) of the NAFTA, I, through my duly empowered representative,

have entered into an agreement with the Government of Mexico providing for an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico.

12. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, I have determined that the modifications herein proclaimed of duties on goods originating in the territory of a NAFTA party are necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Mexico provided for by the NAFTA, and to carry out the agreement with Mexico providing an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods. Pursuant to section 213(b)(3)(A) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(3)), I have determined that the rates of duty resulting from the accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico should also apply to CBTPA originating goods described in the same 8-digit subheadings of the HTS.

13. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 604 of the 1974 Act, sections 1102, 1205, and 1206 of the 1988 Act, section 213 of the CBERA, sections 201 and 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act, section 111 of the URAA, and section 101 of the JFTA Act, do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to modify the HTS to conform it to the Convention or any amendment thereto recommended for adoption, to promote the uniform application of the Convention, to establish additional subordinate tariff categories to carry out modifications to the rules of origin under the NAFTA, and to make technical and conforming changes to existing provisions, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to modify the rules of origin under the NAFTA to reflect the modifications to the HTS being made to conform it to the Convention and to make certain conforming changes, general note 12 to the HTS is further modified as provided in Annex II to this proclamation.

(3) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed staged duty reductions in the Rates of Duty 1-General subcolumn under section 111(a) of the URAA, as provided in Presidential Proclamation 6763, for goods classifiable in the provisions modified by Annex I to this proclamation that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after each of the dates specified in section A of Annex III to this proclamation, the rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the Rates of Duty 1-General subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section A of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such section inserted in lieu thereof.

(4) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed staged duty reductions in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for originating goods of Mexico under the NAFTA that are classifiable in the provisions modified by Annex I to this proclamation and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after each of the dates specified in section B of Annex III to this proclamation, the rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section B of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such section inserted in lieu thereof.

(5) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed staged duty reductions in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for originating goods of CBTPA beneficiary countries that are classifiable in the provisions modified by Annex I to this proclamation and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after each of the dates specified in section C of Annex III to this proclamation, the rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section C of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such section inserted in lieu thereof.

(6) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed staged duty reductions in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for originating goods of Jordan under the JFTA that are classifiable in the provisions modified by Annex I to this proclamation and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after each of the dates specified in section D of Annex III to this proclamation, the rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section D of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such section inserted in lieu thereof.

(7) In order to provide an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico under the terms of general note 12 to the HTS, and to provide identical tariff treatment for originating goods of a CBTPA beneficiary country provided for in the same HTS subheading, the special tariff treatment set forth in the HTS for the pertinent subheadings is modified as provided in Annex IV to this proclamation.

(8) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(9)(a) The modifications and technical rectifications to the HTS made by Annexes I and II to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the later of (i) January 1, 2002, or (ii) the 15th day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

(b) The modifications made by Annexes III and IV to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the respective dates specified in each section of such Annexes for the goods described therein.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 26.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

December 19, 2001

Economic Stimulus Package

I am proud to report that members of both political parties and both bodies of Congress have come to an agreement as to how to stimulate our economy and how to take care of people in need, people who have lost their job.

I'm proud of the Members around this table for making the conscious decision to work together to answer some serious needs that face our country. A lot of people have lost their jobs and don't have health care, and the people around this table said, "I want to do something about it," and they proposed a very constructive, real plan.

A lot of people around this table understand that in the long term we've got to make sure our economy grows. And so we've provided stimulus to the economy, most of which affects middle-class America. The income tax rate reduction affects those making $27,000 to $65,000 a year, hard-working Americans who could use help coming into the holiday season.

I can't thank the chairman, the Speaker, the leaders around this table for recognizing that there's something more important than politics, and that's to do our jobs, to recognize we have a serious problem and address it and solve the problem.

This bill can pass both bodies. This bill will pass the House; it's got enough votes to pass the Senate. And therefore, I look forward to working with both bodies in any way I can to convince those who are reluctant to get a bill done that this makes sense for America, so we can leave for Christmas knowing full-well that we've done the people's business.

Again, congratulations to you all. I want to thank you for your work, thank you for your care for America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. in the Speaker's office at the Capitol. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Viewing the "Spirit of Louisiana" Firetruck for New York City

December 19, 2001

Gov. Mike Foster. And now, Chief, it's your turn. That's an intro. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I guess he meant Commander in Chief. [*Laughter*]

Governor Foster. I just called you "Chief"; you're big into nicknames. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, Governor, thanks for coming. You know, I always love Louisiana, and I love the people of Louisiana. And I always knew the people of Louisiana were a little different—[*laughter*]—in a good way. And you just showed the Nation why.

So I want to welcome you all for coming. Thanks for being here, Mike, and it's good to see the first lady, too. Welcome to the White House, and welcome you all.

This "Spirit of Louisiana" truck really does show the deep concern of the good folks of Louisiana. Everybody in our Nation realized on September 11th, we were all affected. They might have hit right around the corner here, and they might have hit in New York City, but it affected all of us. And the good people of Louisiana realize that.

I particularly love this story, about how Ronnie decides to do something on behalf of the fellow citizens. So he gets on the phone and calls a local radio personality—the Governor. [*Laughter*] And out of that came a huge volunteer effort in the State of Louisiana to provide help and aid to the good people of New York City.

And I think the Americans need to understand that this is the kind of story that makes our country so unique and so different. It's a story that makes me so proud to be the President of such a great—such great land.

I want to thank Senator for coming; thank you, Mary, for being here. I want to thank the two Congressmen for being here; John and David, thank you all for coming. Welcome. I want to thank all the volunteers who worked on this project. I want to thank the firefighters and police officers from the State of Louisiana who've come. You obviously represent a noble profession and a profession that really knows no borders. And you're on your way to express your solidarity with people who fight fires. They may talk with a different accent, but they share the same dangers. And I appreciate you all coming, and I know people in New York City are really anxious to have you up there.

One of the things I like to remind the enemy is, you thought you were going to change America when you hit us; you thought, by your actions and by your attacks, that somehow this Nation was so soft that we didn't know how to respond. And they're paying a terrible price for their miscalculation. We're making great progress in the first theater of this long war to rout terror where it may exist.

I'm really proud of our military. I'm proud of the job they're doing. I'm proud of the fact that we've set a clear goal with certain objectives, and those objectives are being met.

I know the Governor likes to hunt rabbits down in Louisiana. Sometimes those rabbits think they can hide from the Governor, but eventually, he smokes them out and gets them. And that's exactly what is happening to Mr. bin Laden and all the murderers that he's trying to hide in Afghanistan.

But the other thing that the terrorist doesn't understand was how strong our—the strength of America. They didn't understand that. And the strength of America is our citizens: citizens who love each other; citizens who are decent; citizens who, when called upon, can respond to any adversity.

And that's exactly what's happening here on the White House lawn today. People from all walks of life, all political parties, some of who probably have never been to New York City before, have said, "What can I do to help? How can I help somebody whose lives have been adversely affected by the evil ones?" And behind me sits the answer, one beautiful, well-manufactured truck, made by an entrepreneur in Louisiana who asked his people to work overtime, and they did, to

deliver it here today. I know I speak on behalf of all Americans: Thank you for what you're doing.

No, they roused a mighty nation. They roused a mighty nation, and we will not be stopped. We're not going to be stopped overseas, and we're sure not going to be stopped here at home.

I hope every family here and all the folks who volunteered to make this happen have a wonderful holiday season. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., of Louisiana, and his wife, Alice; Ronald Goldman, who initiated the idea of the "Spirit of Louisiana"; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Chris Ferrara, president and chief executive officer, Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Aeronautics and Space Activities

December 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 11 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 2000. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed four Space shuttle flights. In terms of robotic space flights, there were 24 U.S. expendable launch vehicle launches in FY 2000. Five of these launches were NASA-managed missions, nine were Department of Defense (DoD)-managed missions, and eight were FAA-licensed commercial launches. In addition, NASA flew one payload as a secondary payload on one of the FAA-licensed commercial launches. This year, two new launch vehicles debuted: the Lockheed Martin Atlas IIIA and the Boeing Delta III, each serving as transition vehicles leading the way for the new generation of evolved expendable launch vehicles.

Scientists also made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. In aerospace, achievements included the demonstration of technologies that will reduce the environmental impact of aircraft operations, reinvigorate the general aviation industry, improve the safety and efficiency of U.S. commercial airlines and air traffic control system, and reduce the future cost of access to space.

The United States also entered into many new agreements for cooperation with its international partners around the world in many areas of space activity.

Thus, FY 2000 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20.

Remarks to Martha's Table Leaders and Volunteers

December 20, 2001

Thank you all. It must be hard to describe how to cause people to love one another, which is precisely why this program is so meaningful and so real to people. I'm here because I want the American people to understand the greatest gift they can give this holiday season is to programs such as Martha's Table.

We're such a generous nation, and after September the 11th, people gave very generously to those whose lives were affected as

a result of the terrorist activity. But unfortunately, contributions to organizations, community-based organizations all aimed at helping brothers and sisters in need, have fallen off.

And so my wish for Christmas, for the holiday season, is for our country to be at peace, to be protected, that our men and women overseas are protected, but that the great generosity of Americans come to the surface again to help people whose sole purpose is to say, "What can I do to help somebody? What can I do? How can I live the Biblical admonition to treat somebody just like I'd like to be treated myself?"

I want to thank the leadership of this great program. It's a pretty strong leadership. First of all, they got my mother to come—[*laughter*]—who said, "When you get up there, you make sure you go by Martha's Table." I said, "Yes, ma'am." [*Laughter*] And by the way, I'm going to see her Saturday, and I look forward to telling her you're doing great. I got to see the expansion, the new addition to this program. And I want to congratulate the members of the board and the hard workers who've gone out to raise the money to see that the expansion came to be. I want to thank all the volunteers who are here.

You know, part of my vision for a better America is that our country understands the power of faith-based and community-based organizations—and government should do everything it can to facilitate their expansion all around the country—that a lot of times faith can do things that others can't. And while governments should never promote a particular religion, governments should not fear faith and should welcome those programs based upon faith, because government couldn't possibly duplicate what goes on inside this building. There is no way that our Government could mandate love. I used to tell people, I wish I could make people love one another, and I'd sign the bill, but that's not the way life works. What happens is, dedicated citizens decide they're going to do something to embetter the community in which they live and, without government, say, "Let's go. Let's roll. Let's make it happen." And that's what's happened here at Martha's Table.

So I urge my fellow citizens to find ways to contribute not only time but money. Instead of giving a gift this year, for example, one of the things I hope people do instead of sending Laura and me something, if they choose to do so, I would hope they would figure out a way to help a community, a charitable-based organization. It would be the best gift you could possibly give us. If they're trying to send Barney a gift, they ought to send it to a charitable-based organization. That would make our hearts feel great, and I know it would help people in need.

And while we're here in this joyous season, we've also got to remember, people hurt in our society. And as a result of September the 11th, people have lost work. And I'm worried about that. I've been working hard to try to get the Congress to take care of unemployed people, people who lost their jobs.

I thought we made pretty good progress yesterday when Republicans and Democrats decided to set aside the typical partisanship that takes place in Washington and put a pretty good package out there—not a pretty good, a real good package—that said that we're going to extend the unemployment benefits for displaced workers; that we're going to help people with health care needs in a significant way; over $30 billion to help unemployed people take care of themselves during this period of national tragedy.

As well, in the package that passed the House of Representatives, there are ways to stimulate small business growth. And the truth of the matter is, we've got to figure out ways to create jobs in America. A job is the best thing that you can do to help anybody.

And unfortunately, that particular piece of legislation was declared dead before it even got to the Senate floor, even though I'm confident that, if it was ever voted on, it would pass. I think we need to pass that bill. I think, for the good of the American people, that bill ought to get out of the United States Senate and get to my desk so that we can help the unemployed people and help grow jobs.

And I hope, as well, next year when we come back, that the Faith-Based Initiative passes. I think this—again, this isn't a partisan issue; this is a good American issue. This

is an issue that will help people. And that's what I want to see. I want to see people in need have hope, people who live with despair in their lives have sunshine. And I know how to get it done, and that is to encourage places like Martha's Table to flourish and grow.

My fellow Americans need to know that as we head into this time of joy, that our Nation is doing everything we can to protect our citizens, that we'll be on alert during the holiday season, that if we have any hint anybody wants to hurt us, we'll respond, to make sure that the good citizens of our land are able to celebrate peacefully with their families.

I wish everybody a happy holiday season. I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to come by a place of love and compassion. I want to thank you for what you do, on behalf of all Americans.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. in the upstairs after-school program room at Martha's Table. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, Barbara Bush, and his dog Barney.

Remarks Announcing Action Against the Terrorists' International Financial Network

December 20, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored to be joined by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of Treasury will stay over afterwards to answer any questions you have on this particular initiative that we'll be announcing today.

This is the 100th day of our campaign against global terrorism. And in those 100 days, we've accomplished much. We've built a broad international coalition against terror, and I want to thank the Secretary of State for his hard work. We broke the Taliban's grip on Afghanistan. We took the war to the Al Qaida terrorists. We're securing our airways. We're defending our homeland. And we're attacking the terrorists' international financial network, and I want to thank the Secretary of the Treasury for his hard work.

Today I'm announcing two more strikes against the financing of terror. We know that Al Qaida would like to obtain nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. And we know that oftentimes they do not act alone. Al Qaida has international supporters, and some of those supporters hide themselves in the disguise of charity.

Last year a former official of the Pakistani Atomic Energy Commission set up an organization known as the UTN. UTN claims to serve the hungry and needy of Afghanistan. But it was the UTN that provided information about nuclear weapons to Al Qaida. So today I'm adding UTN and three of its directors to our list of terrorist-supporting financial organizations and individuals. We're issuing orders to block any of their assets within U.S. jurisdiction and putting the world on notice that anyone who continues to do business with UTN and its principal figures will not do business with the United States.

Since September the 11th, we've witnessed a series of terrorist attacks aimed at the United States and our friends around the world: anthrax mailings here at home; suicide bombings against Israel; and only last week, an armed attack on the Indian Parliament. The legislature of the world's largest democracy, a nation founded on the principles of freedom of speech, freedom of worship, was ruthlessly attacked. The terrorists killed eight innocent people. If their mission had succeeded, they would have kidnapped and killed many of India's elected representatives.

Last week's attack was only the most recent terrorist assault on the institutions of Indian democracy. More than 30 people were killed in a car bombing of the State Legislative Assembly in Srinagar on October the 1st. These attacks on India's Parliament buildings remind us that, whatever grievances or causes the terrorists may cite, their real target is democracy and freedom.

The United States condemns these terrorist attacks against India. And we extend our sympathies and friendship to the families of the murdered.

American power will be used against all terrorists of global reach. So today I'm adding another terrorist organization to the list of those whose assets are blocked by my Executive order. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba is an extremist group based in Kashmir. LET is a stateless

sponsor of terrorism, and it hopes to destroy relations between Pakistan and India and to undermine Pakistani President Musharraf. To achieve its purpose, LET has committed acts of terrorism inside both India and Pakistan. LET is a terrorist organization that presents a global threat. And I look forward to working with the Governments of both India and Pakistan in a common effort to shut it down and to bring the killers to justice.

I'm optimistic about the future of our struggle against terror. I know we've accomplished a lot so far, and we've got a lot more to do. Over the past 100 days, we and our British allies and others in the coalition have destroyed at least 11 terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan, terrorist factories that produce thousands of trained operatives. We've also destroyed 39 Taliban command and control sites. Senior Al Qaida and Taliban officials have been captured or killed, and potential escape routes for the survivors are constantly being blocked to prevent the cowards from running.

American, Australian, and German aid workers held hostage by the Taliban have been liberated. We've dropped some 2.5 million humanitarian rations to the hungry people inside Afghanistan.

Our attack on terrorist finances is progressing. The assets of more than 150 known terrorists, their organizations, and their bankers have been frozen by the United States. One hundred forty-two countries have issued freezing orders of their own. The result: More than $33 million in terrorist assets have been blocked inside the United States; more than $33 million more have been blocked abroad by our partners in the international coalition.

At home, we've created a new Office of Homeland Security, under my friend Tom Ridge, and worked with Congress to provide more than $20 billion to safeguard our territory. New airline security legislation has been signed into law. Our law enforcement agencies are protecting our safety, while respecting the constitutional rights of our citizens. We listed the 22 most wanted foreign terrorists. We're reorganizing the INS so it can more effectively prevent the entry into the United States by those who want to threaten our national security.

We arrested one of the murderers of the September 5, 1986 hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73, showing would-be terrorists and current terrorists that we have a long memory, that we're patient, that if you think you can hide, we'll come and find you and bring you to justice. We made the first indictment against the terrorists, those murderers of September the 11th.

We and our coalition have done much in the past 100 days. And with the help of freedom-loving countries around the world, we will do much more to rid the world of evil and of terrorists.

Thank you very much.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us where you are, sir, on your deliberations over John Walker, and have you ruled out a charge of treason?

The President. I'm heading into the Oval Office.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bushir-ud-Din Mahmood, founder and director, and Abdul Majeed and S.M. Tufail, directors, Umma Tameer-e-Nau (UTN); and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to John Walker, a U.S. citizen who fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Economic Stimulus Package

December 20, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for its leadership in passing an economic security package that will help workers and get our economy growing. This bipartisan plan will help ensure that workers have access to health care and unemployment benefits, that new jobs will be created, and that people will have more money in their pockets. For the sake of America's workers, I call on the Senate to act now on this plan, which can pass the Senate with a bipartisan majority if it is brought up for a vote. If this bipartisan bill gets to my desk, I will sign it.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2001

December 20, 2001

Christmas is a time of wonder and joy, of generosity and peace, that brings family and friends together in celebration and song. We sing old hymns and familiar carols, we show love for others in the giving of gifts, and we observe the hallowed traditions that make the season special. This year in the midst of extraordinary times, our Nation has shown the world that though there is great evil, there is a greater good. Americans have given of themselves, sacrificing to help others and showing the spirit of love and sharing that is so much a part of the Christmas season.

According to the Gospel of Luke, two thousand years ago, the savior of mankind came into the world. Christians believe that Jesus' birth was the incarnation of God on earth, opening the door to new hope and eternal life. At Christmastime, Christians celebrate God's love revealed to the world through Christ. And the message of Jesus is one that all Americans can embrace this holiday season—to love one another.

This Christmas we remember those who are without their loved ones. They continue to be in our hearts and prayers. May they experience peace, and may they find hope. And as we again celebrate Christ's birth, may the glorious light of God's goodness and love shine forth from our land.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's blessings of peace be upon us and upon the world.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Executive Order 13248—Establishing an Emergency Board To Investigate a Dispute Between United Airlines, Inc., and Its Mechanics and Related Employees Represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

December 20, 2001

A dispute exists between United Airlines, Inc., and its employees represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

The dispute has not heretofore been adjusted under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151–188) (the "Act").

In the judgment of the National Mediation Board, this dispute threatens substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree that would deprive sections of the country of essential transportation service.

Now, Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 10 and 201 of the Act (45 U.S.C. 160 and 181), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of the Board (Board).* There is established, effective December 21, 2001, a Board of three members to be appointed by the President to investigate and report on this dispute. No member may be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any organization of airline employees or any air carrier. The Board shall perform its functions subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2. *Report.* The Board shall report to the President with respect to this dispute within 30 days of its creation.

Sec. 3. *Maintaining Conditions.* As provided by section 10 of the Act, from the date of the creation of the Board and for 30 days after the Board has submitted its report to the President, no change in the conditions out of which the dispute arose shall be made by the parties to the controversy, except by the agreement of the parties.

Sec. 4. *Records Maintenance.* The records and files of the Board are records of the Office of the President and upon the Board's termination shall be maintained in the physical custody of the National Mediation Board.

Sec. 5. *Expiration.* The Board shall terminate upon the submission of the report provided for in section 2 of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 20, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 26, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 27.

Executive Order 13240—Council of Europe in Respect of the Group of States Against Corruption

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288) (the "Act"), and having found that the Council of Europe in Respect of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) is a public international organization in which the United States participates within the meaning of the Act, I hereby designate GRECO as a public international organization entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities conferred by the Act. This designation is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions, or immunities that such organization may have acquired or may acquire by international agreement or by law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Remarks on the New Oval Office Carpet and an Exchange With Reporters

December 21, 2001

Review of 2001

The President. Don't step on the new rug! [*Laughter*]

We wanted you to see the new rug. It's a tradition for each President to design a rug. And Laura helped design this rug, and I think she did a fantastic job, as you can see. It's just beautiful.

That's the seal in the middle. The border here has got a little Texan in it.

The First Lady. We have the Lone Star.

The President. The Lone Star. The rays are, I think, very dramatic. And so we wanted you to come by and take a look at it.

The other thing is, it's been an extraordinary year for us. We will continue to ask the good Lord's blessings on America during the holiday season, particularly on those who suffered incredible loss. And we—I hope our soldiers are safe overseas. We appreciate the job they do.

I'm real proud of how the administration and our Government has responded to the attacks on America: Got a good strategy in the first phase of the war, to rout terror; held the doctrine that says that we will bring the murderers to justice and we will hold those accountable who help the murderers; responded quickly to threats to our homeland. Tom Ridge is doing a really good job in coordinating with those whose job it is to keep America safe.

Every morning I come into the desk, and I would read the threat assessments to America. And it reminds me that my most important job of all is to protect the American people from further attack.

On the domestic front, I'm really pleased with what's happened in the Congress to get the education bill, a significant piece of education reform that believes that the Nation should have high standards for every single child and that we ought to make sure that when we spend money that there's results. And along those lines, we also—this bill trusts the local governments to make many decisions about educating children.

We also recognize there's a Federal responsibility to make sure that we help schools achieve a very important goal, and that is every child learn to read, something that Laura's been very much involved in.

I'm pleased that we were able to pass the tax relief plan that gave working people their own—let them keep their own money. It turned out to be—by simplifying the code and dropping the bottom rate, for example, to 10 percent, as well as making sure that there's a child credit, increasing the child credit, getting rid of the death tax—all the tax measures were very fortuitous because the economy began to slow down in March. And I strongly believe that by providing the first phase of tax relief, it helped cushion what could have been a very, very hard landing.

In the House, we passed an energy plan. It's the first time an administration laid out an energy plan. And the House passed it; it's stuck in the Senate. I'm pleased that a good piece of environmental policy was passed last night and that I intend to sign, which is the brownsfield legislation, legislation that will help cities around America clean up all industrial sites. It's really good work, bipartisan work. We've worked closely with members of both parties to get the bill passed, and I look forward to signing that.

The Faith-Based Initiative is such a vital initiative for making sure that there's something beyond welfare for people who have lost hope in life. And that bill passed the House. I look forward to working with the Senate sponsors, Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum, to get it past the Senate. We need to get a Patients' Bill of Rights done—Bill of Rights done next year.

I must tell you, I'm disappointed that the Senate did not follow up on the opportunity to pass a stimulus package that would have taken care of workers. We worked really hard with members of both parties to get legislation that would do two things: one, help workers by extending unemployment insurance, as well as helping with their health care; and then there was a—part of the package that would encourage investment and job creation. It just didn't get done, and that's a big disappointment. I know there was enough votes to get it out of the Senate, had there been the will to get the bill done. And maybe early next year we can work on it again.

But all in all, it's been a fabulous year for Laura and me. We're so grateful to be living in this compound, and I'm grateful to be working in this office. It's a joy to walk in here every morning, realizing that I'm the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Anything you want to say?

The First Lady. Happy holidays to everybody. Very happy New Year.

The President. Why don't you say something about the rug?

The First Lady. Do you want to hear more about the rug?

Q. Where was it made?

The President. Thank you, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News]. [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. It was made, actually, in New York. Edward Fields is the company. I went and watched as it was being made. They have—it was very interesting. They have huge racks the rug is up on, and then they developed this electric needle that sort of looks like a drill, and the yarn is actually sort of painted on with this electric drill.

We took a long time working on the design of it, and the colors. We went back and forth several times with strike-offs on the colors until we got what we liked. I think it's really pretty. They've done a beautiful job.

In late January, we're going to ask everyone who had to do with the Oval Office—Scalamandre, who made the couches and—the fabric on the couches; Brunschwig, the fabric on the drapes; the Drapery House, which is also out of New York, that made them; the museums that loaned these paintings from Texas; Tom Lea's widow, Sarah Lea; W.H.D. Koerner's son, who we found through Joey O'Neill, who loaned that painting to us. So we'll ask you back at that time to meet all the people who had something to do with the decorating of the Oval Office.

Q. Mr. President, can we ask you——

The President. Sure.

Situation in Afghanistan

Q. Do you think that perhaps the ceasefires and the talks about possible surrender

negotiations gave bin Laden a chance to sneak out of Afghanistan or——

The President. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I don't know where he is. I haven't heard much from him recently. And—which means he could be in a cave that doesn't have an opening to it anymore or could be in a cave where he can get out or may have tried to slither out into neighboring Pakistan. We don't know. But I will tell you this: We're going to find him.

And one of the things I said early on in this war was that—I told the American people that this administration would be patient and would be relentless. And you're talking to a patient man when it comes to achieving the objectives, because I understand the degree of difficulty has increased significantly.

The first part of the objective was to destroy the Taliban's military. That was relatively easy. Secondly, the objective was to hold those accountable who had harbored Al Qaida. It took a while, but once we were able to bring our military strength, made our military strength—air strength, in particular—with boots on the ground, commitment of troops, it unfolded well.

Now we're on the hunt. And we're chasing one or two, three or four, 20 individuals at a time. And this is pretty rugged country, as you know. And so we're slowly but surely chasing down every single lead. And as our friends and allies take over more and more of the country and as the new Government gets, in the beginning, gets into place, we'll continue to get good intelligence, and we'll continue to chase Mr. bin Laden and others—Abu Zabeda, Zawahiri. I could give you the list of names.

But if they think they can hide from the United States, they're making a terrible mistake again. And we'll get him; we'll bring him to justice. I wish I could give you the exact moment, but I can't. And frankly, since this administration is in the fight against terror for the long pull, I am not the least bit anxious about bringing a particular individual to justice. I know that we've disrupted the Al Qaida network.

Today I was briefed that there are hundreds of Al Qaida fighters being held hostage. And by the way, we're in the process of developing a system to deal with each and every fighter, depending upon the nature of the fighter—how to deal with them legally. And I've instructed the National Security Council to take their time and to come up with a process to deal with foreign Al Qaida fighters, Taliban, Walker. I have no answer on Walker yet because I want the process to be able to address all the different circumstances that may arise, and then we'll be able to brief the country as to how we're going to deal with these people.

John Walker

Q. Are you nearing, though, a decision? Can you describe who you're consulting with, and have you——

The President. Well, I tasked the National Security Council to work up a strategy on how to deal with each and every person that we capture. And obviously, Walker is unique in that he's the first American Al Qaida fighter that we have captured. And we will announce to the country when we have made up our mind on all—on how to deal with a wide variety of cases.

Walker, himself, is being well-treated on a ship of ours that is—I suspect he's finding his berth a little better than it was when he was placed in the prison in Afghanistan. And we've heard, the administration has heard from his lawyer, and we've told his lawyer that at the appropriate time we'll let everybody know, including his family, how we're going to proceed with Walker, as well as others that have become captured during this war.

But no, we don't have an announcement today.

Q. And nothing has been ruled out? Like treason—have you ruled out treason?

The President. No, nothing has been ruled out because I want to make—obviously, every decision we make at this point will set precedent for future decisions. And I want us to fully think through all the ramifications of the different options. And Defense and the Justice Department are taking the lead on preparing a strategy.

This ought to be a strategy, by the way, that when we capture somebody who has a certain characteristic to him, that then the process ought to automatically kick in as to how that person is dealt with. And I think

we owe that to the country, to take our time. And then I'll make it clear—somebody will make it clear once the decision is made.

Economic Stimulus Package

Q. Sir, would you consider bringing—or asking Congress to come back early and finish the economic stimulus?

The President. No.

Q. Are you angry at anyone in Congress?

The President. No, I'm not angry at all. I'm joyous. I welcome the holiday season. No, but I don't intend to bring them back early.

Q. What is the impact of not passing a stimulus before the end of the year?

The President. Well, the impact was it was disappointing.

Q. What about for the American people?

The President. Well, we'll just have to see. We'll have to see what the effects are. And we'll have time when they come back to take a looksee at the state of the economy. We're continuing to get mixed signals. Hopefully, the economy will be good, but we'll just have to—we'll deal with it when we get back.

But I think the people, a lot of people are going to ask the question, why couldn't they get something done? And one of my jobs was to facilitate an agreement. And I went up to Capitol Hill, as you know—one of my rare appearances up there—and sat down with Democrats and Republicans from both bodies who had made the commitment to work together to get a bill. And there was a great—it's a very good bill, by the way—billions of dollars of help for displaced workers. And the will to get something done just wasn't there.

Q. Mr. President, do you think a stimulus is a must?

The President. Is a——

Q. Is a must.

The President. Oh, a must. We'll see. I thought it was important to get a good stimulus package out, as well as I thought it was very important to take care of displaced workers. And the bill that I supported and my administration helped craft with both the Democrats and Republicans would have done just that. But we'll see when we come back and take a look.

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Mr. President, you had said that the next phase of the war following the defeat of the military in Afghanistan would be hunting down these groups wherever they—across the globe and that countries who didn't work with us were against us. So do we have any sort of timelines or goals that we've set up for these countries where we know Al Qaida and other groups that we've put on our list of terrorism are functioning, where we're going to say at a certain point, you're not doing as much as we had expected of you?

The President. Yes, I hear what you're saying. Well, I also said that sometimes the war will take place and actions will take place that the American people won't be able to see. And by that I mean that this is a multifront war that will be effective when we cut off money or encourage governments to round up Al Qaida cells. And we are encouraging governments to try to round up and sometimes—and bring to justice Al Qaida cells.

But it wouldn't be very wise for me to describe those to you because the Al Qaida cell we're trying to round up may flee. But yes, we're constantly talking to countries, reminding them that if you're with us, perform. I'm a performance-oriented person; I believe in results.

And many of the world leaders that have been here in the Oval Office will tell you that one of the strong messages that I send is, "Thank you for your condolences. I appreciate your flowers. Now arrest somebody if they're in your country, and we will help you. We'll give you the intelligence necessary to show you who they are and where they are. And we will—if you need be, we'll be glad to lend some troops." Now, that hasn't happened yet, but the enemy needs to know that we're on the hunt. And part of being—and friends need to know, if you're a member of the coalition, we expect you to perform.

Q. Are there any—I mean, obviously, you're not going to delineate for us the conversations that are happening, but are there any phone calls going to countries, friends, or allies——

The President. All the time. All the time we're reminding people that this is a performance-oriented world. If you want to win the war on terror, you must perform. And a good area, for example, is in the financial area, where we're constantly working with nations to help them chase down money that is moving illegally. There's a lot of cooperation.

But you asked a very interesting question—do you keep a scorecard? And the answer is, I do. I do, because I'm an old baseball guy, and I like to keep the score. I like to see who's performing and who's not performing. It's a part of being a coalition.

Tommy Franks said something interesting the other day—and by the way, he was one year ahead of Laura at Midland Lee High School. [*Laughter*] They were "Fighting Rebels" together. [*Laughter*] But Tommy said, "This war—the phase of this war is kind of like a baseball game." Of course, my ears perked up. He said, "There will be a lot of moments of boredom, and then there would be some great joy as we"—what he was saying was that we're in a slow pursuit to achieve the objective that Ron talked about.

Last question.

Domestic Security

Q. Sir, can you say that the country is more secure today and less vulnerable to terrorism than it was before September 11th?

The President. Yes, sir. The country is more secure today and less vulnerable to attack than before September the 11th because the enemy has made it clear that we are a target, and we responded.

America never dreamt before September the 11th anybody would attack us. We knew there were threats. During the summer there had been some threats to overseas assets that we responded to. But we really never felt that—we had the sense that we're invulnerable. And now they've made it clear that they're not afraid to attack us.

And so, one, we're aware. Secondly, we have got a much better system of sharing information—information we gather overseas to agencies here at home. When we get a hint—and by the way, as a result of the coalition, there is much more intelligence-sharing going on. So oftentimes we'll get a lead from an intelligence service, say in the Middle East or in Europe, and that piece of information will be analyzed and passed immediately on to the FBI, that has now shifted its culture from one of doing important work, like white-collar crime or spy-on-spy work, to prevention. That is the most, primary job of the FBI, is to prevent a further attack.

And there's over 4,000 agents working on every single lead we get—leads that sometimes prove to be false but sometimes indicate that there could be somebody here in the country that is—intends to do us harm. And we will use whatever resources necessary to haul them in if that's the case.

So yes, the country is safer. Is it still—totally safe? No. And that's why, as I've told you, my main job, my main worry for America is to prevent another attack. Every morning at 6:50 a.m. in the morning, I come in here, and I think about the possibilities. And every day I meet with the FBI Director and Tom Ridge and John Ashcroft, along with George Tenet, reminding them that we have an awesome responsibility to do whatever we can to protect the American people. And we've made great progress since September the 11th.

The American people need to know that even though we go into a holiday season, this Government will be doing everything we can to keep our country safe. We're keeping CAPs up, we're keeping—those are military flights around—just to make sure if somebody tries to attack us, there will be—we'll have the measures in place to prevent it.

Listen, I hope you all have a great holiday. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad; and Gen. Tommy Franks, USA, commander in chief, U.S. Central Command. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Pakistan Extremist Groups

December 21, 2001

Yesterday, at a ceremony marking the 100th day since the September 11 terrorist

attacks, I detailed actions the United States Government has taken in response to terrorist attacks here and abroad.

At the same time, I announced that the U.S. Government had blocked the assets of two more terrorist organizations:

- Umma Tameer-e-Nau (UTN), an organization that claimed to feed the hungry and needy of Afghanistan but that in fact provided information about nuclear weapons to Al Qaida; and
- Lashkar-e-Taiba, a stateless sponsor of terrorism that has conducted operations against Indian troops and civilian targets.

I also condemned the terrorist attacks against the Indian Parliament and the Kashmir Legislature and extended condolences to the Indian Government and the families of the victims.

These attacks were meant to strike at India's democracy and kill its leaders but were also intended to undermine Pakistan, harm the rapidly improving U.S.-Pakistan relationship, and to destabilize the global coalition against terrorism.

I have strongly condemned the attacks. I call upon President Musharraf to take decisive action against Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and other terrorist organizations, their leaders, finances, and activities.

President Musharraf has condemned the terrorist attacks on the Legislature in Srinagar and on the Indian Parliament. He has said that he would move against those involved in the attacks. As President Musharraf does so, he will have our full support.

Joint Statement by the Leaders of the United States of America, Canada and the United Mexican States on Argentina

December 21, 2001

Argentina is our neighbor and friend and we have witnessed recent events with concern and compassion. We hope that all Argentines can come together to find a solution that leads the country back to sustainable growth and prosperity. We applaud the great strength displayed by Argentina's institutions through this period, and reiterate our confidence in the country's standing as one of the Western Hemisphere's leading democracies.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the New Kazakhstan-American Relationship

December 21, 2001

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, seeking to advance a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sovereign Kazakhstan in the 21st Century that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations. To this end, we will advance our cooperation on counterterrorism and non-proliferation, democratic political and free-market economic reform, and market-based investment and development of energy resources.

These goals further reflect our recognition that the threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction endanger the security not only of the United States and Kazakhstan, but of the world at large. We therefore seek to develop our security cooperation to address these challenges and foster cooperation among Kazakhstan, its Central Asian neighbors, the United States, and our European friends, partners, and allies. In pursuit of these objectives, we are determined to deepen cooperation bilaterally and within NATO's Partnership for Peace.

We reiterate our intent to cooperate in the war against terrorism to its conclusion and within the framework of the international coalition. We underscore our support for a broad-based Afghan government at peace internally and with its neighbors. We also pledge our readiness to cooperate in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Recognizing that Kazakhstan was the first country to renounce its nuclear-weapons status voluntarily, we reaffirm our mutual commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons

of mass destruction. Both sides agree on the need for urgent attention to improving the physical protection and accounting of all nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons materials in all possessor states, and to preventing illicit trafficking in these materials. We pledge to expand our cooperation on these matters under the United States-Kazakhstan Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement.

In the spirit of partnership, Kazakhstan and the United States intend to strengthen joint activity in ensuring security and stability in Central Asia. We agree that the expansion of trade and economic ties among the states of Central Asia, and deepening of regional integration in important areas, such as the environment, water resources, and transportation systems are a basis for regional security. The United States will consider enhancing assistance programs to Kazakhstan to strengthen border security and to increase the defensive capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We recognize that free market economies and the rule of law provide the most effective means to advance the welfare of our citizens and the stability of our societies. The United States and Kazakhstan pledge to advance our bilateral economic, trade, and investment relations, including through expanded contacts between the business communities of our countries. We will strive to further develop an attractive, transparent and predictable investment climate. Achieving this goal requires removal of legislative and administrative barriers to investment, strengthening respect for contracts and the rule of law, reducing corruption, and enhancing Kazakhstan's strong record on economic reform.

We also intend to cooperate to advance Kazakhstan's integration in the global economy by supporting Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization on the basis of standard and agreed criteria, and its graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

We affirm our desire to strengthen our energy partnership to diversify export options for Kazakhstan's oil and gas and to diversify global energy supplies. We share the view that a key element of this effort is development of multiple pipelines that will ensure delivery of Caspian energy to world markets, unfettered by monopolies or constrained by geographic chokepoints. We welcome the recent opening of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) Pipeline and underscore our support for development of the Aktau-Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil export route on commercial terms. We will also work together to protect the rights of foreign investors and to abide by decisions of courts, particularly of international courts of arbitration.

Recognizing that democracy is a cornerstone of long-term stability, we reaffirm our desire to strengthen democratic institutions and processes, such as independent media, local government, pluralism, and free and fair elections. We also reiterate our mutual commitments to advance the rule of law and promote freedom of religion and other universal human rights as promoted by the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. Finally, we pledge to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges, initiatives of non-governmental organizations, and contacts between business people.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Signing Legislation Establishing the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

December 21, 2001

Today I am very pleased to sign into law H.R. 1230, which will establish the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the first-ever international wildlife refuge.

The Detroit River on the Michigan-Canada border has lost over 95 percent of its coastal wetland habitat and has been designated a Waterfowl Habitat Area of Concern by the Canadian and American governments. Establishing this International Wildlife Refuge will do a lot to provide this special place with the protection that it needs.

This area is a prime waterfowl migration corridor and is considered a special place for sportsmen, birders, and boaters. An estimated 300,000 diving ducks stop in the River to rest and feed during their fall migration

from Canada. At least 65 species of fish live in the Detroit River, including millions of walleye.

This innovative legislation enhances public-private partnerships for conservation and habitat restoration. I want to thank the many area businesses and groups that developed the conservation vision for the refuge.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 21, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1230, approved December 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107–91.

Statement on Signing the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001

December 21, 2001

Today I have signed into law S. 494, the "Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001." This Act symbolizes the clear bipartisan resolve in the United States to promoting human rights, good governance, and economic development in Africa. My Administration shares fully the Congress' deep concerns about the political and economic hardships visited upon Zimbabwe by that country's leadership. I hope the provisions of this important legislation will support the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle to effect peaceful democratic change, achieve economic growth, and restore the rule of law.

Section 4(c) of the Act purports to direct the executive branch to oppose and vote against the extension of loans or the cancellation of debt in international financial institutions unless and until I make a certification or national interest determination. I am concerned that this provision burdens my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs to conduct negotiations and cast votes in international organizations. I will construe the provision as being subject to my exclusive authority to negotiate or vote in international financial institutions.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 21, 2001.

NOTE: S. 494, approved December 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107–99.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President has invited Prime Minister Leszek Miller of Poland to visit Washington, DC, on January 11, 2002.

December 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the Homeland Security Council. He also had telephone conversations with congressional Democrats concerning proposed economic stimulus legislation. Later, he met with congressional leaders to discuss proposed economic stimulus legislation, and he also gave them White House Christmas ornaments as holiday gifts.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Constantine Simitis of Greece to Washington, DC, on January 10, 2002.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sharon Brown-Hruska to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Dorn to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to designate John Thomas Korsmo as Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

December 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to express holiday wishes and discuss U.S.-Russian relations. Later, he had

intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President went to the U.S. Capitol to meet with House Democrats and bipartisan congressional leaders concerning proposed economic stimulus legislation. He also met with the House and Senate Republican conference members to discuss proposed economic stimulus legislation and congratulate them on their accomplishments of the past year.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania to Washington, DC, on January 23, 2002.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey to Washington, DC, on January 16, 2002.

December 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti to discuss cooperation against terrorism. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the Homeland Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul S. Atkins and Cynthia A. Glassman to be Commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Helen Mercer Witt, Chair, Ira F. Jaffe, and David P. Twomey to the President's Emergency Board No. 237.

December 21

In the afternoon, the President met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Y. Tomlinson and Steven J. Simmons to be members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to nominate Howard Anthony Schmidt to be Vice Chair of the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 20

Paul S. Atkins,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2003, vice Arthur Levitt, Jr., resigned.

Dan Gregory Blair,
of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, vice John U. Sepulveda, resigned.

Nancy Southard Bryson,
of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, vice Charles R. Rawls, resigned.

Linda Morrison Combs,
of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Sallyanne Harper.

Cynthia A. Glassman,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2006, vice Laura S. Unger, term expired.

William Leidinger,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Education, vice Rodney A. McCowan, resigned.

Matthew D. Orwig,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice John Michael Bradford, resigned.

Eve Slater,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice David Satcher, resigned.

Submitted December 21

Jane J. Boyle,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Edward Coggins, resigned.

Johnny Lewis Hughes,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Maryland for the term of 4 years, vice George K. McKinney.

Randy Merlin Johnson,
of Alaska, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Alaska for the term of 4 years, vice John R. Murphy.

James K. Vines,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice John Marshall Roberts, resigned.

Larry Wade Wagster,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years, vice John David Crews, Jr.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's health

Released December 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister of Greece Simitis to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law H.J. Res. 71, H.R. 717, H.R. 1766, H.R. 2261, and H.R. 2454

Released December 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Ecevit of Turkey to Washington

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit and U.S. Court of International Trade Judge

Released December 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas

Fact sheet: Day 100 of the War on Terrorism: More Steps To Shut Down Terrorist Support Networks

Released December 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 79, H.J. Res. 80, H.R. 10, H.R. 1761, H.R. 2061, H.R. 2540, H.R. 2716, H.R. 2944, S. 1196, and S.J. Res. 26

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Marshals for the Northern District of Mississippi, the District of Alaska, and the District of Maryland

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorneys for the Northern District of Texas and the Middle District of Tennessee

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 15

H.J. Res. 78 / Public Law 107–83
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

Approved December 18

H.R. 717 / Public Law 107–84
Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2001

H.R. 1766 / Public Law 107–85
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4270 John Marr Drive in Annandale, Virginia, as the "Stan Parris Post Office Building"

H.R. 2261 / Public Law 107–86
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2853 Candler Road in Decatur, Georgia, as the "Earl T. Shinhoster Post Office"

H.R. 2299 / Public Law 107–87
Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2454 / Public Law 107–88
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5472 Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Congressman Julian C. Dixon Post Office"

H.J. Res. 71 / Public Law 107–89
Amending title 36, United States Code, to designate September 11 as Patriot Day

Approved December 21

H.R. 10 / Public Law 107–90
Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001

H.R. 1230 / Public Law 107–91
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act

H.R. 1761 / Public Law 107–92
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Services located at 8588 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Herb Harris Post Office Building"

H.R. 2061 / Public Law 107–93
To amend the charter of Southeastern University of the District of Columbia

H.R. 2540 / Public Law 107–94
Veterans' Compensation Rate Amendments of 2001

H.R. 2716 / Public Law 107–95
Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001

H.R. 2944 / Public Law 107–96
District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2002

H.J. Res. 79 / Public Law 107–97
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 80 / Public Law 107–98
Appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress

S. 494 / Public Law 107–99
Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001

S. 1196 / Public Law 107–100
Small Business Investment Company Amendments Act of 2001

S.J. Res. 26 / Public Law 107–101
Providing for the appointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

Remarks at the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Ceremony

December 22, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. It's the kind of morning we expect when we're honoring the winter Olympics. This flame stands for the skill and dedication of friendly competition. I'm honored to take part in the 2002 Olympic torch relay, and I'm really proud to welcome the Olympic spirit to America this winter.

I want to thank Mitt Romney for coming. Mitt, it's great to see you again. I know Utah is well represented by the chairman, Congressman Jim Hansen. Thank you both for being here.

I want to welcome all the members of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and members of the United States Olympic Committee for being here, as well. These men and women have worked tirelessly and long, long, long hours to make sure that our country is well represented when the world starts focusing on us yet again in February of this year. I'm really proud of the work you've done. You've brought a lot of honor to America, and for that, Americans are grateful.

The 2002 Olympic games will officially begin when this torch reaches its destination in Salt Lake City. Its 13,500-mile journey will bring it through 46 States, carried by some 11,500 torchbearers. Each torchbearer's story is a lesson in citizenship and courage and compassion.

Two torchrunners with us today were deeply affected by the attacks of September the 11th. Liz Howell lost her husband, Brady, in the attack on the Pentagon. Brady was fulfilling a lifelong dream by serving his country at the Pentagon. Liz left her native Utah to help Brady live that dream. Her participation in the torch relay represents the strength shown by so many families after September the 11th. And Liz, our Nation prays with you during this holiday season. We pray for peace and comfort for you and your family.

Our other participant is a student, Eric Jones, who goes to George Washington University just a few blocks from the White House and the Pentagon. On September the 11th, Eric left the campus and headed to the Pentagon. He spent 4 days helping with the rescue efforts, and then he traveled to New York to do the same.

Before he left the Pentagon, Eric helped carry out a symbol of American pride, the Marine Corps flag. Last week that flag flew high above the Earth on the space shuttle *Endeavor.* On behalf of all Americans, I thank these two torchbearers for their courage and for their compassion, for representing the best of our great country.

I thank everyone who has worked so hard to make the Salt Lake City and the games a memorable site. I wish all our athletes Godspeed. I continue to pray the Lord's blessings for safety and security on our great land during the holiday season.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:27 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games.

The President's Radio Address

December 22, 2001

Good morning. This week before Christmas was a busy one in Washington, DC. Members of Congress have returned home with many achievements to show for their work. Congress passed, and I will soon sign, the most important education reforms in a generation. We have taken strong action to support our military, protect our homeland, and make our airways more secure. The year

2001 also saw the largest tax relief in two decades.

These achievements bring credit to the Congress, and I'm grateful for their work. I'm disappointed, however, that the Senate was not able to pass legislation to get our economy growing again and to help workers who have lost their jobs. I'm hopeful that the positive spirit of bipartisan accomplishment that guided much of this year's success will prevail when Congress returns early next year.

Our thoughts in these coming days, however, do not center on public policy. Millions of Americans will be celebrating Christmas, marking an ancient birth of an eternal promise of peace on Earth and good will to men. This Christmas comes just months after a great national loss. We find ourselves appreciating more than ever the things that matter most: our families, our friends, and our faith. We count our blessings, and we remember all those who feel loss, separation, and need.

For the families that lost a loved one on September the 11th or in the fighting in Afghanistan, this will be the first Christmas without a husband or a wife or a father or a mother or son or daughter. Our Nation shares their grief.

Many thousands of our fighting men and women will spend Christmas far from home, accepting hardship and danger to protect us all. We are grateful to every military family for the sacrifice they are making for America. We owe them much.

Our Nation is also thankful for the people of every faith, in every community, who make a special effort this time of year to help neighbors in need. So many good-hearted Americans are giving time or money to make sure that there's a hot meal for homeless people, a Christmas present for disadvantaged children, food for the hungry in foreign lands, or just a visit to bring comfort to someone who is lonely or sick.

The year now ending saw a few acts of terrible evil. It also saw many more acts of courage and kindness and love. And these reflect the great hope of Christmas: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.

Laura and I wish a very joyous holiday to all Americans. May the peace and good will of the season fill every heart and warm every home.

Thank you for listening, and Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:00 a.m. on December 21 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Christmas Greeting to the Nation

December 25, 2001

Good morning, and Merry Christmas. During this time of conflict and challenge, Christmas is a day on which we celebrate hope and joy, when our thoughts turn to justice and compassion and to a Prince of Peace born long ago. This is a day on which we give thanks for the wonder of God's love, for the blessings we have received, and for the families we love. And this year all of these things seem particularly important.

Charles Dickens wrote that Christmas is a time when abundance rejoices and want is keenly felt. This Christmas finds many facing hurt and loss, especially the families of terror victims and of our young men killed in battle. America grieves with you, and we hope you'll especially find the comfort and hope of Christmas.

Laura and I send our good wishes to all the families in America that have come together in celebration. We're especially grateful to all the men and women of our military, many of whom are today separated from their loved ones because they're serving our country.

Even in this time of war, we pray for peace on Earth and good will toward men, and we continue to ask God's blessings on the United States.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

NOTE: The radio greeting was recorded at 10:04 a.m. on December 21 in the Cabinet Room for later broadcast, and the transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 21 but was embargoed for release until December 25.

Message on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 20, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all who are celebrating Kwanzaa.

Established in 1966, Kwanzaa represents an African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community, and culture. The seven-day observance, beginning December 26 and ending January 1, serves as a special time to recognize and reaffirm the Nguzo Saba, or Seven Principles, of African culture. These are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Kwanzaa provides an opportunity for people of African heritage, regardless of their religious background or faith, to come together and to show reverence for their Creator and creation, to commemorate the past, to recommit to high ideals, and to celebrate the good in life. These life-affirming traditions take on particular resonance this year, as the United States and the world face new challenges to peace. As individuals, families, and communities take part in this celebration of unity and of enduring values, I extend best wishes to people throughout the globe for a wonderful and memorable Kwanzaa.

Best wishes on this special occasion.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 26. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7516—To Extend Nondiscriminatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of the People's Republic of China

December 27, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. The United States and the People's Republic of China (China) opened trade relations in 1980. Since that time, the products of China have received nondiscriminatory treatment pursuant to annual waivers of the requirements of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2432). Trade between the United States and China has expanded significantly even though China has maintained restrictions on market access for U.S. exports and investment.

2. On November 15, 1999, the United States and China agreed on certain terms and conditions for China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) that when implemented will eliminate or greatly reduce the principal barriers to trade and investment in China.

3. On November 9, 2001, pursuant to section 101(b) of Public Law 106–286, 114 Stat. 881, I transmitted a report to the Congress certifying that the terms and conditions for the accession of China to the WTO are at least equivalent to those agreed between the United States and China on November 15, 1999. On November 10, 2001, the Ministerial Conference of the WTO approved the terms and conditions for China's accession and invited China to become a member of the WTO. China has accepted these terms and conditions and became a WTO member on December 11, 2001.

4. Pursuant to section 101(a)(1) of Public Law 106–286, 114 Stat. 881, I hereby determine that chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act should no longer apply to China.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections 101(a)(2) and 102(a) of Public Law 106–286, 114 Stat. 881, do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be extended to the products of China; and

(2) The extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of China shall be effective as of January 1, 2002.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 4.

Remarks Welcoming General Tommy R. Franks and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

December 28, 2001

The President. Good morning. As you can see, I've invited a guest to come to the ranch. Tommy Franks is no stranger to Texas. After all, he was raised in Midland, Texas. And I'm looking forward to taking him over to the house here in a minute to say hello to Laura. Both of them went to Midland Lee High School, at about the same time.

But Tommy has just come back from the Afghan theater. He gave me a full briefing on what he saw and what he heard. We just got off of a teleconference with the national security team to discuss his trip and to discuss what's taking place in Afghanistan.

I want to thank you for coming, Tommy. I am real proud of the military, and I'm proud of the commander. Tommy has done everything we've asked. He is fulfilling the mission with patience and discipline and success. He's a down-to-earth, no-nonsense guy, precisely the kind of man we need to lead a complex mission such as this.

You know, a couple of months ago, a lot of people said that this administration and our military really weren't sure what we were doing. But I had confidence all along, and the reason why I did—confidence in the success of what we set out to do—was because I had a chance to be briefed by Tommy Franks on the strategy and on the plan and on how we were going to use our United States military. And he hasn't let us down. The country needs to be proud of the military, and one reason that I'm so pleased to welcome Tommy is to be able to say that out loud in Tommy's presence.

So I'm going to have Tommy say a few words, and then we'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

General Franks. Thank you, Mr. President. As the President said, my wife and I recently have had an opportunity to be with a bunch of great young people, soldiers and sailors, airmen, marines, in the frontline states around Afghanistan and in Afghanistan, in Kandahar and at Camp Rhino and up in Kabul. We had a chance to meet with these young people who are doing the work for the Nation.

We also had a chance to attend the installation ceremony in Afghanistan, where we saw Mr. Karzai and members of that team form an interim government in Afghanistan, where for the first time in decades, more than 26 million people will have an opportunity to have their way represented in that government.

And the combination of seeing these great young people and seeing this momentous event just filled me with a desire to be able to brief the President on what's going on over there in the theater, on what our people are doing, how they feel about what they're doing.

And so, Mr. President, thanks very much for having me out here in Crawford.

The President. You bet.

Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Videotape of Usama bin Laden/Military Tribunals

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction to the new bin Laden tape this week? And do you fear he's now eluded the manhunt? Also, are you concerned that if military tribunals require a unanimous verdict for the death penalty, some terrorists could avoid execution?

The President. Let me start with the first of your three questions, which was what? I've already forgotten.

Q. What's your reaction to the bin Laden tape? Are you afraid he's eluded the manhunt?

The President. Oh, the tape, yes. I didn't watch it all; I saw snippets of it on TV. You know, it's—who knows when it was made. Secondly, he is not escaping us. I mean, this is a guy who 3 months ago was in control

of a country; now he's maybe in control of a cave. He's on the run.

Listen, a while ago I said to the American people, our objective is more than bin Laden, but one of the things for certain is we're going to get him running and keep him running and bring him to justice. And that's what's happening. He's on the run, if he's running at all.

So we don't know whether he's in a cave with the door shut or a cave with the door open; we just don't know. There's all kinds of reports and all kinds of speculation, but one thing we know is that he's not in charge of Afghanistan anymore. He's not in charge of the—he's not the parasite that had invaded the host, the Taliban; we know that for certain. And we also know that we're on the hunt, and he knows that we're on the hunt. And I like our position better than his.

In terms of whether or not the tribunals will be able to render the justice necessary, that—I spoke to the Secretary of Defense today about the story in the newspaper. Evidently, somebody in our Government wanted to show off to his family or her family in between Christmas and New Year's by leaking information in the press that he or she thought would be helpful to the Government. The truth of the matter is the Secretary of Defense hadn't even seen the report that was on the front page of America's newspapers. So my answer to your question, Scott, is I know that the leaked report is preliminary, that they're still in discussions about how best to bring justice. But one thing is for certain, that whatever the procedures are for the military tribunals, our system will be more fair than the system of bin Laden and the Taliban. That is for certain. The prisoners that we capture will be given a heck of a lot better chance in court than those citizens of ours who were in the World Trade Center or in the Pentagon were given by Mr. bin Laden.

David [David Gregory, NBC News]. Good to see you, lad.

Q. Good to see you.

The President. Thank you.

Usama bin Laden/Vision of 2002

Q. Can you say with confidence now that Usama bin Laden is no longer in a position to mastermind another terrorist attack against the United States or our allies? And related to that, you talked about 2002 being a year of war. What can you say to prepare the American people for what that vision is, what they need to be prepared for, as compared to what they've seen in Afghanistan?

The President. Well, I hope 2002 is a year of peace, but I am also realistic. And I know full well that bin Laden and his cronies would like to harm America again; bin Laden and his cronies would like to harm our allies. How do I know that? I receive intelligence reports on a daily basis that indicates that that's his desires. And therefore, the United States must be vigilant, must make sure we continue to focus on our homeland security measures, must disrupt, must use our intelligence-gathering network to prevent the enemy from attacking. And so, while I hope 2002 is a year of peace, I'm realistic.

As to whether or not bin Laden is in control of some network, who knows? The thing we're certain about is that he's on the run, that he's hiding in caves, if hiding at all. And the other thing I'm certain about is we will bring him to justice. I don't know whether it's going to be tomorrow, but Tommy will tell you that I haven't said, "Tommy, get him tomorrow." I've said, "Just get him," and we will. We will bring him to justice.

We don't know, David, whether or not he's given any orders to any of his soldiers, but we take nothing for granted. And so our country still remains on alert, and we're actively looking for anybody who would harm America.

The shoe bomber was a case in point, where the country has been on alert. A stewardess on an American Airlines flight—or a flight attendant on an American Airlines flight was vigilant, saw something amiss, and responded. It's an indication that the culture of America has shifted to one of alertness. And I'm grateful for the flight attendant's response, as are, I'm sure, the passengers on that airplane. But we've got to be aware that there are still enemies to the country. And our Government is responding accordingly.

Situation in South Asia

Q. Mr. President, do you think that India and Pakistan are sliding toward war?

The President. One of the things that we discussed today in the national security conference, and I discussed yesterday with members of my national security team, was the India and Pakistan issue. Colin Powell has spoke to both sides today, urging restraint, urging calm. I was pleased to—I'm pleased to note that President Musharraf has announced the arrest of 50 extreme terrorists—extremists or terrorists. And I hope India takes note of that, that the President is responding forcefully and actively to bring those who would harm others to justice.

The war on terror is not just an American war on terror; it's a civilized-government war on terror that we're talking about here. But my Government and my administration is working actively to bring some calm in the region, to hopefully convince both sides to stop the escalation of force. And as I say, I'm pleased that President Musharraf is responding to the Indian requests to round up those who would do harm to others and incarcerate them, which he did.

Argentina

Q. Are you making any calls yourself, sir?

The President. Not yet. I will if need be. As a matter of fact, I have been making calls recently to leaders in our own hemisphere. I spoke to the Presidents of Mexico and Uruguay, Chile and Brazil about the Argentinean situation. I made it clear to those Governments that we want to work with them, to work together to make sure that the Argentineans understand that we will support a plan that sustains economic growth, we're willing to offer technical assistance through the IMF, that our Government is aware of what's taking place, and that we're fully engaged in the issue.

Impact of September 11 on the President

Q. Mr. President, some say the events of 2001 have changed you, while others say that you're the same person you always were.

The President. Yes.

Q. Who's right? Or is it fair to say there's some truth in both arguments?

The President. Talk to my wife. [*Laughter*] I don't know. I don't spend a lot of time looking in the mirror, except when I comb my hair. And—listen, I'll give you a hint. I liked coming to the ranch before September the 11th; I like coming to the ranch after September the 11th.

Enron Corporation

Q. [*Inaudible*]—the war for a moment. Have you had any contact with Kenneth Lay or other Enron officials in the last 6 weeks——

The President. No.

Q. ——and do you think that there is something the Government should do to help Enron——

The President. I have had no contact with Enron officials in the last 6 weeks. Do I think the Government ought to help what now?

Q. Help Enron or do something to help prevent some of these employees from losing their life savings.

The President. Well, I think the life savings issue is something we need to look into. I think it's very important to understand what took place. The Government will be looking into this. I mean, SEC will be looking into the matters; Congress appears to be looking into the matters. There will be a lot of Government inquiry into Enron and what took place there.

I'm deeply concerned about the citizens of Houston who worked for Enron who lost life savings. It's very troubling to read the stories about those who locked up their plans—locked up Enron stock—had their Enron stock locked up in their 401K plans and then saw their savings dissipate. I think it's very important for us to fully understand the why's of Enron. And there will be plenty of investigations.

Recess Appointments

Q. Sir, will you make recess appointments——

The President. Thinking about it. I don't know yet. I'm right now focused on the military operations in Afghanistan and giving Tommy a tour of my ranch. But I, at the appropriate time, will take a good, hard look at recess appointments.

I'm disappointed that a lot of my appointments were stalled in the United States Senate, weren't given a hearing. This Scalia man got out of the committee, but never given a vote on the floor of the Senate. He's a good

fellow; he ought to be approved. But I'll take a good, hard look at all the options available to me.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, is there a timetable in your mind for withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan? Or as long as bin Laden is still on the run, do you imagine them being there indefinitely?

The President. I imagine us being there for quite a long period of time. But my timetable is going to be set by Tommy Franks. Tommy is in charge of the military operations; he's in charge of the military. I'll let Tommy speak for himself, but I will tell you this: We won't be making political decisions about what to do with our military.

I gave Tommy a mission; it was a well-defined mission. And Tommy is in charge of getting that mission done, and when Tommy says, "Mission complete, Mr. President," that's when we start moving troops out. But until he says that, I am—I will make the case to the American people that we're doing the right thing.

Q. What's your definition of the mission being complete in Afghanistan, sir?

The President. In Afghanistan? Well, Taliban gone, the country secure, the country stable; that—you know, Al Qaida cells rounded up, Taliban fighters brought to justice; the over 6,000 troops, prisoners being held—prisoners of war being held by our allies interrogated, finger-printed—I mean, there's a lot to do. And the American people just must understand, when I said that we need to be patient, that I meant it. And we're going to be there for a while. And I don't know the exact moment when we leave, David, but it's not until this mission is complete.

The world must know that this administration will not blink in the face of danger and will not tire when it comes to completing the missions that we said we would do. The world will learn that when the United States is harmed, we will follow through. The world will see that when we put a coalition together that says, "Join us," I mean it. And when I ask others to participate, I mean it. And in order to lead the coalition, we must show that we will complete the mission. And part of that mission is, as Tommy will tell you, is to make sure that Afghanistan is a stable country.

And he's got a lot to say on that if you want him to talk about it. Okay, bring the man to the mike.

Q. General Franks, could you talk about how you took evasive action when you were fired upon the other day? There was a report yesterday that your helicopter was fired upon.

Q. You should get right to that, sir, after you do the first question. [*Laughter*]

General Franks. Let me take that—let me take your question first. As we look around, today we have more than 50 nations involved in this coalition effort in and around Afghanistan, providing support and so forth. We have 26 nations represented at our headquarters down in Tampa, Florida. We have 16 nations represented on the ground or in the air or at sea around Afghanistan.

And it's interesting that over the past 10 days, the numbers I've just described have grown, rather than shrinking. I think the view is that Afghanistan is a part of a global effort against terrorism, that we'll stay in Afghanistan as long as it takes to do what the President has said. We will do away with the Taliban, and that has been done. We now have a legitimate interim government in Kabul.

We will destroy the Al Qaida terrorist network inside Afghanistan. We will take care of the screening and the work that needs to be done with all these detainees—fingerprinting, DNA work, photography, screening, interrogation. We'll determine which ones need to be brought out and need to be handled in some form of legal process.

How long will that take? I think the President said it immediately after the 11th of September, and I think many of us have said it about every day since then: It will take as long as it takes.

Interesting to me, the fact that these young people standing at Kandahar Airport a few nights ago, in the middle of the night, watching a USO show, showed me absolutely no desire to leave their mission at all. And so, I think that it's best for all of us to recognize that we will not be hurried; we will not be pressed into doing something that does not

represent our national objectives; and we will take as long as it takes.

And a very short answer to the business of the helicopter: I have been told since I took that helicopter ride that someone took a shot at the helicopter. I didn't see it when it happened, and I believe it may have happened, but then again, this is Afghanistan, and we have pockets of Taliban still in that country. And that's one of the reasons that we're going to stay there until we have mopped all that up.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes. It's your big day, Scott, two questions.

Q. A one-part question this time, I promise.

The President. Four questions, excuse me. [*Laughter*]

Usama bin Laden

Q. Would you prefer to see bin Laden captured and questioned about the attacks and possible future attacks?

The President. You know, dead or alive is fine with me.

Argentina

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned Argentina, and you talked about you support more technical assistance from the IMF for them. Would you support more money for Argentina from the IMF, or has the well kind of run dry there?

The President. Well, it depends upon what Argentina decides to do. The key for Argentina is to get her fiscal house in order, get monetary policy in order, and to develop a plan that will show sustained economic vitality and economic growth. But it's up to Argentina on how to develop the plan. As you know, there's an interim government in place; there will be elections in a couple of months. And the point we've made to the Argentinean Government, as well as to our friends in the region, is that we will be willing to help them develop the plan, if they ask for technical advice. It will all be done through the IMF.

But the first order of business is for the Argentineans to develop a plan to show us how they're going to get their house in order. They've got a lot of work to do, but—and all of us that are concerned about Argentina are willing to work together to get the job done. There was near unanimity on my phone calls to the other leaders in the region that—of the course of action that I just laid out.

Military Tribunals

Q. Have you decided that anybody should be subjected to a military tribunal?

The President. Well, Americans shouldn't, as you know. I mean, I excluded any Americans.

Q. Of the prisoners, have you decided that anyone——

The President. Oh, have I made any decisions yet? Not at all; not yet, Dave. We're still—I still want to make sure that the—I still want to see what the Secretary of Defense recommends as to how to proceed. He has—as I said, he hasn't seen the now-famous document that some American decided to leak.

I don't know why people do that. I guess either to make you feel good and/or to make themselves feel good. But nevertheless, it was not very helpful. And as the Secretary of Defense said, he hasn't even seen the document yet. But they're working through, and we're working through, as you know, all the other types of cases that will come forward. I mean, as Tommy said, there's a lot of people to be questioned, and there's also a lot of decisions to be made as to how to run these folks through our system. And we're just not quite there yet. We've got time.

John Walker

Q. What about Walker?

The President. Well, same situation. We've got time. And Walker is well-berthed on a U.S. warship. It's a heck of a lot more comfortable on that ship than he was in the basement of that prison, when he decided—when he was captured. Walker made a terrible decision, and our system is such that he'll have proper justice. But he's working with the enemy, and we'll see how the courts deal with that.

Secret Service Agent

Q. Sir, were you upset that that Secret Service agent was kept off that plane? Because you have been saying this——

The President. Yes, I was. I talked to the man this morning. I told him how proud I was that he was by my side. He's here on the ranch, and he's guarding me. And of course, I was. We'll let the facts—they're going to get the facts out. There's an inquiry going on as to specifically what took place. But if he was treated that way because of his ethnicity, that will make me madder than heck.

Usama bin Laden

Q. There are increasing news reports that bin Laden escaped to Pakistan——

The President. Oh, yeah? Well, sorry to interrupt your question, but if you'd asked me the question yesterday, you would have said there's increasing news reports that he's dead, and the day before, that he's hiding in a cave. In other words, there's increasing speculation about bin Laden. But what one shouldn't speculate on is if he's alive, he's on the run. And you don't need to worry about whether or not we're going to get him, because we are. And it's just a matter of time. I mean, I've read reports where he dyed his hair red. That's not going to stop us from finding him.

Q. But what assurances have you gotten from President Musharraf that if that is the case, that he'll find him and turn him——

The President. Well, I appreciate that. President Musharraf has been very helpful. Tommy has visited with him; I've visited with him; the Secretary of Defense has visited with him. And he said he will help in all matters. And we believe he'll help with Mr. bin Laden, too, if in fact he happens to be in Pakistan. Who knows where he is? But one thing is for certain: He's on the losing side of a rout. And the other thing for certain is we're not going to stop until we get him and all those murderers that are associated with him.

And who knows how many we've gotten to date, because we're gathering evidence. We don't know whether some of these people are in those caves. And Tommy did a fine job of shutting them down. They may still be locked up in there. And as you know, we're sending troops up in that region to take a look at some of the caves to find out what's in there. And we're going to have to dig some of them out.

But as time will go on, we will know more and more about how successful we've been. The point is, is that we are going to be there for a while. I'm patient. The commander on the ground is executing the plan, and the American people are in strong support of what's taking place.

Listen, thank you all for being here today. It's great to see you. Welcome back to Prairie Chapel Ranch, and maybe we'll get you back out here before the New Year's. If not, Happy New Year. Thank you.

New Year's Eve/President's Visit to the Ranch

Q. What are you doing for New Year's?

The President. Probably going to bed early. [*Laughter*]

Q. What are you doing with your days here?

The President. Well, I'm up—I was up this morning at 5 o'clock, spent a little quality time with the First Lady. And I just finished my book, "Theodore Rex," by Edmund Morris, which is a fabulous book on Teddy Roosevelt. I recommend people reading it. I am going to—I would have gotten up and run 3 or 4 miles this morning, which I'll probably do that this afternoon. I'm going to take Tommy around to show him parts of the ranch. But if Tommy weren't here, I'd be working down there, a little chainsaw work, clearing some brush, burning some brush.

We're making great progress in one of our—one of the bottom areas that was heretofore relatively inaccessible. One of these days I'll take you down there. It's a beautiful place. It's a bois d'arc grove—bois d'arc tree is a native tree, real hard wood, that grows these giant green, kind of apple-looking things. But I'll spend time doing that.

And then this afternoon—it gets dark here about 5:30 p.m., and so I'll probably watch a little University of Texas football tonight.

Q. What about the tree you planted yesterday?

The President. Tree plant, very good. My senior staff gave me a beautiful oak, 10-inch

oak, and we planted her right outside the house. I haven't written my thank-you note yet, so I'll give them a verbal: Thanks for the tree. It is a beauty. And we planted about—I think we planted so far about 35 trees, live oaks and cedar elms, here. And it's going to be a beautiful sight for when these trees—when they take off.

Did a little fishing yesterday, by the way—not very successfully. The water is cold; the fish are at the bottom. They're not biting very much. But just the fact that I was able to fish was a nice treat.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. outside the old residence at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay; President Ricardo Lagos of Chile; President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil; Kenneth L. Lay, chairman and chief executive officer, Enron Corp.; and Eugene Scalia, nominee to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, referred to his wife, Cathy; and Hamid Karzai, Chairman, interim Grand Council of Afghanistan.

Statement on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002

December 28, 2001

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 2883, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002." The Act authorizes appropriations to fund United States intelligence activities, including activities essential to success in the war against global terrorism. Regrettably, one provision of the Act falls short of the standards of comity and flexibility that should govern the relationship between the executive and legislative branches on sensitive intelligence matters and, in some circumstances, would fall short of constitutional standards.

Section 305 of the Act amends section 502 of the National Security Act of 1947, which relates to executive branch reports to the Congress under the intelligence oversight provisions of the National Security Act. Section 305 purports to require that reports submitted to the congressional intelligence committees by the executive branch on significant anticipated intelligence activities or significant intelligence failures always be in written form, with a concise statement of facts pertinent to the report and an explanation of the significance of the activity or failure.

Section 502 of the National Security Act as amended by section 305 of the Act shall be construed for all purposes, specifically including for the purpose of the establishment of standards and procedures under section 502(c) of the National Security Act by the Director of Central Intelligence, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. Section 502 shall also be construed in a manner consistent with the statutory responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence to protect intelligence sources and methods and other exceptionally sensitive matters.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 28, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.R. 2883, approved December 28, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Statement on Signing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002

December 28, 2001

I have today signed into law S. 1438, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002." The Act authorizes the funding necessary to defend the United States and its interests around the globe. In particular, it provides the resources needed to continue the war against global terrorism, accelerate programs for defense against biological or chemical attacks, pursue an effective missile defense, properly support members of the Armed Forces and their families, and begin to transform our Armed Forces

to meet the military requirements of the 21st century.

The Act provides important improvements in the quality of life for the members of our Armed Forces, who have dedicated their lives to the defense of their fellow citizens. It provides for a substantial and well-deserved increase in basic pay, improved educational opportunities as an incentive to reenlist, and more resources to improve military housing. The legislation also addresses important needs of military families, such as improved job training and education opportunities for military spouses and access for home-schooled children of military families to facilities and programs of Department of Defense dependent schools.

The Act will assist greatly in the rebuilding and reshaping of the Armed Forces to meet future challenges. In particular, it provides procurement authority for programs crucial to the projection of American military power in support of U.S. interests abroad, such as carrier-based strike aircraft, air superiority fighter aircraft, large-capacity cargo aircraft, and a fast attack submarine. The Act also authorizes funds to move forward with our program for an effective defense against ballistic missiles.

The legislation reflects my Administration's important initiative to establish a process for realignment and closure of unneeded military facilities. Such realignments and closures will allow the Government to use more effectively the taxpayer sources devoted to the national defense. As the Act requires, military value will be the primary consideration in recommending realignments and closures. Regrettably, the Act defers the start of the base closure and realignment process for several years, rather than providing for its immediate commencement to permit efficient restructuring promptly.

Section 1116 of the Act authorizes Federal agency employees to retain and make personal use of promotional items such as frequent flyer miles, upgrades, or access to carrier clubs or facilities received as a result of certain official travel. Agency regulations will ensure that, in connection with implementation of section 1116, employees fully observe applicable principles of ethics in Government and regulations that prevent unneeded or inefficient official travel.

The Act contains several provisions intended to improve the ability of members of the Armed Forces to exercise one of the most important rights that any citizen has—the right to vote. Section 1605 of the Act requires State Governors, in certain circumstances, to provide reports to the Secretary of Defense concerning the Secretary's recommendations on State voting laws, including what recommendations the Governor has made or will make to the State legislature on the Secretary's recommendations. Section 1605 shall be implemented in a manner consistent with proper regard for the role of the States, and their legislatures and Governors, in our Federal system.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 525(c), 546, 705, and 3152 call for executive branch officials to submit to the Congress proposals for legislation. These provisions shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend to the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 1404 vests in the Secretary of Defense authority to appoint a chief operating officer for the Armed Forces Retirement Home, but purports to limit the qualifications of the pool of persons from whom the Secretary may select the appointee in a manner that rules out a large portion of those persons best qualified by experience and knowledge to fill the office. The Secretary shall implement section 1404 in a manner consistent with the Appointments Clause of the Constitution.

Under section 1002 of the Act, the Congress has stated that it incorporates a classified annex into the statute. That annex contains authorizations of appropriations for specified classified programs. My Administration discourages enactment of secret law as part of annual defense authorization acts and instead encourages appropriate use of classified annexes to committee reports and

the joint statement of managers that accompanies the final legislation.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 28, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 1438, approved December 28, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Executive Order 13241—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Agriculture

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services;

(b) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs;

(c) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development;

(d) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services;

(e) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment;

(f) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics;

(g) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety;

(h) General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture;

(i) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration; and

(j) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(j) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 11957 of January 13, 1977, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13242—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Commerce

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Commerce (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) General Counsel of the Department of Commerce;

(b) Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade;

(c) Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs;

(d) Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(e) Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology;

(f) Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration;

(g) Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Commerce and Assistant Secretary of Commerce in charge of Administration; and

(h) Assistant Secretary of Commerce in charge of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(h) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 11880 of October 2, 1975, Executive Order 12998 of April 5, 1996, and section 26 of Executive Order 12608 of September 9, 1987, are hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,

December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13243—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Housing and Urban Development

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(b) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Housing-Federal Housing Commission;

(c) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Community, Planning and Development;

(d) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Public and Indian Housing;

(e) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Policy Development and Research;

(f) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity;

(g) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations;

(h) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Administration; and

(i) Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in charge of Public Affairs.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(i) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 11274 of March 30, 1996, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13244—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of the Interior

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the Interior (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Solicitor of the Department of the Interior;

(b) Assistant Secretary of the Interior in charge of Policy, Management and Budget;

(c) Assistant Secretary of the Interior in charge of Land and Minerals Management;

(d) Assistant Secretary of the Interior in charge of Water and Science;

(e) Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; and

(f) Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(f) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 11487 of October 6, 1969, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13245—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Labor

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of Labor (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Labor (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Solicitor of Labor;

(b) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of Administration and Management;

(c) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of Policy;

(d) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs;

(e) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of the Employment and Training Administration;

(f) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of the Employment Standards Administration;

(g) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration;

(h) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health;

(i) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health;

(j) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of the Office of Public Affairs;

(k) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; and

(l) Assistant Secretary of Labor in charge of the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(l) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 10513 of January 19, 1954, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13246—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of the Treasury

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Under Secretaries of the Treasury (including the Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement), in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such officers;

(b) General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury; and

(c) Deputy Under Secretaries of the Treasury and those Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such officers.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(c) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 11822 of December 10, 1974, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order 13247—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Veterans Affairs

December 18, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered that:

Sec. 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Executive Order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health;

(b) Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits;

(c) Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs;

(d) General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(e) Assistant Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as Assistant Secretaries, other than the Chief Financial Officer and, if an Assistant Secretary, the Chief Information Officer;

(f) Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs, if the Chief Information Officer is an officer appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate;

(g) Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(h) Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(h) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this Executive Order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Executive Order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by Subchapter III of Chapter 33 of title 5 of the United States Code, to depart from this Executive Order in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 18, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

Executive Order—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Health and Human Services

December 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.,* it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) during any period when both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services (Deputy Secretary) have died, resigned, or become otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) The Assistant Secretaries of Health and Human Services appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such;

(b) The General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(c) Other officers within the Department of Health and Human Services who have been appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(c) of this order in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.,* to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 28, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Executive order had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of an Executive order number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this Executive order.

Executive Order—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of State

December 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.,* it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as, and perform the duties of, the office of Secretary of State (Secretary) during any period in which the Secretary has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. *Order of Succession.*

(a) Deputy Secretary of State;

(b) Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources;

(c) Under Secretary of State designated for political affairs pursuant to section 2651a(b) of title 22, United States Code;

(d) Under Secretary of State designated for management affairs pursuant to section 2651a(b) of title 22, United States Code;

(e) The remaining Under Secretaries of State, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such;

(f) Assistant Secretaries of State designated for regional bureaus pursuant to section 2651a(c) of title 22, United States Code, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such;

(g) The following officers, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such:

(1) Remaining Assistant Secretaries of State;

(2) Coordinator for Counterterrorism;

(3) Director General of the Foreign Service; and

(4) Legal Adviser;

(h) United States Representative to the United Nations (New York);

(i) Deputy United States Representative to the United Nations (New York);

(j) The following other United States Representatives to the United Nations (New York), in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such:

United States Representative to the United Nations for United Nations Management and Reform;

United States Representative to the United Nations on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; and

Alternate United States Representative to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations;

(k) The following Chiefs of Mission, in the order listed:

(1) United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom;

(2) United States Ambassador to Canada;

(3) United States Ambassador to Australia;

(4) United States Ambassador to Mexico;

(5) United States Ambassador to Japan; and

(6) United States Ambassador to India;

(l) The following officers, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such:

(1) United States Ambassadors at Large;

(2) Counselor; and

(3) Special Representatives of the President; and

(m) The remaining Chiefs of Mission, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who has not been appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.

(b) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(m) in an acting capacity shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.,* to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary.

(d) A successor office, intended to be the equivalent of an office identified in section 2 of this order, shall be deemed to be the position identified in section 2 for purposes of this order.

Sec. 4. Executive Order 12343 of January 27, 1982, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 28, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Executive order had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of an Executive order number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this Executive order.

Executive Order—Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay

December 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the laws cited herein, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Statutory Pay Systems.* The rates of basic pay or salaries of the statutory pay systems (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(1)), as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5303(a), are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a)) at Schedule 1;

(b) The Foreign Service Schedule (22 U.S.C. 3963) at Schedule 2; and

(c) The schedules for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. 7306, 7404; section 301(a) of Public Law 102–40) at Schedule 3.

Sec. 2. *Senior Executive Service.* The rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service, as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5382, are set forth on Schedule 4 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 3. *Executive Salaries.* The rates of basic pay or salaries for the following offices and positions are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5312–5318) at Schedule 5;

(b) The Vice President (3 U.S.C. 104) and the Congress (2 U.S.C. 31) at Schedule 6; and

(c) Justices and judges (28 U.S.C. 5, 44(d), 135, 252, and 461(a)) at Schedule 7.

Sec. 4. *Uniformed Services.* Pursuant to section 601 of S. 1438, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (which I signed into law on December 28, 2001), the rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C. 203(a)) for members of the uniformed services and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay (37 U.S.C. 203(c)) are set forth on Schedule 8 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 5. *Locality-Based Comparability Payments.* (a) Pursuant to sections 5304 and 5304a of title 5, United States Code, and in accordance with section 646(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002, Public Law 107–67, locality-based comparability payments shall be paid in accordance with Schedule 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(b) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall take such actions

as may be necessary to implement these payments and to publish appropriate notice of such payments in the *Federal Register*.

Sec. 6. *Administrative Law Judges.* The rates of basic pay for administrative law judges, as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5372(b)(4), are set forth on Schedule 10 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 7. *Effective Dates.* Schedule 8 is effective on January 1, 2002. The other schedules contained herein are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2002.

Sec. 8. *Prior Order Superseded.* Executive Order 13182 of December 23, 2000, is superseded.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 28, 2001.

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Executive order had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assiignment of an Executive order number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this Executive order.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 22

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

December 24

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with selected overseas U.S. military personnel to express holiday wishes and thank them for their service.

December 25

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush celebrated Christmas with extended family members.

December 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 27

Fact sheet: Administration Review of Nonproliferation and Threat Reduction Assistance to the Russian Federation

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President Bush Grants Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status to China

Released December 28

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that on Thursday, December 27, the President signed H.R. 483, H.R. 1291, H.R. 2559, and H.R. 3323

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3442

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 27

H.R. 483 / Public Law 107–102
Regarding the use of the trust land and resources of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

H.R. 1291 / Public Law 107–103
Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001

H.R. 2559 / Public Law 107–104
To amend chapter 90 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Federal long-term care insurance

H.R. 3323 / Public Law 107–105
Administrative Simplification Compliance Act